



MEMO

Legal Department

To: Mayor Haila, Ames City Council

From: Mark O. Lambert, City Attorney

Date: December 17, 2021

Subject: Ordinance for new wards and precincts

On December 14, 2021, the Ames City Council decided to proceed with the ward and precinct maps that had been prepared by the Story County Auditor's office.

Those maps have now been turned into an ordinance for your consideration.

The ordinance writing process was intense in the short time frame available and involved myself and Assistant City Attorney Jane Chang working long hours to complete it. We were aided significantly by the City's GIS Coordinator Ben McConville, and City planners Julie Gould and Justin Moore.

We are doing a final review of the ordinance before sending it out to you and sending it to the County Auditor's office for review. There are hundreds of little details that need to be double checked. Therefore, we will provide the ordinance to you on Monday morning, December 20, which will give us the weekend to do a final review.

The ordinance is being submitted sometime this evening to the Story County Auditor's office for their review, as required by Iowa law. It is within the realm of possibility that the Auditor's office might suggest changes. If they do, our plan is to incorporate their suggested changes into the ordinance and get a new version of the ordinance to you before the City Council meeting on Tuesday, December 21, 2021.

Along with the ordinance, there will be a Memorandum of Agreement with Story County regarding a few items. State law requires that precincts follow Census blocks. The Census designated incorrectly some census blocks as unincorporated, when they are actually within the City limits. Therefore, we will have an agreement on the agenda assigning those census blocks to precincts. Also, several unincorporated Census blocks are not contiguous with and/or are in a separate legislative district from their

rural townships, and these unincorporated Census blocks will be added to an Ames precinct. Note that this does not mean that they will be eligible to vote in City elections, it only means that they will be assigned to an Ames precinct for voting purposes. The Auditor's office will have separate "township ballots" for the few individuals who reside in these areas. This is a common practice in the redistricting/precincting process and such an agreement has been in place since the last redistricting in 2011. The City and County independently came up with differing numbering systems for the precincts, so you may get a new version of this agreement prior to the Council meeting with different precinct numbers noted, but the census blocks will remain the same.

In summary, 1) the ordinance will be sent to you on the morning of Monday, Dec. 20, 2021. The County Auditor will be reviewing it, and so please keep in mind that we might have a revised ordinance before the Council meeting, after the County Auditor comments upon it; and 2) attached is the draft agreement with the County (bearing in mind that we might have a new version with different precinct numbers for the meeting, but that will be the only change to it).

Staff is requesting a suspension of the rules to do all three readings on December 21st, because of the tight time frame. Iowa law requires such ordinances to be adopted by January 3, 2022 at the latest.

#

Memorandum of Agreement

The parties to this agreement are the City of Ames, Iowa ("City"), and Story County, Iowa ("County"). This agreement is entered into as of December _____, 2021.

WHEREAS:

Following the federal decennial census, and after the redistricting of congressional and legislative districts, city councils and county boards of supervisors are required to complete any changes in precinct and ward boundaries.

Cities and counties are required to use federal census block information when defining precincts and wards for the purposes of redistricting.

A portion of two federal census blocks within the City's corporate limits was designated by the census as unincorporated, one in Grant Township territory and one in Franklin Township territory.

The City and the County agree that a portion of both federal census blocks 191690001012085 and 191690001023002 are designated as unincorporated in error.

The City and the County agree to combine said incorporated portion of federal census block 191690001012085, as shown on the official County map, with the contiguous Ames Precinct 6, as defined by City of Ames, Ordinance No. _____, into one voting precinct.

The City and the County agree to combine said incorporated portion of federal census block 191690001023002, as shown on the official County map, with the contiguous Ames Precinct 12, as defined by City of Ames, Ordinance No. _____, into one voting precinct.

Furthermore, the following unincorporated federal census blocks are not contiguous with and/or are in a separate legislative district from their rural townships:

- Blocks 191690001012063, 191690001012147, 191690001012056, 191690001012057, 191690001012058, 191690001012062 in Grant Township to be combined with Ames Precinct 6
- Block 191690013021049 in Washington Township to be combined with Ames Precinct 1
- Blocks 191690013031005, 191690006005021, 191690006005022, 191690006005014 and 191690006005013 in Washington Township to be combined with Ames Precinct 16
- Block 191690001023007 and the unincorporated portion of Block 191690001023002 in Franklin Township to be combined with Ames Precinct 12

The City and the County agree to combine census blocks 191690001012063, 191690001012147, 191690001012056, 191690001012057, 191690001012058, 191690001012062 and the incorporated portion of 191690001012085 and Ames Precinct 6 as defined by City of Ames Municipal Code, Ordinance No. _____ into one precinct, namely Ames Precinct 6 in Ward 1.

The City and the County agree to combine census block 191690013021049 and Ames Precinct 1 as defined by City of Ames Municipal Code, Ordinance No. _____ into one precinct, namely Ames Precinct 1 in Ward 1.

The City and the County agree to combine census blocks 191690013031005, 191690006005021, 191690006005022, 191690006005014 and 191690006005013 and Ames Precinct 16 as defined by City of Ames Municipal Code, Ordinance No. _____ into one precinct, namely Ames Precinct 16 in Ward 3.

The City and the County agree to combine census blocks 191690001023007 and 191690001023002 and Ames Precinct 12 as defined in City of Ames Municipal Code, Ordinance No. _____ into one precinct, namely Ames Precinct 12 in Ward 2.

Dated this ____ of December, 2021.

City of Ames, Iowa

By _____
John Haila, Mayor
Mayor

Attest:

Diane Voss, City Clerk

Dated this ____ of December, 2021.

County of Story, Iowa

By _____
Lisa K. Heddens, Chair
Board of Supervisors

Attest:

Lucy Martin, Auditor