Hall, Renee

From: Martin, Steve W [M S E] <swmartin@iastate.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 4:10 PM
To: Gartin, Tim
Cc: City Council and Mayor; Schainker, Steve
Subject: Re: Why can't Ames do this?

Hi Tim, Steve, and Council Members,

Thank you for your very kind reply.

Yes, it always comes down to who pays, there are precious few truly free things in life.

I am curious, how much money is being collected each year from all of these meters? It must be worth it, otherwise it wouldn't be done, and it must be large enough to cause you to consider it an unfair to burden everyone.

Finally, I presume it has been a question put to the citizens of Ames, but in all of many years living in Ames, I don't ever recall being asked, but have we been asked if these parking $$ should be moved to the general fund? Again, I presume we have and we must have said no.

Kind regards, and again, thanks for all you do for us, it is much appreciated,

Steve

****
swmartin@iastate.edu
1912 Lepold Drive
Ames, IA 50010
515-450-1823 (C)
Meet me on Teams
Kindness will grow
****

From: Gartin, Tim <tim.gartin@amescitycouncil.org>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 5:36:27 PM
To: Martin, Steve W [M S E] <swmartin@iastate.edu>
Cc: City Council and Mayor <mayorcouncil@amescitycouncil.org>; SSchainker <steve.schainker@cityofames.org>
Subject: Re: Why can't Ames do this?

Hi Steve,

I have copied the full council on my reply in case they are interested in running with this further.

The reason why we collect the parking meter money is to pay for the parking infrastructure. Cities that provide their parking for "free" use general fund dollars (i.e., they spread those costs over the whole

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community) whereas we require the one who benefits from the parking to pay for it. There is not a right or wrong way of doing this. However, if we were to make the parking "free," it is only "free" in the micro sense; the costs would be carried by the community broadly. Perhaps that's what we should do. We could treat them like other public amenities like our streets and parks.

Please let me know if you have follow up questions.

Thanks,

Tim

From: Martin, Steve W [M S E] <swmartin@iastate.edu>
Sent: Sunday, May 5, 2024 11:46 AM
To: Gartin, Tim <tim.gartin@amescitycouncil.org>
Subject: Why can't Ames do this?

[External Email]

Good morning Tim,

I know the subject of downtown parking has been debated and discussed for all of the nearly 40 years I have lived in Ames. And honestly, I feel hopeless in even bringing this long pain in rear problem up, but here goes anyway, however fruitless and pointless my attempt may be :)

Yet, on street parking on Main Street still is charged, and now with it more common to use the parking app to make this annoyance a little less annoying, it now cost 3 to 4 times what it used to. Sorry, who carries cash or change anymore? Not me!

So, my questions are this; If Cedar Falls has both on street and off street for their downtown parking like Ames, why is their on street parking free? See the photo I took yesterday while having lunch at one of their main street restaurants.

What are they doing that we for some reason can't?

Kind regards, and while I am frustrated with being nickled and dimed for on street parking in Ames, I know you have a demanding job and I do appreciate all that you do for us.

Kind regards,

Steve

Steve W.Martin
1912 Leopold Dr.
515-450-1823
Meet me on Teams
Kindness will grow

From: Gartin, Tim <tim.gartin@amescitycouncil.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 10:47:27 AM
To: Martin, Steve W [M S E] <swmartin@iastate.edu>
Cc: SSchainker <SSchainker@city.ames.ia.us>; Haila, John <john.haila@cityofames.org>; City Council and Mayor

\<mayorcouncil@amescitycouncil.org\>
Subject: Re: sidewalk on north Hyde and Grant Avenue.

Hi Steve,

Thank you for your input on this. We share your concern regarding the safety of cyclists and pedestrians along this stretch. I have copied the council on this response.

Thanks,

Tim

From: Martin, Steve W [M S E] \<swmartin@iastate.edu\>
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:08 AM
To: Gartin, Tim \<tim.gartin@amescitycouncil.org\>
Cc: Schainker, Steve \<steve.schainker@cityofames.org\>; Haila, John \<john.haila@cityofames.org\>
Subject: Re: sidewalk on north Hyde and Grant Avenue.

[External Email]

Tim, Steve, and John,

I cannot make the public meeting about the capital improvement plan for Ames. So I pass my comments onto you here.

Can you please discuss the critical need for a pedestrian path on north Hyde and Grant up to 190th Street? Please?

You keep telling me that you are waiting on the developers to do it and it doesn't get done.

Yet, I see $309 Million being spent on capital improvements. Can this be done before someone gets killed or seriously injured walking or running on the street? This road with all of student and family traffic to and from Gilbert is too busy for pedestrians to nit have a sidewalk.

I read that there are new housing developments going in Ames, but none include the north Ames property abutting North Hyde and Grant.

I presume this means it will be years before a developer develops this land and builds the pedestrian path.

Can you please include discussion of a pedestrian path on north Hyde and Grant?

Hoping sometime my request gets listened to,

Thanks for your kind action and reply,

Steve

Steve W. Martin
swmartin@iastate.edu
515-450-1823
1912 Leopold Dr.
Ames
Kindness will grow

From: Gartin, Tim <tim.gartin@amescitycouncil.org>
Sent: Monday, August 9, 2021 5:21:39 PM
To: Martin, Steve W [M S E] <swmartin@iastate.edu>
Cc: Schainker, Steve <steve.schainker@cityofames.org>; Haila, John <john.haila@cityofames.org>
Subject: Re: sidewalk

Thank you for the follow up Steve. I will ask City Manager Schainker to provide you specific answers to your questions on the projected maintenance.

Tim

From: Martin, Steve W [M S E] <swmartin@iastate.edu>
Sent: Monday, August 9, 2021 5:18 PM
To: Gartin, Tim <tim.gartin@amescitycouncil.org>
Cc: Schainker, Steve <steve.schainker@cityofames.org>; Haila, John <john.haila@cityofames.org>
Subject: sidewalk

Thanks Tim,

Thanks for having this information sent to me, it is appreciated, that was all I asked for, the loan for the pool, as you stated a few times, was fait accompli. However, this is also a reminder to send the build and out year cost estimates to me, I haven't seen them yet.

Kind regards,

Steve

Steve W. Martin
swmartin@iastate.edu

515-450-1823
1912 Leopold Dr.
Kindness will grow

From: Gartin, Tim <tim.gartin@amescitycouncil.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 1, 2021 9:02:33 AM
To: Martin, Steve W [M S E] <swmartin@iastate.edu>
Cc: Schainker, Steve <steve.schainker@cityofames.org>; Haila, John <john.haila@cityofames.org>
Subject: Re: Swimming pool

Good Morning Steve,

I will ask the city manager to send you the specifics.

Again, we did not take this decision in a cavalier manner. We fully realize that we are asking the taxpayers to shoulder the cost of anything we do. However, this does mean that we do nothing. It means that we are careful to make wise decisions for our community.

Again, I invite you to compare the millage rate charged in Ames with any of our peer communities in Iowa. You will quickly see, and I hope appreciate, how efficient and cost effective our city government is compared to others. We go through each line of the budget every year. If there are areas where you would like us to spend less, please let me know. I believe we run a very tight ship.

I could not be more proud of our unanimous vote on the pool proposal and our city budgets over the last eight years.

Thanks,

Tim

From: Martin, Steve W [M S E] <swmartin@iastate.edu>
Sent: Sunday, August 1, 2021 8:30 AM
To: Gartin, Tim <tim.gartin@amescitycouncil.org>
Cc: Schainker, Steve <steve.schainker@cityofames.org>; Haila, John <john.haila@cityofames.org>
Subject: RE: Swimming pool

[External Email]

Hi Tim,

Of course, I know I didn't personally take out the loan, however, as an Ames resident I am in part responsible for it, as we all are. My property taxes never go down, they always up.

As I requested, can you send me any information on what you just voted for or is the concept so undeveloped that there is no information other than some rough cost estimate? I am especially interested in the outyear costs and how they will be paid for.

Kind regards,

Steve

From: Gartin, Tim <tim.gartin@amescitycouncil.org>
Sent: Saturday, July 31, 2021 1:54 PM
To: Martin, Steve W [M S E] <swmartin@iastate.edu>
Cc: Schainker, Steve <steve.schainker@cityofames.org>; Haila, John <john.haila@cityofames.org>
Subject: Re: Swimming pool

Hi Steve,

Thanks for the note. A few points to clarify --

You did not take the loan out individually. This is an obligation of the entire community for a wonderful amenity that will benefit the entire community. A city like Ames needs an indoor pool. Be encouraged that the debt of Ames is very low.

Please note that we use bonds to finance many projects in Ames. The street you took to your house was financed with a bond. This is the common approach for financing public projects. The good news is that the cost of borrowing with municipal bonds is very low right now.

Dan Culhane has generously offered to fund raise $10 million from the community. There are many community-minded people who understand the importance of a pool for children, older adults, and families. In fact, the vast majority of e-mails I have received have been extremely positive about our decision.

I was very proud to make the motion and cast my vote for this wonderful asset for the community.

If you other questions or concerns, I would be happy to field them.

Sincerely,

Tim

From: Martin, Steve W [M S E] <swmartin@iastate.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 7:35 PM
To: Gartin, Tim <tim.gartin@amescitycouncil.org>
Subject: Swimming pool

Hi Tim,

I see I just took out a $17,500,000 loan for a new swimming pool without being asked.

Is there a web link or website that shows me what my $26,000,000 cost with interest just bought me?

Also, please send me a few sentences explaining where the other $10,000,000 is coming from.

Thanks,

Steve W. Martin
swmartin@iastate.edu
515-450-1823
1912 Leopold
Kindness will grow