

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE AMES CITY COUNCIL

AMES, IOWA

FEBRUARY 16, 2016

The Ames City Council met in special session at 6:01 p.m. on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of February 2016, in the City Council Chambers in City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue, pursuant to law with Mayor Ann Campbell presiding and the following Council members present: Gloria Betcher, Amber Corrieri, Tim Gartin, Peter Orazem, Chris Nelson, and Bronwyn Beatty-Hansen. *Ex officio* Member Sam Schulte was also present.

Also attending were Planning and Housing Director Kelly Diekmann and City Planner Karen Marren. Representatives present from Houseal Lavigne Associates were Senior Associate Doug Hammel and Principals Devin Lavigne and Dan Gardner.

Mr. Hammel briefly went over the workshop agenda and discussed the role of City Council in the Lincoln Way Corridor Plan.

The project website was shown to be an educational tool and would allow the public to provide input through questionnaires, read news and updates, review documents as they are released, and add their own points on sMAP—an interactive map that allows the community to add categorical points in order to provide insight along the Lincoln Way Corridor. It was recommended by Hammel that the Council Members create their own maps to show activity and encourage the community to get engaged in the process. Ideally, staff would like to execute outreach before the University is out of session to gain more input from the public.

Mr. Hammel led an exercise that consisted of the Council answering four key questions, similar to what will be asked of residents and businesses, to help identify relevant issues and desires. Those questions consisted of 1) identify five issues/concerns facing the Lincoln Way Corridor, 2) list, in order of importance, the three most important issues discussed thus far, 3) identify three specific projects or actions that you would like to see undertaken with the Lincoln Way Corridor, and 4) what are the primary strengths and assets of the Lincoln Way Corridor.

The results showed that the largest concerns were having Complete Streets opportunities, housing options, a sense of place, and mixed-use opportunities. Other projects and actions mentioned were having safe pedestrian connectivity, encouraging the development to the east on Lincoln Way, and having the Corridor be aesthetically pleasing. The primary strengths and assets of the Corridor were discussed as being its central location, tremendous potential for development, and it being a main corridor in Ames.

As part of the community outreach, two workshops have been scheduled for March 2 at Zeke's, 3329 Lincoln Way. A Corridor Neighborhood Workshop will be held from 5:30-7:00 p.m. and will allow the neighborhood associations and residential property owners abutting the corridor to provide feedback and concerns prior to the Public Workshop that will follow at 7:30 p.m. A Business Workshop will be held March 3 at 8:00 a.m. at Ames City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue, and will focus on issues and opportunities related to business growth and economic development along the Lincoln Way Corridor.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Council Member Gartin wanted to remind everyone that the City of Ames Cornerstone to Capstone Plan (C2C) will be having its final open house on February 22 at 6:00 p.m. at the Ames Public Library.

Moved by Orazem, seconded by Nelson, to appoint Council Member Betcher to serve on the Downtown Housing Study Project Committee.

Vote on Motion: 6-0. Motion declared carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Betcher to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

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Diane R. Voss, City Clerk

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Ann H. Campbell, Mayor

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Heidi Petersen, Recording Secretary