

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

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AMES, IOWA

MAY 24, 2016

The Ames City Council met in special session at 5:20 p.m. on May 24, 2016, in the Council Chambers in City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue, pursuant to law with Mayor Ann Campbell presiding and the following Council members present: Bronwyn Beatty-Hansen, Amber Corrieri, Tim Gartin, Chris Nelson, and Peter Orazem. Council Member Gloria Betcher was absent. *Ex officio* Member Sam Schulte was also present.

STAFF REPORT ON LEAD IN DRINKING WATER: Water and Pollution Control Director John Dunn stated that since the lead contamination of water in Flint, Michigan, City staff has been fielding calls from concerned residents as to whether that type of contamination could occur in Ames. Mr. Dunn stated that first and foremost, the City of Ames water treatment bears no resemblance whatsoever to that of the City of Flint, Michigan. Secondly, Ames' water chemistry is designed to treat any lead in the water when it leaves the Water Plant. According to Mr. Dunn, there are approximately 19,000 individual customer accounts in the City. Based on staff analysis, there are approximately 300 homes that still contain lead somewhere in their service lines. Over 98.5% of the customers have virtually 0% chance of lead in their water. The other 1.5% have a very low risk. It was noted that the water main and water meter are City-owned. The customer owns the tap, curb stop valve, and valves on the sides of the water meter. In order to have lead contamination, two things must be present: lead service lines and water chemistry that allows lead into the system. Mr. Dunn emphasized that having lead service lines does not necessarily mean that there is any lead contamination of the water.

Director Dunn provided the results of recent lead monitoring in Ames. He stated that letters will be sent out tomorrow to the approximately 300 homes that still have lead service lines. In addition, an interactive GIS map will go live on the City's Web site tomorrow where people can put in their address and find out if their home has lead service lines. If a customer's home is known to contain lead service lines, the City will test the water at no charge to the customer. According to Mr. Dunn, lead filters can be purchased at home improvement stores and hardware stores in Ames for those whose water tested shows that it contains lead at or above 15 parts per billion. Council Member Gartin requested that the City notify the owner of the property as well as any tenant.

At the inquiry of Council Member Gartin, Director Dunn stated that the City has no knowledge of any illnesses resulting to Ames residents as a result of lead contamination. The City has asked to be informed by local medical providers if that ever does occur.

Ex officio Member Schulte noted that the pH in Ames stands at 9.5. A check of the EPA standards stated that 8.5 is the norm, which would make Ames higher than average. Lyle Hammes, Water Plant Superintendent, indicated that there is a combination of a lot of factors that goes into water stability; one of those is alkalinity.

Council Member Orazem asked if the Rental Housing Code addresses water service lines. Mr. Dunn said, to his knowledge, there is no requirement contained in the Code pertaining to water service lines.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Nelson, seconded by Beatty-Hansen, to adjourn the Special Meeting at 5:53 p.m.

Diane R. Voss, City Clerk

Ann H. Campbell, Mayor