



City Attorney's Office

515 Clark Avenue, P. O. Box 811

Ames, IA 50010

Phone: 515-239-5146 • Fax: 515-239-5142

October 8, 2007

The Honorable Ann H. Campbell, Mayor,
and Members of the City Council
of the City of Ames, Iowa

Re: Boards and Commissions – Terms and Eligibility for Reappointment

Dear Mayor Campbell and Council Members:

At the Council meeting January 8, you received a report and recommendation for amendments to the Municipal Code that would standardize the terms of appointment to boards and commissions. You then directed the Legal Department to prepare ordinances that would amend the Municipal Code to allow reappointment of board and commission members for two consecutive full terms of three years. You also requested that ordinance drafts be provided to City staff and forwarded to the affected boards and commissions for review and comment. Two commissions responded with suggestions.

The Human Relations Commission suggested clarifying provisions for special one-year terms of appointment. The draft ordinance was revised to specify that the "term limits" of two consecutive full terms applied only to three-year terms and not to one-year terms. Since the Parks and Recreation Commission also includes a special one-year term, that draft ordinance was similarly revised and clarified.

The Historic Preservation Commission recommended that members be eligible for up to three consecutive full terms rather than two, and that following an absence from the Commission for one year a person would again be eligible for appointment. Since the recommendation to allow for a third consecutive term was contrary to Council's direction and since all current members of the Commission remain eligible for reappointment under the terms of the draft ordinance, it was not revised. The Council could choose to consider the Commission recommendation and amend the ordinance at any time in the future.

The attached chart summarizes the changes included in the revised draft ordinances.

Yours truly,

Amanda Laird
Prosecuting Intern

Douglas R. Marek
City Attorney

enc.

Boards and Commissions - Terms and Eligibility for Reappointment

Established by City Ordinance		
City Board or Commission	Current Term & Limit	Proposed Term & Limit
Building Code Board of Appeals	2-year term/limit 2 terms	3-year term/limit 2 full consecutive terms
Electric Utility Operations Review & Advisory Board (EUORAB)	5-year term/limit 10 continuous years	3-year term/limit 2 full consecutive terms
Boards of Electrical Examiners & Appeals	3-year term/limit 2 consecutive term	3-year term/limit 2 full consecutive terms
Historic Preservation Commission	5-year term/no reappointment unless serving unexpired term of 2 years or less	3-year term/limit 2 full consecutive terms
Human Relations Commission	3-year term/limit 6 consecutive years 1-year term (1 member)/limit 2 consecutive years	3-year term/limit 2 full consecutive terms (1 member to serve a special 1-year term)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Hearing Officers ◆ Investigative & Conciliation Officers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 3-year term/limit 6 consecutive years ◆ 3-year term/limit 6 consecutive years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 3-year term/limit 2 full consecutive terms ◆ 3-year term/limit 2 full consecutive terms
Parks and Recreation Commission	3-year term/limit six consecutive years 1-year term (1 member)/limit 2 consecutive years.	3-year term/limit 2 full consecutive terms (1 member to serve a special 1-year term)
Planning and Zoning Commission	5-year term/no reappointment unless serving unexpired term of 2 years or less	3-year term/limit 2 full consecutive terms
Plumbing and Mechanical Board	3-year term/limit 2 consecutive terms	3-year term/limit 2 full consecutive terms