

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: AMES SOUTHEAST ENTRYWAY PROJECT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT AGREEMENT, PRELIMINARY RESOLUTION, PRELIMINARY PLANS, & PROPOSED RESOLUTION OF NECESSITY

BACKGROUND:

This project is a continued partnership between the City of Ames and the South Ames Business Neighborhood (SABN) to complete the following improvement features to the Southeast Entryway: installation of light columns and planting of native plants and flowers. A portion of the Southeast Entryway has already been improved with grading and plantings at the intersection of Dayton Avenue and SE 16th Street to the Dayton Avenue overpass.

After much delay due to the administration of the agreement with the Iowa DOT, staff is continuing to inquire about specific requirements of the request for qualifications before being ready to receive qualification statements for the design. A majority of the information that staff is waiting on from the Iowa DOT is related to the sole source provider for the sculptural light columns.

In the 2007/2012 Capital Improvement Plan, City Council approved the use of City funds in the amount of \$187,000 (\$148,000 from property owner assessments and \$39,000 from Local Option Sales Tax funds), private funding in the amount of \$106,000 (\$46,000 from the previous project and a new pledge of \$60,000), and an anticipated \$30,000 from an Iowa DOT planting grant. This would provide the necessary local match to the \$683,000 Transportation Enhancement funds stated in the contract.

Originally, four property owners along Southeast 16th Street and South Dayton Avenue had agreed to assess themselves \$1,500,000 to assist in the funding of the street and bridge improvements in this area. Because the project came in under budget and the fact that the City can not use G.O. Bonds revenues to construct light columns, it was agreed that one property owner, Family Realty LLC, would be assessed \$148,000 for the Southeast Entryway Project rather than for the Southeast 16th street and bridge project. Under this strategy, the City will still receive the benefit of \$1,500,000 of total assessments to help finance the improvements in the area.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1a. Approve the Special Assessment Contract and Waiver with Family Realty LLC for the Ames Southeast Entryway project.
- b. Approve the preliminary resolution pursuant to the Iowa Code covering the Ames Southeast Entryway project.

- c. Adopt the preliminary plat (Exhibit 1), schedule (Exhibit A), and estimate pursuant to the Iowa Code covering the Ames Southeast Entryway project.
 - d. Adopt the proposed resolution of necessity in accordance the Iowa Code covering the Ames Southeast Entryway project.
2. Deny approval of the Agreement and the Southeast Entryway Improvement Project.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

By approving the Special Assessment Contract and Waiver with Family Realty LLC for the Ames Southeast Entryway project, the Preliminary Resolution, Preliminary Plans and Schedule, and Proposed Resolution of Necessity, the Council will enable staff to proceed with hiring a consultant to design this project and ultimately move forward with a bid letting through the Iowa DOT.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the Special Assessment Contract and Waiver with Family Realty LLC for the Ames Southeast Entryway project along with the other steps outlines above.