

ITEM #: 19
DATE: 07-27-10

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COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: PARKING REGULATIONS ON JENSEN AVENUE

BACKGROUND:

On May 11, 2010, City Council referred a letter from a resident in the two thousand block of Jensen Avenue regarding a request to restrict parking along one side of Jensen Avenue. This was related to a safety concern in allowing two-way traffic along the street with parked vehicles on both sides. As part of the referral, City Council asked staff to notify the residents that live along Jensen Avenue from 20th Street to 24th Street regarding the feasibility of changing the parking regulations. On July 6, 2010, a notification was sent by mail to 34 households, which included each residence in the designated area.

Currently there are no parking regulations for Jensen Avenue between 20th Street and 24th Street. However, north of 24th Street parking is restricted at all times along the east side of Jensen Avenue north to Luther Drive. It should also be noted that Jensen Avenue is classified as a local street that is 31 feet in width.

The City has a policy to construct narrower streets in new subdivisions, typically 26 feet wide for residential streets, with parking restricted at all times along one side; preferably on the side of the street where the fire hydrants are located. If Jensen Avenue was newly constructed today, it would have such parking regulations established at the time of preliminary platting.

Of the 34 residents notified by staff, only seven responded with comments. Five of the seven stated that they were in support of the proposed change, whereas two said that they would oppose the change. The two residents who opposed the change expressed concern who reducing the available parking was unneeded and may cause hardships. Conversely, those that supported the change generally thought it would help to increase safety along the street, especially in the winter months when snow can further narrow the street.

ALTERNATIVES:

** Council took ACTION to ESTABLISH "NO PARKING"
ON WEST SIDE - NOT EAST SIDE .*

1. Direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to modify the current Municipal Code Section 18.31(133) to establish a "No Parking" regulation along the east side of Jensen Avenue from 20th Street to 24th Street for all hours of the day.
2. Do not modify the parking regulations along this segment of Jensen Avenue.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This is a challenging situation, since some of the Jensen residents who responded to staff support the parking prohibition while others oppose it. Prohibiting parking on one side would indeed reduce the available supply of parking for residents and their visitors. On the other hand, this prohibition would make the parking regulations consistent for the entire length of Jensen Avenue. It would also be consistent with current City policy along residential streets of similar width and classification. This restriction may also provide better access for emergency vehicles such as Fire, Ambulance, and Police.

Therefore, it is the City Manager's recommendation that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby directing the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to modify the current Municipal Code to establish a "No Parking" regulation along the east side of Jensen Avenue from 20th Street to 24th Street for all hours of the day.

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF AMES, IOWA, BY ENACTING A NEW SECTION 18.31 (351) THEREOF, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREATING PARKING REGULATIONS FOR JENSEN AVENUE; REPEALING ANY AND ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT TO THE EXTENT OF SUCH CONFLICT; PROVIDING A PENALTY; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED, by the City Council for the City of Ames, Iowa, that:

Section One. The Municipal Code of the City of Ames, Iowa shall be and the same is hereby amended by enacting a new Section 18.31 (351) as follows:

Sec. 18.31. REGULATIONS FOR SPECIFIC STREETS OR LOCATIONS.

“(351) **JENSEN AVENUE.** Parking is prohibited at all times along the west side of Jensen Avenue from 20th Street to 24th Street.”

Section Two. Violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall constitute a simple misdemeanor punishable as set out by law.

Section Three. All ordinances, or parts of ordinances, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict, if any.

Section Four. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by law.

Passed this _____ day of _____, _____.

Diane R. Voss, City Clerk

Ann H. Campbell, Mayor