

Item # 22  
Date: October 12, 1999

## COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: MOTION APPROVING/DENYING AMENDMENT TO ALLOW ABOVE GROUND FUEL TANKS AT THE AMES MUNICIPAL AIRPORT.**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Hap's Air Service has requested a change in the airport fueling standards to allow above ground fuel tanks to be placed on leased airport property. The current fuel standards require fuel tanks to be below ground with self-monitoring environmental protection equipment. Hap's Air Service's self-fueling permit only allows them to fuel their own aircraft; and that fuel must come from an approved truck that is refueled off airport premises. On June 24, 1997 the City Council approved the authorization of \$3,000 to develop aircraft fueling standards at the Ames Municipal Airport. Aviation Resource Group was selected to develop provisions that ensure adequate services and orderly development of the airports' aeronautical activities.

The development of standards was completed and approved by City Council on November 13, 1997. During the standards development process, the Airport Advisory Board, the Ames Fire Department, Midwest Flying Service, and Hap's Air Service agreed on an acceptable minimum standard that would ensure not only the safety of the airport, but allow self fueling to airport users.

Staff is very concerned about the hazards associated with fueling at the airport. Any above ground fuel tank increases the risk of safety problems two-fold. First, there is a hazard of the fuel tank itself being exposed to operating aircraft and secondly, a large tank truck, which again exposes aircraft to additional hazards, must fill each fuel tank. In addition, the taxiways and apron areas are not designed to carry heavy truck traffic. If above ground tanks are allowed per this request, staff has to assume that a large number of the leased spaces would add the tanks. Airport safety would thus be compromised considerably.

A telephone survey was done to determine the extent of use of private (non-owner/non-FBO) above ground fuel tanks at area General Aviation airports. The results indicate that the Fort Dodge, Ankeny, Boone, Iowa City, and Newton airports do not allow above ground fuel tanks that are non-owner/non-FBO. Ottumwa and Webster City did not have policies in place that address above ground fuel tanks.

Midwest Flying Services, the city's contracted F.B.O, has offered to supply fuel to Hap's Air Service at a very reasonable cost; with little success. The staff's position is that the standards were developed in 1997 with all affected users in agreement and that to date there has not been sufficient reason to change the standards. It is also important that any proposed changes should not be considered without a consultant being retained to address the requirements for FAA compliance.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Deny any changes to the fueling standards.
2. Allow above ground fuel tanks at the airport subject to developing appropriate standards through the input of all airport users and development of revised fueling standards by a consultant.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

It is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt alternative number one thereby denying the request for changes to the fueling standards at the Ames Airport.

**COUNCIL ACTION:**