



June 23, 2021

Mr. Steve Schainker, City Manager
City of Ames
515 Clark Avenue
Ames, IA 5001

Dear Steve,

Following up on my recent email, I am writing to secure the City's support in moving forward with a permitting process for overnight parking. The issue has been raised most recently by the Main Street Economic Vitality Committee as a potential barrier to Downtown investment, especially for residential and mixed-use development.

After speaking with the Downtown Parking Advisory Committee and the Main Street Economic Vitality Committee, our recommendation is to implement an overnight permit process for all metered or lot spots, except Main Street, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 AM, seven days a week. The permit would effectively work opposite of the current daytime parking requirements. The committee would recommend that the applicant must be a named owner or lessee within the Downtown district. This option would allow for greater utilization of our on-street parking during non-peak hours, with a requirement that those spots are to be vacated by the time that meters are turned on, allowing the city to collect some additional revenue during underutilized times.

Potential issues raised with this permitting process have been limited to snow removal, special events, and street maintenance (including street sweeping). The committee recommends a corresponding snow ordinance and lot instructions be attached to the permit application as well as posting appropriate signage requiring that vehicles be moved from snow routes, in accordance with current snow route requirements. Additionally, we would recommend a notification process, electronic and/or mail to permit holders for any planned maintenance or special events. Unplanned maintenance or regular street sweeping could be achieved by working around any legally parked vehicles, as is the expectation on other streets throughout the City, or by contacting the permit holder directly if needed for access.

Thank you for considering this important matter for our Downtown stakeholders. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance in moving this forward.

Sincerely,

Kim Frey

Kim Frey
Executive Director – Ames Main Street

CC: Dan Culhane, President & CEO, Ames Chamber of Commerce
Steve Goodhue, Chair, Ames Main Street