

ITEM #: 1
DATE: 02-20-24
DEPT: Admin

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: REQUEST FROM AMES MAIN STREET FOR WAIVER OF ENFORCEMENT OF 4-HOUR PARKING LIMIT IN LOTS X, Y, & Z FOR MAIN STREET IOWA WORKSHOP ON MARCH 5 AND 6

BACKGROUND:

At the February 13, 2024 meeting, the City Council referred to a future agenda a request from Ames Main Street (AMS) to waive enforcement of the 4-hour parking limitation in the CBD Lots X, Y, and Z for the Main Street Iowa Spring Workshop on March 5 and 6, 2024. AMS anticipates approximately 65-75 attendees for the workshop. The parking regulations would require attendees to leave the workshop to move their vehicles partway through the sessions each day.

The Council requested that staff explore how similar requests have been handled in the past. After consulting with AMS to identify other similar events in the past several years, staff determined that on March 4, 2014, when Main Street Cultural District (now Ames Main Street) hosted the same workshop, AMS requested and the Council approved a waiver of parking regulations for the same purpose as the current request.

If approved, City staff would work with AMS to develop a parking pass for attendees.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the request from Ames Main Street to waive enforcement of 4-hour parking limits in the CBD Lots for the Main Street Iowa Spring Workshop on March 5-6.
2. Do not approve the request.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The requested waiver will assist with facilitating the Main Street Iowa Spring Workshop. If the request was denied, staff expects that attendees would continue to park in the same location, but would be required to move their vehicles elsewhere in the lot for the afternoon. Approving the request eliminates this burden. There is no cost associated with approving the request. A similar request was approved in 2014 for the same event.

The Main Street Iowa Spring Workshop is a unique event in the downtown. This educational workshop draws representatives from across the state to learn about developing vibrant downtown areas. Staff believes approving this request should not be a precedent for all types of events that may occur in the Downtown area. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative #1, as described above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[MSI Spring Workshop Request Letter](#)