



MEMO

To: Mayor & City Council

From: Mark O. Lambert, City Attorney

Date: July 14, 2026

Subject: City Assessor Term of Office

At the April 14, 2026, Conference Board meeting, the Board engaged in discussion with Ames City Assessor Shari Plagge about her term of office.

Ms. Plagge's current term as City Assessor ends December 31, 2026. In discussions with the Iowa Department of Revenue (IDOR), the IDOR suggested that the Ames City Council should consider creating an ordinance clarifying that the City Assessor serves a six-year term (as established by state law), and the next term begins on January 1, 2027.

The Conference Board (which includes the Ames Mayor and Council members) passed a motion referring the matter to the Council. On June 23, the Council directed the City Attorney to draft an ordinance clarifying the term of office for the City Assessor.

The attached ordinance establishes that the Ames City Assessor's office is for six years, and that the next term begins on January 1, 2027.

Staff is requesting that Council suspend the rules and complete all three readings, as the Conference Board will be discussing the re-appointment of Ms. Plagge at its July 23 meeting.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Ordinance - City Assessor Term Limits.docx](#)