

ITEM #:	11
DATE:	08-25-26
DEPT:	ADMIN

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: REQUESTS FOR THE AMES PUBLIC LIBRARY FAMILY FARM FESTIVAL

BACKGROUND:

The Ames Public Library (APL) is requesting to hold a new event in the Downtown area titled "Family Farm Festival with Author Jill Esbaum" from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., on Saturday, September 19, 2026.

The event will consist of a petting zoo, kids' activities, vendor booths, and various exhibits including "Touch a Tractor," where children will be able to explore different types of farm equipment. An author talk with Jill Esbaum will be held in the APL Auditorium at 11:00 a.m., followed by a book signing.

To facilitate these activities, APL has requested the following for Saturday, September 19:

- Closure of Douglas Avenue between 5th and 6th Street between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- A blanket Temporary Obstruction Permit
- A blanket Vending License and waiver of fee (\$50 loss to the City Clerk's Office)
- Closure of 17 on-street metered parking spaces along Douglas Avenue within the event area, and waiver of fees (estimated loss of \$34 to the Parking Fund)

The City Council's policy regarding the waiver of parking meter fees in areas that are less than District-wide is to consider such requests on a case-by-case basis.

Ames Main Street has submitted a letter in support of the event. Event organizers indicated that they will publicize the event via email and flyers, and place signs throughout the affected area prior to the event.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the requests from the Ames Public Library, including the waiver of fees.
2. Approve the requests from the Ames Public Library but require payment for the blanket Vending License and reimbursement for the lost parking meter fees.
3. Do not approve the requests.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The APL Family Farm Festival provides an opportunity to attract families to the Downtown. This is a free event that includes kids' activities, educational exhibits, and a presentation by author Jill Esbaum. The organizers have provided all necessary documentation supporting their requests, including a letter of support from Ames Main Street. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as described above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Special Event Application - Family Farm Festival](#)

[Family Farm Festival Map.pdf](#)

[APL LOS 2026.pdf](#)