

CHAPTER 20

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

Sec. 20.1. ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY CREATED; TITLE.

There is hereby created an administrative agency to be known as the planning and zoning commission of the City of Ames, Iowa.

(Ord. No. 2509, Sec. 2, 6-17-75)

Sec. 20.2. COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP; APPOINTMENT; QUALIFICATIONS.

The planning and zoning commission shall consist of seven (7) persons appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council. No one shall be a member of the commission who is not a resident of the City of Ames, nor shall anyone who is an employee or elected official of the city be a member..

(Ord. No. 2509, Sec. 2, 6-17-75; Ord No. 3945, 2-19-08)

Sec. 20.3. TERM OF OFFICE OF COMMISSIONERS.

The term of office shall be three (3) years beginning April 1 of the fiscal year of appointment. No member who has served two (2) full consecutive terms is eligible for reappointment.

(Ord. No. 2509, Sec. 2, 6-17-75; Ord No 3945, 2-19-08)

Sec. 20.4. COMPENSATION OF COMMISSIONERS.

Members of the commission shall serve without compensation but may receive reimbursement for any expenditure of personal funds in furtherance of commission business in accordance with such procedures as shall be prescribed by the city finance director.

(Ord. No. 2509, Sec. 2, 6-17-75)

Sec. 20.5. ORGANIZATION OF COMMISSION.

The commission shall choose one of its members to act as chairperson during the ensuing year and one member to serve as vice-chairperson. The vice-chairperson shall perform all duties of the chairperson during the absence or disability of the chairperson.

(Ord. No. 2509, Sec. 2, 6-17-75)

Sec. 20.6. VACANCIES.

Vacancies shall be filled for any unexpired term in the same manner as original appointments.

(Ord. No. 2509, Sec. 2, 6-17-75; Ord. No. 3945, 2-19-08)

Sec. 20.7. RULES, REGULATIONS OF COMMISSION.

The city plan commission may adopt such rules and regulations governing its organization and procedures as it deems necessary.

(Ord. No. 2509, Sec. 2, 6-17-75)

Sec. 20.8. POWERS OF COMMISSION.

The commission shall have power and authority to make or cause to be made surveys, studies, maps, plans or charts of the whole or any portion of the municipality or of any land outside thereof which in the judgment of the commission bears relation to a comprehensive plan, and shall bring to the attention of the council and may publish its studies and recommendations. Staff support shall be provided by the department of community development from the budget of that department.

(Ord. No. 2509, Sec. 2, 6-17-75)

Sec. 20.9. AUTHORITY OVER SUBDIVISIONS.

Any plans, plats or replats of subdivisions or resubdivisions of land within the city or adjacent thereto, laid out in lots or plats with the streets, alleys, or other portions of the same intended to be dedicated to the public, shall first be submitted to the commission and its recommendations obtained before approval by the city council.

(Ord. No. 2509, Sec. 2, 6-17-75)

Sec. 20.10. PREPARATION, USE OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

For the purpose of making a comprehensive plan for the physical development of the city, the commission shall make careful and comprehensive studies of present conditions and future development of the city and with due regard to its relation to neighboring territory. The plan shall be made with the general purpose of guiding and accomplishing a coordinated, adjusted and harmonious development of the city and its environs which will, in accordance with the present and future needs, best promote health, safety, order, convenience, prosperity and general welfare, as well as efficiency and economy in the process of development. The commission shall make an annual report of its activities to the city council.

(Ord. No. 2509, Sec. 2, 6-17-75)

Sec. 20.11. ADOPTION OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

(1) Before adopting or amending a comprehensive plan as referred to in the preceding section, the commission shall hold at least one public hearing thereon, notice of the time and place shall be given by one publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the city not less than seven (7) days nor more than twenty (20) days before the date of hearing. The adoption of the plan, part or amendment thereof shall be by resolution of the commission carried by the affirmative vote of not less than four (4) members of the commission.

(Ord. No. 3508, Sec. 1, 1-12-99)

(2) After adoption of the plan by the commission, an attested copy thereof shall be certified to the city council and the council may approve the same. When the plan or any modification or amendment thereof shall receive the approval of the council, the plan, until subsequently modified or amended as hereinbefore authorized, shall constitute the official city plan.

(Ord. No. 2509, Sec. 2, 6-17-75)

Sec. 20.12. COMMISSION TO RECOMMEND ZONING.

The commission may, from time to time, recommend changes in the zoning regulations or districts.

(Ord. No. 2509, Sec. 2, 6-17-75)

Sec. 20.13. COMMISSION TO PASS ON ZONING CHANGES.

When proposed changes in the zoning regulations or districts are referred to the commission by the city council, the commission shall within thirty (30) days file its recommendations with the city council.

(Ord. No. 2509, Sec. 2, 6-17-75)

Sec. 20.14. COMMISSION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATIVE TO LOCATION OF CITY FACILITIES AND STREETS.

The commission may, from time to time, make recommendations to the city council relative to the location of municipal buildings and other facilities and the location of city streets, alleys, parking lots and open spaces. The recommendations of the commission shall be obtained before enactment or revision of a comprehensive master plan for city streets.

(Ord. No. 2509, Sec. 2, 6-17-75)