

# MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL GOAL-UPDATE SESSION

AMES, IOWA

FEBRUARY 2, 2019

The Ames City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor John Haila at 8:35 a.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2019, in Parks and Recreation Office, 1500 Gateway Hills Park Drive. City Council Members present were Bronwyn Beatty-Hansen, Gloria Betcher, Amber Corrieri, Tim Gartin, David Martin, and Chris Nelson. *Ex officio* Council Member Allie Hoskins was also present. City Manager Steven Schainker, City Attorney Mark Lambert, Assistant City Manager Bob Kindred, Assistant City Manager Brian Phillips, and Management Analyst Tasheik Kerr were also present.

**COUNCIL GOAL UPDATE:** Mayor Haila reviewed the agenda and introduced Donna Gilligan, who was to facilitate discussion. Ms. Gilligan outlined the assumptions she had prepared in advance of the meeting. The Council Members provided their reflections regarding the Council's work and activities during the past year.

Ms. Gilligan led the Council Members through an activity. The Council Members then reviewed the ground rules established in January 2018.

The discussion then turned to the City Council Goals. Council Members provided direction to add and modify additional tasks, including:

- **Strengthen Downtown and Campustown:**
  - The Council determined that the objective to standardize and simplify the parking regulations in the neighborhoods surrounding Campustown is not a priority for 2019.
  - A task was added to the objective to evaluate safety for pedestrians crossing Lincoln Way between Campustown and the ISU campus. The task is for staff to provide an update regarding the success of the safety changes after an appropriate time has elapsed, including data regarding vehicle collisions and pedestrian accidents.
- **Expand Sustainability Efforts**
  - Under the objective to define the City's role (e.g., codes, incentives) in maintaining existing buildings, the Council clarified that the report from Jim Thompson regarding strategies to maintain downtown buildings may be delivered at a regular Council meeting, rather than a workshop.

- o An objective was added to evaluate the community's greenhouse gas impact and look for ways to reduce it. A task beneath this objective was added, which is to appropriate funding and perform a community-wide greenhouse gas inventory for FY 2019/20.

The meeting recessed at 10:16 a.m. and reconvened at 10:22 a.m.

The Council continued its discussion of the current goals, and modified and added the following tasks:

- **Promote a Sense of One Community:**

- o The City Council added a task to direct the Campus and Community Commission to assess the state of student tenant/landlord relationships in Ames, including: 1) What information landlords commonly wished student renters to have, 2) What students wish they knew about tenant responsibilities before renting, and 3) Where rent informational resources exist. Once this evaluation is completed, a joint discussion among student renters and landlords will be hosted by CCC to discuss these concerns. The CCC will then report to the City Council regarding its assessment and the outcome of the discussion.

It was moved by Nelson, seconded by Corrieri, to adopt the revised goals. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 11:34 a.m. and reconvened at 11:43 a.m.

Ms. Gilligan facilitated a discussion of the Council's effectiveness as a team, including a summary of the themes she gathered through her individual conversations with Council Members. The Council Members provided their reactions to this summary.

The Council Members discussed the length of Council meetings. Mr. Schainker noted the aspects of the meeting that contribute to its length are: 1) the number of items on the agenda, which is impacted by the number of referrals, 2) staff presentations, 3) public input, and 4) the discussion, debate, and decision-making.

Ms. Gilligan asked the Council Members to write down individual responses to the question: "What is the purpose of the City Council meeting?" The Council Members discussed their responses

to this question. To increase effectiveness, ideas included: putting more on the consent agenda, dealing with the outcomes of policies, striving for less than three hours in meetings, asking if issues fit with goals, having the Mayor define the expected discussion time per item, self-managing speaking time, empowering staff to make decisions, having the Mayor manage contributions to stop redundancy, and considering whether an idea has a broad impact or an individual impact.

The Council discussed ways to improve communication with stakeholders. Mr. Schainker indicated staff could look into the notification system on the City's website to make notifications of agenda items more automatic.

Ms. Gilligan led the Council Members through a plus/delta.

- Plus:- Open, honest, helpful, incredible conversations.
- Raised questions about the Campus and Community Commission.
  - Made focused additions to the goals.
  - Identified action items for increased effectiveness.
  - Helpful to have free-form discussion.

- Delta:- Meeting day and time for goal-setting (could we consider Sunday or Monday)?
- Frustrated that more ideas were not brought regarding what Campus and Community Commission should do.
  - Work on the goals throughout the year.
  - Need to become one-minded around the purpose of the Council meeting.

**COMMENTS:**

Moved by Betcher, seconded by Gartin, to put on a future agenda the discussion of whether or not to hire Denise Vrchota to assess the Council's effectiveness.

Vote on Motion: 3-3 (Voting aye: Betcher, Gartin, Nelson. Voting nay: Beatty-Hansen, Corrieri, Martin). Motion failed.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 1:51 p.m.

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Brian Phillips, Assistant City Manager

John A. Haila, Mayor