

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE AMES CITY COUNCIL

AMES, IOWA

FEBRUARY 28, 2022

The Special Meeting of the Ames City Council was called to order by Mayor John Haila at 12:00 Noon on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022. The Mayor announced that it was impractical to hold an in-person Council meeting; therefore, this meeting was being held as an electronic meeting, as allowed by Section 21.8 of the *Iowa Code*. Council Members Gloria Betcher, Bronwyn Beatty-Hansen, Tim Gartin, Rachel Junck, and Anita Rollins were present. Council Member Amber Corrieri and *ex officio* Member Trevor Poundstone were absent.

Assistant City Manager Brian Phillips reminded the Council members that, on January 11, 2022, they had adopted a temporary masking requirement for City Council, Board, and Commission meetings. That requirement was approved in light of the surge in COVID-19 cases related to the highly contagious omicron variant. The masking requirement was adopted in conjunction with a staff-implemented policy requiring masking or distancing within City facilities.

On February 25, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released new guidance regarding COVID-19 precautions. That guidance bases mask-wearing in public settings on community COVID-19 levels by observing local metrics. The CDC guidance only includes universal masking in areas with high community COVID-19 levels. According to the data released by the CDC as of February 25, Story County is considered to be at low levels of community COVID-19 impact.

Based on the above information, City staff recommended that the City Council rescind the masking requirement for City Council, Board, and Commission meetings, effective March 1, 2022. The policy requiring visitors and staff to mask or distance in City facilities would be rescinded at the same time.

Moved by Gartin, seconded by Junck, to rescind the masking requirement for City Council, Board, and Commission meetings, effective March 1, 2022.

Vote on Motion: 5-0. Motion declared carried unanimously.

Mr. Phillips noted that should the local metrics indicate a surge in community COVID-19 levels for Story County, the Council may have to revisit the masking requirement.

**DISPOSITIONS OF COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL:** None.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Gartin, seconded by Betcher, to adjourn the meeting at 12:03 p.m. Motion declared carried unanimously.

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Diane R. Voss, City Clerk

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John A. Haila, Mayor