

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

AMES, IOWA

MARCH 7, 2024

The Special Meeting of the Ames City Council was called to order by Mayor John Haila at 3:02 p.m. on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024, pursuant to law. As it was impractical for the Council Members to attend in person, Council Members Gloria Betcher, Amber Corrieri, Tim Gartin, Rachel Junck, and Anita Rollins joined the meeting electronically. Council Member Bronwyn Beatty-Hansen and *ex officio* Jeff Clark was absent.

**PLANNING AND HOUSING:** Planning and Housing Director Kelly Diekmann noted that at the February 27, 2024, City Council meeting, staff was directed to proceed with establishing an Urban Revitalization Area (URA) Plan to encourage construction of additional housing within the City of Ames by offering a five-year partial property tax abatement incentive for owner-occupied residential housing units. He furthered that State law requires setting a date of public hearing for approval of a proposed URA Plan and includes prescribed notification requirements. He explained that the City must publish notice 30 days before the hearing in the Ames Tribune and it must provide mailed notification to all property owners within the proposed boundary of the URA 30 days prior to the hearing. Staff proposed April 9, 2024, as the date of Public Hearing.

Council Member Corrieri left the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

The estimated notification costs were reviewed by Director Diekmann. He explained that staff was requesting that the City Council approve waiving the occupant notice under *Iowa Code* Section 404.2(3) due to an incomplete notification list. The City Council members engaged in detailed conversation with staff regarding specifics of the notification process. City Attorney Mark Lambert confirmed that staff was working within the legal requirements of *Iowa Code*, and that waiving notification to occupants was valid in this case. He concluded that staff would be able to promote the creation of the URA through social media or other news outlets; it is, however, separate from what the law requires.

Moved by Rollins, seconded by Gartin, to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 24-109 approving property owner notices and waiving occupant notification for an April 9, 2024 Public Hearing Date.

Roll Call Vote: 4-0. Resolution declared adopted unanimously, signed by the Mayor, and hereby made a portion of these Minutes.

Moved by Junck, seconded by Rollins, to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 24-110 approving authorization of \$8,500 from Council Contingency to pay for notification costs.

Roll Call Vote: 4-0. Resolution declared adopted unanimously, signed by the Mayor, and hereby made a portion of these Minutes.

**DISPOSITION OF COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL:** There were no items to consider.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:** The members of the City Council had no comments to share.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Gartin, seconded by Rollins, to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

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Carly M. Watson, Deputy City Clerk

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John A. Haila, Mayor

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Renee Hall, City Clerk