Meeting Minutes
DATA CENTER STUDY COMMITTEE

Conference Room 135 – CITY HALL

Monday, OCTOBER 26, 2026

Called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Merate Barakat.

- Committee members present: Merate Barakat, Jacob Gallagher, Jeff Kopaska, Duane Wolf, Timothy Stewart, David Taylor, William Gutowski, Yiwen Wu, Robert Pfaff, Lee Anne Willson, James Pease, Lu Liu, Scott Nelson, Chloe Parsons, Sid Juwarker.
- Committee members absent: None
- The minutes from the October 5, 2026, meeting were reviewed. Research assignments for James Pease were clarified to include Main Outline (Nature), by Physics (Light, Water, Waste, Sound), and by Council Charge (Wildlife). The minutes were approved as corrected. The chair noted that due to public interest those minutes were published quickly, but that we have until 5 days before the next meeting to approve and publish this meeting's minutes.
- The chair reminded the committee that this meeting would be in person only, with no TEAMS option. Also, that the committee would not be taking public comments, but that members of the public can send comments to the committee at residentdatacentercommittee@cityofames.org or to the city council at mayorcouncil@cityofames.org.
- Jeff Kopaska introduced himself, highlighting his background in ecology and evolutionary biology and Natural Resources, was welcomed and added to the Nature and Water & Waste subcommittees.
- The next item was the committee infrastructure on TEAMS and city email. Some members of the committee have encountered difficulty getting logged in or set up, and help was offered.
- The chair reviewed the setup in Teams including the availability of a folder for sources, a folder containing information relating to the rules governing operation

of the committee, and a document containing questions to and answers from the City about these procedures and other resources available to the committee.

- The committee was reminded that members are responsible for completing open meetings training. Several members noted that they have yet not been told how or where to access the training. Chair will follow up with link on Teams.
- Each subcommittee was then offered an opportunity to report on its progress. Light, Heat and Sound reported some progress, and this stimulated a discussion of some broader elements – for example 1) Lighting — ordinary industrial source, location-sensitive effects; 2) Heat — scale, plume behavior, and cooling choices; 3) Sound — limits of A-weighted measurements; and 4) Water, cooling chemicals, and wastewater controls. Therefore, the committee's findings may have broader applicability. Various examples of relatively large users of electric power in Ames were mentioned as possible sources of information or for comparison purposes, including the Ames power plant and some private enterprises.
- During the discussion, Scott Nelson raised a point of order that full-meeting time was going to subcommittee discussion. The discussion provided an opportunity for committee members to ask questions of members not in their sub-committees, and a discussion of what the overall goal should be in the balance of detail with accessibility and brevity. Subcommittees will meet separately between full meetings.
- The organization of the subcommittees was then discussed. Each subcommittee is to select an individual to serve as its spokesperson, and these will be put into a new subcommittee to facilitate communication between groups. The subcommittees may also want to designate a writer and/or an editor with responsibility for developing its portion of the final report.
- The committee agreed to present findings comparatively, showing which impacts are specific to data centers and which are common to other development.
- The next meeting for the full committee was set to Monday, November 16, at 6 PM, and a tentative date for the December meeting was also set to Thursday, December 17, at 6 PM.

- Robert Pfaff moved and Bill Gutowski seconded a motion to adjourn; the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.
- Following adjournment subcommittees met briefly to set up dates to meet soon.

Minutes submitted October 27, 2026, by Lee Anne Willson.