



January 2019 Project Highlights

City Manager's Office:

Iowa State University (ISU) staff reached out to City Legal staff to discuss concerns about the potential for businesses that provide **motorized scooter rentals** to enter the Ames/ISU market. Representatives from the Legal Department, City Manager's Office, and Police Department met with ISU staff in December to discuss these concerns. Although no companies currently provide motorized scooter rentals on campus, scooter rentals are present on other college campuses throughout the country. ISU staff indicates there have been safety issues with privately owned scooters on campus mingling with vehicle traffic and pedestrians, and has concerns about scooter use intensifying through scooter rental. Rented scooters generally do not require a fixed rental station, so they can be left anywhere in the community for the next user.

The Municipal Code prohibits motorized scooters on sidewalks. These devices also do not possess the required safety equipment expected of a motorized device that should be operated in the roadway (lights, reflectors, turn signals, etc.).

City staff will continue to discuss motorized scooters with ISU staff as ISU prepares policies regarding this topic.

Planning & Housing:

Planning:

- The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will host a meeting with officials from the City of Ames, other Story County cities, and Story County to answer questions and explain **proposed new flood plain maps**. There is also a public open house following the meeting. The meeting will be held on January 16th at the Water Plant Main Conference Room. This is

an initial outreach meeting for review of a recently completed flood insurance study update of topography for Story County. The meeting with local officials will be held from 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. with the public open house from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. More information is available here: www.CityOfAmes.org/FloodMap

- City staff continues to meet with a variety of **development interests considering annexation** in 2019. City Council has previously initiated the Kurt Friedrich annexation request for land in north Ames along Cameron School Road and GW Carver. In southwest Ames, there is continued follow up on the McCay lands, Champlin property and the Burgason property. Staff believes some or all of these property owners will return for City Council direction on the annexation process this winter.
- **Downtown redevelopment projects** for Fareway and for the Friedrich Iowa Realty offices are in review for evaluation by the Zoning Board of Adjustment in January and February. These two projects are the result of City Council action on changing zoning standards this past fall to facilitate redevelopment.
- **Façade grant programs** for Downtown and Campustown will begin outreach to property owners in February to solicit project interest. Both programs promote property owner investment in commercial buildings to improve the aesthetics of commercial storefronts. The City's program allows for matching funds of up to \$15,000 for compliant projects. Upon receipt of grant requests, staff will evaluate the requests for consistency with the program guidelines and forward funding recommendations to City Council later in the spring.

Housing & Community Development:

- Staff will begin to gather data for the Community Development Block Grant **(CDBG)/HOME 2019-23 Five-Year Consolidated Plan**, along with collecting data and public input for the City's 2019 **Impediments to Fair Housing Study**.
- Staff anticipates bringing the discussion of the **future development of 321 State Avenue** back to City Council in late January, now that the Tripp Street extension project has been completed.
- The **federal government shut down** that began December 22, 2018 continues. This includes the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that administers the CDBG and HOME programs.

Parks and Recreation:

- The Iowa Wild and Wells Fargo donated a 40'x80' **outdoor ice rink** to the City, and staff erected the rink in South River Valley Park in early December. This new rink is adjacent to a 60'x120' rink the City already owned. The smaller rink is designated for hockey and the larger rink is for open skate. The rinks will be maintained by City staff as well as volunteers from the Ames Minor Hockey Association (AMHA). Unseasonably warm weather has limited the use of these rinks so far this winter.

Multiple City departments (Electric, Public Works, Water & Pollution Control, and Inspections) assisted with the project to add water hydrants, lighting, and parking. A ribbon cutting will be held in January once temperatures stay cold enough to maintain ice.



- Van Maanen Electric, Newton, Iowa, completed the **Brookside Park Path Lighting project** which included adding 59 light poles and fixtures from 6th Street to 13th Street and Brookridge Avenue to Maple Shelter. The LED lights are on timers that are programmed to be on 6:00 AM to Sunrise and Sunset to 10:30 PM, which coincides with park hours. Along with the project, City staff added new path sections to eliminate blind corners, to open up sight lines, and to move the path away from Squaw Creek.



Police:

The **Ames Animal Shelter** continues to receive overwhelming monetary donation support from the community. In December 2018, the Shelter received over \$13,000 in monetary gifts for the animals in our care. Compared to December 2017, donations have increased by over 55%.

Fire:

Two Ames Fire Department Shift Commanders have been promoted to two open positions of **Deputy Fire Chief**. Douglas Allen, who has served the Ames Fire Department since 1999, and Thomas Hackett, who joined the Ames Fire Department in 2000, began their new duties at the beginning of January.