



April 2019 Project Highlights

Library:

The Library Board of Trustees has approved the hiring of Sheila Schofer as the next Director of the Ames Public Library. Schofer has a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from Kent State University in Ohio, and a Bachelor's Degree in English and History from St. Ambrose University in Davenport. Schofer is currently the Director of Neighborhood and Public Services for Brooklyn Public Library in Brooklyn, NY. She is scheduled to begin her new job on May 31.

"I am very excited to join the Ames Public Library and continue the long tradition of excellence," Schofer said. "The Ames Public Library is a tremendous, well-run, and well-loved community asset. I'm looking forward to working with the staff, meeting community partners, and continuing to provide the quality programs and innovative services Ames library patrons expect."

Human Resources, Legal Department and City Manager's Office

In conjunction with an outside law firm, a team from Human Resources, Legal, and the City Manager's Office is working on revisions to the Civil Service Commission Policies and Procedures and the Personnel Policies and Procedures. The Civil Service Commission reviewed the draft Commission policies in March and will consider adopting the revised document in April. The Personnel Policies and Procedures will be finalized later this spring, then brought to the City Council for adoption.

This project is being coordinated by Assistant City Manager Bob Kindred, who is retiring after the project is complete. Bob has been with the City 37 years. A search is underway for the next Assistant City Manager, with a goal to have the position filled this summer.

Planning and Housing:

On April 9th, City staff will present potential revisions to the development agreement for the “Regional Mall” site at the I-35/13th Street interchange to City Council. The developer, Denny Elwell Company of Ankeny, is interested in changes to the agreement relating to development and infrastructure requirements in order to proceed with development on the south side of 13th Street.

Public Works:

Engineering

- **S. Grand Avenue Extension** - Land acquisition has made significant progress, with the corridor for S. 5th Street Extension now all under verbal agreement/completed acquisition. The project for S. 5th Street can now move toward a July bid letting through the Iowa DOT. April 1st is a significant date (environmentally) for having trees dropped by (threatened & endangered bat species), so trees were dropped in the corridor ahead of this date. Negotiations are continuing with golf course land and leasehold interest. A counter appraisal was received and presented as a counteroffer to the golf course business (as a leasehold interest in the land). Staff is working toward a fall bid letting (fall/winter construction commencing) through the Iowa DOT for the S. Grand Avenue Extension over Squaw Creek to S. 16th Street. The portion of the project to make improvements at S. Duff Avenue/S. 16th Street intersection will be a local bid letting. City staff has continued to meet with area businesses to discuss impacts to their land and access.
- **East Industrial Area Utility Extension** - Land acquisition continues with a majority of easements obtained through the utility corridor. The parcel being acquired for site of a lift station and future elevated water tank is being negotiated. The land owner's representatives are actively working with City staff to address their questions and concerns. Once the parcel is acquired, the design plans will need to be updated to reflect the new location and then a bid letting can be scheduled. Project completion will be established to optimize bid prices.

Operations

- As of March 27, Ames has received 52.5" of snow. This puts us at 4th place in the last 30 plus years (62" (1996-97), 55" (2009-10), 54" (2012-13) are 1, 2, 3 respectively). We are still well within the window of receiving winter weather so the total could still increase.
- Over a two week span in late February, Ames received over 28" of snow, with 20+" falling in one week during that time. The City plows over 630 lane miles of roads and maintains over 30 miles of shared use paths in the winter. Those 20+" in one week, if stacked on the field at Jack Trice Stadium would measure over 1,000 feet high. Add in blizzard strength winds and bitter cold temperatures and it was a tough week for everyone.

Resource Recovery

- The Resource Recovery Plant is again a participating sponsor of Stash the Trash. This is the 20th anniversary of the event which will be held on Saturday, April 6. Please go to the Volunteer Center of Story County webpage at <http://www.vcstory.org> for more information.



- Plans are underway for Chamness Technology to host the Spring Yard Waste Free Day on Saturday, April 27. The drop off will be at their site (400 Freel Drive) and include yard waste and brush. Hours for the event will be from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Police:

Animal Shelter

- The Ames Animal Shelter recently had a colorful wrap installed on the animal control vehicle. The new design will help to make animal control officers more visible in the community and hopefully increase the number of adopters visiting the shelter.



- An agreement has been signed for professional consulting and planning services to review the animal sheltering facility and operations with Invision Architecture. Invision's report and work is to be completed by June 10, 2019. Staff is excited to work with Invision to ensure that we are able to meet the needs of the community and the animals that we care for well into the future.

Administration

- Representatives of StoryComm, including Ames, ISU, Story County, and the 911 Board, are establishing the framework for a contract to establish the new radio system. We hope to see a final contract coming to the Council in the next 30 days.