

## MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL RETREAT

AMES, IOWA

JANUARY 18, 2020

The Ames City Council was called to order by Mayor John Haila at 8:19 a.m. on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020, in the Parks and Recreation Office, 1500 Gateway Hills Park Drive. City Council Members present were Bronwyn Beatty-Hansen, Gloria Betcher, Amber Corrieri, Tim Gartin, Rachel Junck, and David Martin. *Ex officio* Council Member Devyn Leeson was also present. City Manager Steven Schainker, City Attorney Mark Lambert, Assistant City Manager Brian Phillips, and Assistant City Manager Deb Schildroth were also present.

### **COUNCIL GOAL UPDATE:**

Ms. Gilligan outlined the objectives for the day. She then invited Mr. Schainker to discuss what the staff can do to help the City Council become a more effective decision-making body.

The meeting recessed at 9:00 a.m. and reconvened at 9:05 a.m.

Ms. Gilligan introduced the process to prioritize the Council Members' individual initiatives. She reviewed the list of items that were already underway or that could be directed to begin at a Council meeting. These items were set aside. The Council Members reviewed the remaining initiatives and placed stickers to indicate their priorities. Ms. Gilligan reviewed the initiatives that had apparent consensus to move forward.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:57 a.m. and reconvened at 12:25 p.m.

Ms. Gilligan reviewed the next steps. Two Council Members were assigned to each value area to refine the initiatives that were identified as priorities. The groups reported out and the entire Council made suggestions regarding the wording.

The Values and Goals identified were as follows:

- We value communication and engagement with the public
  - Adopt an attractive, single civic app by the end of 2020
  - Use the best communication engagement techniques and modern technologies to engage the community by reaching people in geographic areas using multiple channels.
- We value diverse housing options for the community
  - Increase the stock of diverse housing types for a variety of income levels through zoning, including adjusting minimum lot area, multiple dwelling units on a lot, and accessory dwelling units
- We value a fun, vibrant community that attracts and retains people
  - Begin construction on a downtown community space by 2021
  - Obtain referendum approval to construct an indoor aquatic facility by summer 2021

- Create a Beautification Master Plan for community entryways and thoroughfares by spring 2021
- We value a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community
  - Develop a shared understanding of diversity, equity, and bias as they relate to Council decisions and the policy-making process.
  - Through local ordinances, expand protections for Ames citizens beyond the Code of Iowa floor protections by 2021
  - Identify, by the end of 2020, the ways the City can assist the Ames Community School District in its efforts to close the achievement gap
- We value environmental sustainability
  - Initiate and complete a Climate Action Plan by the end of 2021

Mr. Schainker noted that the staff will develop proposed tasks for each initiative the Council has identified. The entire list of values, goals, and tasks will be returned to the City Council for review and approval. Mr. Schainker noted there can be a goal update over the summer, with status reports in the spring and fall.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

---

Brian Phillips, Assistant City Manager

---

John A. Haila, Mayor