

## **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE AMES CONFERENCE BOARD**

**AMES, IOWA**

**MAY 11, 2021**

### **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE AMES CONFERENCE BOARD**

The Special Meeting of the Ames Conference Board was called to order by Chairman John Haila at 5:31 p.m. on May 11, 2021. Present from the Ames City Council were Bronwyn Beatty-Hansen, Gloria Betcher, Amber Corrieri, Tim Gartin, Rachel Junck, and David Martin. Linda Murken, Lisa Heddens, and Latifah Faisal represented the Story County Board of Supervisors. Representing the Ames Community School Board, Sabrina Shields-Cook. Nevada School Board of Directors, United Community School Board and Gilbert School Board Community were not represented.

Mayor Haila stated that it was impractical to hold an in-person Council meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, this meeting was being held as an electronic meeting as allowed by Section 21.8 of the *Iowa Code*. The Mayor then provided how the public could participate in the meeting via internet or by phone.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN CITY OF AMES AND STORY COUNTY REGARDING AMES CITY ASSESSOR BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION:** Assistant City Manager Brian Phillips explained that the Agreement is between the City and Story County to deal with how the benefits and payroll administration work. Since that is more a function of the Conference Board, this item is being presented to the Board for approval.

Story County Supervisor Lisa Heddens asked to clarify that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was regarding the pay structure that had previously been discussed. Mr. Phillips confirmed that was correct. The MOU also provides some clarification about the facilities that are made available to the City Assessor's Office, and the use of the City's Human Resources staff, training resources, etc. He pointed out that there is a provision in the MOU regarding the City Assessor joining the Executive Leadership Team (ELT). Mr. Phillips noted that the previous City Assessor had already been involved in ELT as the items discussed during ELT relate to everyone in City Hall and other City facilities.

Council Member Martin mentioned he was unaware that the participation of the City Assessor in ELT had already been happening. He was concerned that it could give rise to the perception of some sort of improper collaboration between the City's internal budget development process and the Assessor's independent assessment of property values. Mr. Martin wanted to know if there was any need to add language to the MOU that those need to remain separate or if that has already been established through existing practice. Mr. Phillips explained that during the ELT meetings, the Department Heads are not going into any indepth conversations regarding the budget. Staff highlights what is going on in the City (eg. initiatives, organizational values).

Moved by Corrieri, seconded by Murken, to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 21-238 assenting to the

Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Ames and Story County regarding the Ames City Assessor benefits administration.

Ames Community School Board Representative, Sabrina Shields-Cook entered the online meeting at 5:38 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: 3-0. Resolution declared adopted unanimously, signed by the Chairman, and hereby made a portion of these Minutes

**CLOSED SESSION:** Council Member Gartin asked City Attorney Mark Lambert if there was a legal reason to go into Closed Session. Mr. Lambert replied in the affirmative, citing Sections 21.5(1)(i) and 21.9, *Code of Iowa*, to discuss candidates for the position of City Assessor.

Moved by Gartin, seconded by Heddens, to hold a Closed Session, as provided by Sections 21.5(1)(i) and 21.9, *Code of Iowa*, to discuss candidates for the position of City Assessor.

Vote on Motion: 3-0. Motion declared carried unanimously.

Moved into Closed Session at 5:41 p.m. and reconvened in Regular Session at 6:50 p.m.

Moved by Betcher, seconded by Heddens, to initiate negotiations with the selected candidate under the conditions that were discussed.

Vote on Motion: 3-0. Motion declared carried unanimously.

**CONFERENCE BOARD COMMENTS:** Council Member Betcher commented that she realized there were eight women elected officials during this meeting, and she thought that was something that Story County and the City of Ames should be proud of.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Heddens to adjourn the Ames Conference Board meeting at 6:54 p.m.