



Tuesday, December 2, 2025

Council Welcomes New Finance Officer, Consulting Engineer

Several new faces will be conducting city business following action by council members during their first regular meeting of the month.

The council voted unanimously to hire Sonia Sundberg to fill the position of city finance officer effective Dec. 12. The job opening had been posted internally and externally from Oct. 24 to Nov. 14 to seek applicants.

A committee comprised of city staff and Fourth Ward Councilman Terry Moorman interviewed candidates and recommended hiring Sundberg.

Council members also approved a resolution executing a professional services agreement for municipal engineering services between the city and WHKS & Co., a Mason City engineering, planning and land surveying firm founded in 1948. The firm will provide engineering services as city officials decide next steps following the recent departure of city engineer Perry Gjersvik.

City administrator Ondrea Elmquist introduced John Joiner, who was designated as the primary WHKS employee who will perform day-to-day engineering services outlined in the agreement. Derek Thomas, who is a WHKS principal and vice president, will serve as the alternate engineer. Joiner and Thomas work in the company's Ames office, where Thomas is also the office manager.

Joiner, who earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Iowa State University, has a strong background in public works management. He held various positions, including public works director, during his 31 years with the City of Ames. His expertise includes the areas of drainage, water resource management, site development, transportation planning, and construction management. He joined WHKS as a project manager in April.

In other action:

- The council set a public hearing for 6:00 p.m., Dec. 15 at the beginning of the next regular council meeting to consider the sale of a portion of the public right-of-way abutting the north property line of 818 Division St. to the south property line of 816 Division St.
- Moorman announced the Lighted Parade and Tree Lighting will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Saturday. All parade entries must be received by Thursday. The entry form and details are available at <https://www.visitboonecounty.com/event/christmas-lighted-parade-tree-lighting/>.
- Public Works Director Waylon Andrews said lighting has been installed in the new welcoming arch at Fifth and Story streets and electricians will soon be connecting it to a power source at Sixth and Story streets.
- Parks Director Mike Cornelis said department employees are preparing the municipal ice skating rink for the season. He expects the liner to be installed and filled soon. Referring to this weekend's 10-inch snowfall, he said wryly, "The sledding hill is open."

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