



Thursday, March 5, 2026

Council Votes to Move Forward with Water System Improvements

As the city council continues to move forward with needed improvements to the municipal water system, its members voted Monday night to authorize a loan and disbursement agreement with the Iowa Finance Authority.

Following a public hearing to address questions about the agreement, council members voted unanimously to proceed with documents and next steps to issue not more than \$1.3 million in water revenue capital loan notes. Those funds will be dedicated to the new north transmission main project; the development of a separate pressure zone with new booster pump station; replacement of the existing emergency generator at the high-service pump station; and the addition of a new sodium hypochlorite feed building at the existing high-service pump station.

In other action, the council approved:

- The first reading of Ordinance 2325, which amends a section of the city's 24-hour parking regulations to prohibit parking on the south side of 10th Street from Division Street to Harrison Street.
- A resolution authorizing a \$15,500 agreement with J&M Displays, Inc., to stage this year's Fourth of July fireworks display. The event is scheduled for 9:30 p.m. July 4 with a July 5 rain date.

Fourth Ward Councilman Terry Moorman, who chairs the council's economic development committee, said that he, At-large Councilwoman Linda Williamson, Third Ward Councilwoman Lisa Kahookole and city administrator Ondrea Elmquist attended the Ames Regional Economic Alliance's first-ever housing summit on Friday. "I thought it was very informative. Boone is in really good shape compared to the surrounding communities with all of our housing that we have going on," he said.

He noted that several local developers were recognized with awards for multi-unit housing developments completed last year. The summit also provided insights for future housing developments, Moorman said, adding, "I think we're going to try to move some of those ideas forward."

Meanwhile, city leaders continued to express concern about potential legislative action to rewrite Iowa's property tax structure, which could hamstring communities' future budgets and growth. They pledged to continue to encourage local lawmakers to oppose current proposals that could severely affect Boone's municipal budget and services.

"Whether they change their minds or not, I don't know, but they need to hear from us," Moorman said. "They're shifting all the burden to the cities. ... They're not doing anything with the schools. They're not doing anything with the county. It's the city. So, we're going to take it on the chin here."

####