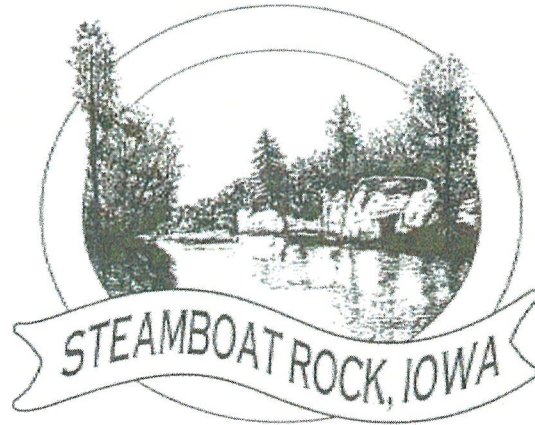


## CITY OF

MAYOR

*Tim Stearns*

*"A Valley  
Of  
Friendliness"*



COUNCIL MEMBERS

*Adam Blackburn*

*Jackie Hagberg*

*Wren Hoffman*

*Kevin Pieters*

*Cory Schurman*

The Steamboat Rock City Council met in special session January 25th, 2021, 6:30 p.m. with City Council in chambers and available via zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions. Present were Mayor Stearns and the following council members: Adam Blackburn, Jackie Hagberg Kevin Pieters, Cory Schurman and Wren Hoffman, absent: no one. Also present were JJ Veld, Jerry Hoffman, Jake Murphy, Jon & Mariah Schurman, JC Powers and Renee Oltrogge.

Mayor Stearns called the meeting to order. Pieters moved, seconded by Schurman to approve the posted agenda. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one.

Five Year City Strategic Plan Mayor Stearns explained this plan is required and important due to grant writing. Discussion provided the positives of our city which include: low taxes, Iowa River, trails, small town, strong Volunteer Fire Department, Library, local recognition & relationships, good location, Greenbelt, less regulations, post office, born here, low municipal debt, safe environment, low insurance rates, volunteerism, access to good schools, access to county conservation areas, close to State Parks, internet access, good local convenience store, community supports local businesses, community center, city newsletter, 90% of homes in good condition, two strong churches, scenic & historic cemetery with Veteran's memorial, good water & sewer system, streets in good condition, active bar, good access to healthcare system, one large flat area for outdoor events, shelter house & playground, local outfitters, Rainsbarger Daze, Pine Ridge Rifle Club, Boat Club, Pine Ridge County Campground, Historic Society, solar panels, local recycling, compost system, Welcome signs, Visionary Group, and access to good banks. Mayor Stearns asked what do outsiders view as our assets and why do they come here. Responses included: one outsider would like to make Steamboat Rock the Bicycling capitol of Iowa, Iowa River access, trails, bar, motor cycling, scenic, hidden gem, golf course, local outfitters, old The Green Door, convenience store, playground and churches.

Where do we think we want to be as a community in 2026 asked Mayor Stearns? Tonight we are here to develop our long term Vision, not specific tasks. Mayor Stearns asked to focus on a Vision such as to be a place to live, work and play, invite tourism, support the bicycle trail, motorcycles coming to town, inviting river usage? Blackburn advised tourism is coming if we want it or not, do we want to be a part of it and benefit from it? Jerry Hoffman asked if we want outsiders to move here and stay. Schurman explained a portion of the town doesn't want outsiders to move here so how do we manage the tourism. Blackburn advised we need to help keep this a hidden gem by getting rid of

derelict properties and get others to build on vacant properties. Wren Hoffman advised that tourism is the way to get others to visit and live here. Blackburn advised he sees our vision as a place to shop, eat and sleep. Wren Hoffman advised everything we do needs to point back to our vision which needs to be focused. Her vision is a vibrant, clean, family-friendly city with a cohesive community, strong tourism, and jobs. A thriving small town with opportunities for growth and people are waiting for houses to come on the market. A safe place to raise your family and keep the kids coming back when they are grown up. Mayor Stearns added for our town be a clean, well maintained community.

Schurman advised we need to have long term growth and Pieters included we need to increase our City income through property taxes.

Mayor advised in order for us to get grants we need a City Vision that can be quantified so we can apply for grants that meet our Vision.

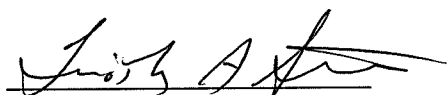
Mayor Stearns asked the group to summarize the discussion to create a Vision.

The summary was:

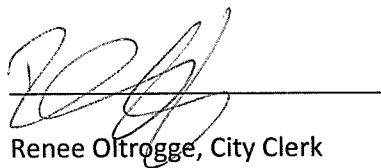
To be a clean, well maintained community that supports growth, community involvement, and tourism.

Tasks included but were not limited too: support business development, encourage development by offering water & sewer incentives, clean up the town, maintain the sidewalks and streets, clean up distressed properties, use community center, support and respect the Fire Department, support the Library, get rid of the feral cats, enforce City codes and hold residents responsible for dogs and well maintained yards/ properties, support tourism, promote local B & B's, think outside the box for uses of the school house and gym, support the new events center, market the town, do more with websites and social media, City brochure to promote local activities and businesses, more community involvement, work with local churches and organizations for more involvement, expand the city limits to increase the tax base, think about a tourism tax.

Schurman moved to adjourn the meeting, Pieters seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one. Meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.



Timothy A. Stearns, Mayor



Renee Oltrogge, City Clerk