



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date	June 22, 2009
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Agenda Item No.	44
Roll Call No.	<u>09-</u>
Communication No.	<u>09-414</u>
Submitted by: Larry Hulse, Community Development Director	

AGENDA HEADING:

Renaming streets recently annexed or to be annexed into the City of Des Moines to fit within the City of Des Moines' street naming and building numbering conventions and to eliminate duplicate street names and building numbers.

SYNOPSIS:

Street names and building numbers that exist in the areas recently annexed or to be annexed into the City of Des Moines should be renamed to correspond with the existing street naming and numbering conventions to allow for emergency services and businesses to locate the address.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Estimated cost of \$13,000, for fabrication and installation of new street name signs.

Funding Source: FY2009-10 Capitol Improvement Program, Page Traffic Control Improvements -5, City-wide Signals, Channelization and School Crossing Protection Program, TFC091.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The City of Des Moines has completed and will complete more voluntary and involuntary annexation of properties in Polk and Warren Counties. For the safety of the citizens, it is essential that some of the streets be renamed in the newly annexed areas to avoid duplicate street names or addresses, and to fit within the existing street naming and numbering conventions.

City code sets out the convention for naming streets in Section 102-221. The city is roughly divided by ordinance into four quadrants. Each quadrant has guidelines set up to maintain an orderly street naming system. The city is divided in quarters, running roughly north/south along 1st Street and South Union and east/west along a line drawn down the middle of Vine Street extending in either direction from where the street intersects with the Des Moines River. Each quadrant is given specific naming guidelines to insure that the location of an address by the street name is able to be quickly located by emergency management personnel.

Pursuant to Section 102-224(a), all numerically named streets north of the east/west line and east of E. 1st Street shall have the word "East" as a part of the name, preceding the number.

For the most part, streets annexed in the northeast, which were located in Polk County, have been assigned north/south street names that extend off the City grid. They carry the prefix of "Northeast".

Streets in the northeast quadrant of the City of Des Moines should carry a prefix of "East" for the street names. Should the prefix be unchanged, there is a likelihood of confusion by emergency management personnel as to the location of a house, when called.

The general rule in the City of Des Moines is to name east/west streets by names. Some of the east/west streets in the annexation areas in Polk County are continuations of City streets, but have numerical street names. The suggested names would eliminate the violation of this policy.

The existing house numbers in the Northeast Annexation Area appear to be assigned as an extension of the City numbering grid and few changes should be required. House numbers will be checked and reassigned, if necessary, at the same time the street is renamed.

Streets annexed in Warren County have been assigned names that are specific to Warren County. Additionally, the numbering grid in Warren County is different than the City of Des Moines, and the ranges overlap. This may result in two buildings, miles apart, on the same street receiving the same building number. In order to ensure safe delivery of services, the names must be changed to street names specific to the City of Des Moines, and the building numbers will need to be changed to fit the City of Des Moines' grid convention.

Streets specific to Des Moines that extend south into the newly annexed area will be assigned the street name from the City of Des Moines to the new city limit. The house addresses will be renumbered on the established City grid as it extends south on east/west streets.

The east/west streets will need to be given new names. Again, the City of Des Moines' policy is to label east/west streets names. The names will be alphabetical and in-line with the grid established by Warren County. Warren County has streets named from A to Z running north to south in the county. We are attempting to duplicate this alphabetic grid in order to assist in emergency management for both Warren County and the City of Des Moines.

Code Section 102-222(a) states that all numerically named streets south of the east/west line extending from Vine Street and west of the north/south line along South Union shall be assigned a prefix of "Southwest". Pursuant to this guideline, the north/south streets will continue to carry the "Southwest" prefix west of the South Union Street line.

Pursuant to Section 102-223, all numerically named streets south of the east/west line extending from Vine Street and east of the South Union Street line shall have the word "Southeast" as part of the name. All named streets will have "East" as its prefix.

The United States Postal Service controls the last line of the mailing address. For instance, addresses that currently have a Norwalk mailing address will retain their Norwalk mailing address until it is changed by the Postal Service. Staff will make a request to the Postmaster to have the delivery addresses changed to Des Moines.

The naming and numbering grid system that has been established by the City of Des Moines ordinance and policy is user friendly, reduces confusion and is cost effective for citizens and service providers.

Staff has proposed street names that meet the City of Des Moines' ordinance requirements and policies. Renumbering of houses will occur, as necessary, to ensure that houses are correctly sequentially numbered. Staff held open houses to discuss the new street names. Several suggestions on names were

made. For instance, it was believed Beige Street would be too difficult for the general public to use, and the street name of Border Street was suggested in its place. It was further suggested that Adventure Street be used in lieu of Sage Street. The roll call presented to the City Council provides for the adoption of these two alternate names.

Citizens pointed out that there were street names in the City of Des Moines that change from one name to another as you travel across town. These streets are specific to the City of Des Moines and not used by another municipality.

Citizens also expressed concerns regarding the cost of an address change. The United States Postal Service will deliver to the old address for one year. This will allow people time to change magazine subscriptions, billings and other records they need renewed or updated. Driver's licenses, vehicle registration and boat registrations would not need to be changed until they become due for renewal. Abstracts do not need to be changed, as the description of the property is based on the legal description and not on the address. Wills, power of attorney and living wills will remain valid.

After the first reading of the ordinance on June 8th, citizens were contacted regarding address suggestions. Two households with four citizens living on what is currently NE 54th Avenue supplied the suggestion of Edgeview. Five other citizens submitted a petition that the street name be Sage Street, as recommended by staff.

The Warren County citizen who submitted names for Aqua Street was also contacted. She resubmitted the name Aspen Street, as an alternative. This name, or a variation of the name, exists in Johnston, Pleasant Hill, West Des Moines and Ankeny. We asked for a second alternative and they agreed on Acorn Street.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: June 8, 2009

Roll Call Number: 09-1033

Action: First consideration of ordinance above. Moved by Hensley that this ordinance be first amended to reflect the exceptions to the staff proposal identified in the hearing roll call, and then be considered and given first vote for passage. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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