



## QUESTIONS FOR AMES CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

*All answers are posted verbatim; the Chamber did not edit responses, nor correct typos or grammatical errors.*

*The following responses are from Mayor Ann Campbell:*

### **1. What do you see as the top three issues facing the City of Ames?**

- \* Environmental sustainability in all sectors harmonizing with growth.
- \* Recognizing significant demographic changes and dealing with them.
- \* Making responsible decisions on the many large capital investments coming to a head simultaneously – electric plant, water plant, library, parking garage, Campustown development, industrial land, etc.

### **2. What ideas do you have for growth and economic development in Ames?**

I am convinced that much of what spurs economic development is having a community that offers a quality of life that makes Ames an attractive place to live – good schools, cultural activities, recreation opportunities, etc.

On the more nuts and bolts end, I am hopeful that we can see the development of an industrial park on East 13<sup>th</sup> Street. Significant negotiations are under way on that right now.

### **3. What has been your personal involvement in economic development and growth for Ames?**

I was on the city council for 16 years during which time I served 2 or 3 different times as the Council's representative to the Ames Economic Development Commission.

As mayor I have had the opportunity to meet those in the private sector and at ISU who are playing significant roles in economic development.

### **4. What are your views on the City's rental assistance program?**

The "City's" rental assistance program is, in fact, the U.S. government's HUD program which is administered by the City. This nationwide program is designed to assist those whose income does not give them adequate resources for rent. In Ames, the program, which has been in existence for decades, directs its services to elderly, families with children, and those with disabilities. It is important to recognize that if the City chose not to administer this program, it would be administered by a state or regional authority which would serve Ames.

**5. What are your views on the Land Use Policy Plan?**

That is a question that merits an entire discussion rather than a single paragraph. A few months ago the Planning and Zoning Commission did an in depth study of the current LUPP. I would agree with their assessment that it is based on principles that still hold today, but parts do need some updating. I do not believe that a Land Use Policy Plan should be based on where land happens to be available and thus bought and sold. Neither do I think it is etched in stone.

**6. What image do you think Ames has for potential developers or new businesses? What would you do to change or improve this image?**

I would like to think its image is one of offering large city opportunities and small town amenities.

**7. What are your thoughts on financing needs of the City of Ames, including water, electricity, library and parking?**

Water and electricity are separate enterprise funds supported by fees rather than property taxes. Funding for them comes from revenue bonds to be paid back by fees collected. Parking would probably be a bond issue. Library would certainly be a bond issue with, hopefully, additions of private and grant dollars.

**8. What challenges do you think there are in developing the Main Street Cultural District as a residential center as well as a commercial/entertainment center?**

Parking, trains, bars, cost of renovating second floors.  
I am excited about the services now

**9. What processes would you like to see in place to proceed with an Inter-modal Transportation Hub?**

We are now awaiting word from the federal government and lobbying hard to convince the U. S. Department of Transportation to grant the funding. In the absence of a federal grant, it would be very difficult of bring this into existence at this time.

**10. How can the City be involved in encouraging the development of additional/renovated conference space?**

I assume this question means what would the City fund for such a development... I have not seen any final results of the facilities study that has been underway.

**11. What would you do to support the existing business community in Ames?**

Working in conjunction with the Ames Chamber of Commerce and the Ames Economic Development Commission.