

ITEM #: 11
DATE: 03-10-26
DEPT: ADMIN

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE 2026 BUILDING COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

BACKGROUND:

The City of Ames, the Ames Human Relations Commission (AHRC), Ames Regional Economic Alliance (AREA), Story County Board of Supervisors, McFarland Clinic, Kingland Systems, and ITC Midwest are partnering to host the second “Building Community Breakfast” gathering.

This year’s event will be held on Thursday, October 22, 2026, from 7:30-9:00 a.m. The event will be hosted at Reiman Gardens. The keynote speaker this year is Liz Nead. Liz is an Emmy Award-winning host and bestselling author who serves as a high-level executive coach and consultant, delivering leadership and teambuilding strategies for major organizations like PayPal, News Corp, and the National Guard. During the event, Liz will emphasize how to establish a collaborative work environment where everyone feels respected, included, and valued as a member of their organization rather than just a worker.

The City of Ames, AREA, and Story County Board of Supervisors have been asked to financially sponsor the event at the \$5,000 level. The cost of hosting the event is detailed in the attachment. Financial contributions will be used to help cover speaker fees, event sponsor recognition, meals, marketing, and promotion. **If approved, the \$5,000 City contribution would come from the FY 2026/27 City Council contingency fund (\$4,000) and the FY 2026/27 AHRC operating budget (\$1,000). The sponsorship will include 10 tickets to the event.**

The registration cost to attend the event is \$40. There is also the opportunity for other community sponsorship levels at \$1,000 and \$500.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize the FY 2026/27 expenditure of \$5,000 (\$4,000 from Council Contingency Account and \$1,000 from AHRC operating budget) in support of the 2026 Building Community Breakfast.
2. Deny the request to sponsor the Building Community Breakfast.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Events like the Building Community Breakfast foster a sense of community and encourage collaboration. It is also an opportunity for the City of Ames to connect and engage with community members, aligning with the City Council values. Therefore, the City Manager recommends that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as noted above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Building Community Breakfast 2026 Letter to Mayor.pdf](#)

[Building Community Breakfast Budget 2026.pdf](#)