

Minutes of August 10, 2026, Hampton City Council Workshop

The Hampton City Council Workshop was called to order at the Hampton City Council Chambers by Mayor Birdsall at 6:00 p.m. Due to technical difficulties, the workshop was not on Zoom and YouTube. Council members in attendance were Jim Davies, Jeanne Fay, Jerre Grefe, Bill Holmstrom and Barry Lamos. Kristin Roode was absent. Also present were City Manager Ron Dunt, Police Chief Mark Morrison, and Public Works Director Doug Tarr. Mayor Birdsall invited those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

Mayor Birdsall offered time for public comment. There was none.

Zoning Administrator Tarr proposed a **temporary moratorium on data centers** until the City can formulate and approve necessary zoning regulations for data centers. City Manager Dunt agreed with Tarr's proposal and shared a temporary moratorium ordinance draft for council review. The general consensus of the council was to place the temporary moratorium ordinance on the August 13, 2026 Council Meeting.

Rich Gloor of Ramiform Technologies and Garrett Thompson of Franklin REC presented information regarding a proposed Data Center in Hampton to be built near the industrial park. Gloor commented that he agrees with the city having a moratorium until an ordinance regarding data centers is in place. The proposed facility would use a closed-loop cooling system which means the same water circulates through the building over and over rather than evaporating away. The system would use roughly 98% less water than a traditional evaporative data center of the same size. The power would come from Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative and Thompson reported that member rates would not be increased due to this proposed project. The council asked questions and made comments.

Public Works Director Tarr updated the council on the **crosswalk signage project** approved for the current budget year. Quotes came in a little high and he will continue to negotiate in order to reduce the cost of this project and will be contacting the DOT to get any necessary permits for the project.

Chief Morrison presented an update related to **bikes, skateboards, scooters, and e-bikes** for the council to consider. The council is working towards educating the community on safety and proper operation. Chief Morrison will further review information from Humboldt, Waukee and Belmond. Grefe requested that the information also be in the paper in addition to social media.

At 7:01 pm, motion by Davies, second by Grefe to **close session per Iowa Code Chapter 21.5(1)(j) to discuss the purchase or sale of particular real estate** only where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property or reduce the price the governmental body would receive for that property. Roll call vote: Ayes; Fay, Lamos, Holmstrom, Grefe and Davies. Nays; none. Absent; Roode. All attendees with the exception of City Manager Dunt and Public Works Director Tarr were asked to leave and the door was locked and posted with a sign.

The council came out of closed session by vote during closed session at 7:08 pm and the workshop ended at 7:09 pm.