

January 24, 2014

Dear Council Members,

We are all proud to call the Cedar Valley home. All of us have planted roots in our communities growing professionally, personally, and dare we say politically. One truth is shared among all, we are all committed to the positive advancement of our community and the Cedar Valley in whole; we recognize our futures are inherently interlinked.

In this spirit, we would like to renew the call for civic cooperation. From legislative reform to innovative service delivery, we implore our councils to develop a process to explore issues and opportunities of mutual interest. We can point to consolidated dispatch, BHC Solid Waste Commission, police mutual aid and other efforts as examples of cooperative success. We can leverage these successes into new areas to deliver even better value to our constituents.

We hope to develop an enduring, collaborative process that will result in a metro voice for advocacy and actionable projects to advance our interests. To seed the discussion, we collected areas of interest and listed on the next page. We invite your review and feedback.

We suggest the consideration of the following council referral for our January 27 meeting to advance greater civic cooperation by and between Waterloo and Cedar Falls:

- 1) Establish a joint resolution establishing facilitated work sessions between councils to identify and track progress mutual interests for legislative advocacy, civic initiatives and projects.
- 2) Direct our mayors to work with their staffs to advance our mutual interests and develop a joint scorecard to track status and progress.

Thank you in advance for your time, thoughts and commitment to civic cooperation.

Sincerely,



Steve Schmitt
Waterloo Councilman at Large



Nick Taiber
Cedar Falls Councilman at Large

Addendum

Waterloo - Cedar Falls Mutual Interest Points

Inter-city cooperation

- Refuse/recycling
- Solid/liquid waste processing
- Public safety (i.e. fire response)
- Human and Leisure Services (i.e. golf course management, arts/culture management)
- Economic development
- Municipal utilities (i.e. communications)
- Shared assets, shared services

Legislative priorities

- Self-funded debt
- 411 reform
- Collective bargaining reform
- Health care pooling
- 28E agreements enabling mutual aid, multi-jurisdictional services

County-City Cooperation

- Emergency communication
- Refuse/recycling
- Shared assets