

**CITY OF BELLE PLAINE
RESOLUTION 16-020**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BELLE PLAINE
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MINNESOTA GREENSTEP CITIES PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals. GreenStep is a free, continuous improvement program, managed by a public-private partnership, and based upon 29 best practices. Each best practice can be implemented by completing one or more actions at a 1, 2 or 3-star level, from a list of four to eight actions. These actions are tailored to all Minnesota cities, focus on cost savings and energy use reduction, and encourage civic innovation; and

WHEREAS, local governments have the unique opportunity to achieve both energy use and climate change gas reductions and cost savings through building and facilities management; land use and transportation planning; environmental management; and through economic and community development; and

WHEREAS, efforts to address energy and climate issues provide an opportunity to move toward energy self-reliance and greater community resiliency and quality of life; provide environmentally healthy and cheaper-to-operate public buildings; encourage new economic development and local jobs; and support local food and renewable energy production; and

WHEREAS, steps taken toward sustainable solutions aim to improve community quality of life, building community capital and increasing government efficiency, accountability and transparency; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program provides cost-effective sustainable development best practices in the following five categories: (1) Buildings and Lighting; (2) Transportation; (3) Land Use; (4) Environmental Management; and (5) Economic and Community Development.

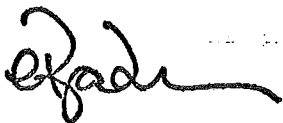
NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the City Council of the City of Belle Plaine does hereby authorize the City of Belle Plaine (the City) to participate in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program that offers a free, voluntary continuous improvement framework. Passage of this participation resolution allows the City to be recognized as a Step One GreenStep City. Be it further resolved that the City:

1. Appoints Holly J. Kreft and Cynthia Smith-Strack to serve as the City's GreenStep coordinators for best practice documentation/implementation; and
2. Will facilitate the involvement of community members and other units of government as appropriate in the planning, promoting and/or implementing of GreenStep Cities best practices; and
3. Grants to the GreenStep program's buildings advisor read-only access to the City's B3 Benchmarking Database so as to facilitate analysis and cost-saving technical assistance to the City regarding its buildings' energy use; and
4. Will claim credit for having implemented and will work at its own pace toward implementing any GreenStep best practices that will result in energy use reduction, economic savings, quality of life improvement, reduction in the City's greenhouse gas footprint, and recognition by the League of Minnesota Cities as a Step Two GreenStep City. An on-going summary of the City's implementation of best practices will be posted by the City on the Minnesota GreenStep Cities web site.

The adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly moved by Councilmember Coop and seconded by Councilmember Trost, and after full discussion thereof and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following Councilmembers voted in favor thereof: Coop, Trost, Pingalore, Chard and Pressley.

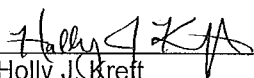
and the following voted against the same: None.

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted. Dated this 16th day of February, 2016.



Michael Pingalore
Mayor

ATTEST:



Holly J. Brett
City Administrator