Dear Mayor Hart and City Council Members:

On behalf of the Strong Towns Leadership Team—Judith Rognli, Susan Crooks, April Subashe, Elizabeth Gunter and myself—I'm writing to propose that Ivins City host a Strong Towns Local Conversation at City Hall on October 22nd from 5:00-6:30 PM. This event offers a valuable opportunity to deepen our community's commitment to thoughtful growth and resident engagement, directly aligning with Ivins' existing strengths and long-term vision.

A Strong Towns Local Conversation champions building communities that are safe, livable, inviting, and financially resilient from the bottom-up. This approach empowers residents through meaningful dialogue, recognizing that a truly resilient place is forged through human relationships, connections, and shared conversations. It emphasizes shaping a vision for the future by considering both the built environment and the human community.

Here's why this event is a natural fit for Ivins:

Ivins already embodies Strong Towns principles:

- Deep Community Engagement: Ivins has a strong foundation in public participation, evident in the intensive public engagement that shaped the 2024 Ivins City General Plan. Past initiatives like three Town Hall Meetings in January 2022 and the "Talkabouts" demonstrate Ivins' commitment to resident feedback. This aligns perfectly with the Strong Towns principle of regularly engaging residents and businesses.
- Vision for Resilient Growth: The Strong Towns movement's focus on financially strong and resilient communities resonates with Ivins' goal of protecting its cherished vistas and quality of life while promoting growth that enhances it. Our city's vision explicitly aims to foster neighborliness, community involvement, and organic connection—all central to the Strong Towns philosophy of building social cohesion and shared identity.
- Addressing Resident Concerns: The General Plan Resident Survey, conducted in November 2022 with a 52.7% response rate from 2,244 households, showed that while 87.6% of residents were satisfied with the overall quality of life and 84.3% with public safety, only 34.6% were satisfied with the city's overall development, and a mere 26.2% were satisfied with how growth has been managed in the past five years. This highlights a clear need for continued, constructive community dialogue on growth, which a Strong Towns conversation is specifically designed to facilitate.
- Leveraging Collaborative Leadership: Your own experience with the Vision Dixie Steering Committee in 2007 sets a powerful precedent for citizen-led visioning. With City Council member Kevin Smith, the future mayor, also involved, this event would publicly demonstrate a sustained commitment to community-driven planning, reinforcing Ivins' dedication to long-term, thoughtful growth.
- Ideal Venue: Ivins City Hall, a beautiful and award-winning building designed for community expansion, is the most appropriate and symbolic location. Hosting the

event here underscores its importance, accessibility, and the City's commitment to inviting residents into the civic process.

By supporting and hosting a Strong Towns Local Conversation on October 21st, Ivins City can further strengthen its civic fabric, empower residents to actively shape their future, and reinforce its legacy of thoughtful, community-driven planning. This event would be a meaningful step forward in fostering even greater social cohesion and shared identity within Ivins.

Thank you for your time. We are happy to present this opportunity directly to the City Council or provide any additional details you may need.

Tiffany Wynn
Judith Rognli
Susan Crooks
Elizabeth Gunter
April Subashe