

City of Washburn 2020 Goals

So what is the City working on in 2020? We get that question from time to time, so we wanted to share with you what we will be working on for the next year or so. Besides the daily routine of: processing invoices, utility bills, ambulance bills, various permits, elections, cemetery matters, audits, various reports and other state and federal imposed requirements, as well as numerous questions on a wide range of topics, we try to get some things done that we hope will lead to a better City! Recently, the Council approved a list of goals that will be our focus during the next year. Here, in summary and in no particular priority, are what they are:

- 1. Bayfield Street Project** – After the multiple water breaks along Bayfield Street last year, which also caused damage to several private properties, the Council approved requesting WisDOT to reconstruct STH 13 in Washburn. Scheduled to begin in 2024, and the DOT plan is to break it into two separate projects because of its size. The west side would be during 2024 and completed in 2025. The east side would be 2026 and completed in 2027. During 2020, there will be more planning to occur that will require input from the City. It will be necessary for the City to select an engineer that will not only be able to effectively plan and assist in the construction of water, sewer, and storm sewer lines, but also assist in obtaining funding to help offset the costs of this every expensive undertaking. In addition, we need to plan for replacement of laterals, sidewalks, street lighting, and work on our financial plan. We will also be meeting with businesses and property owners along the route to make as many preparations as possible for this major disruption.
- 2. The current three-year contract with the Washburn Police Association expires at the end of 2020.** We would like to have negotiations for a successor agreement commence this summer and be complete prior to the end of the year.
- 3. The current five-year emergency service contracts with the three surrounding Towns expire at the end of 2020.** We would like to have negotiations for successor agreements commence late spring/early summer and be complete prior to the end of the year.
- 4. The 2019 goal of reviewing possible policy initiatives to recruit and retain emergency service personnel, especially for the ambulance service was not**

completed. We would like to have this goal completed prior to the beginning of negotiations of contracts with the Towns.

5. Continue to nurture leads for the Bayfield Street Redevelopment Property for the eventual sale and redevelopment of this property in the core of Washburn.

6. Apply for, receive approval, finance, and implement the Utility Meter Replacement Project. This was approved at the January Council meeting, and once implemented should be significantly beneficial not only to the City and staff, but to the customers as well. A much more efficient system should be in place with the ability to detect problems early on. It is the hope to complete this project this year.

7. Complete all projects budgeted for 2020, with key projects underway including the Thompson's West End Park Boat Landing, approval of and implementation of a Lakeshore Walking Trail Management Plan, conduct five elections throughout the year, completion of new Marina Management contract, addressing several zoning policy matters, and possibly start Comprehensive Planning if funding is approved.

8. Staff are to prepare a plan to the Council on recommend areas for sidewalk improvements as well as a plan to pay for these recommendations. Everyone realizes that the sidewalks in this community are in poor shape. Maintenance of sidewalks is also an issue with snowy winters like this one. Given the difficulties of maintaining sidewalks and the expense involved, the general thought is that they are not needed in all areas. Our goal is to identify areas where they should be a priority, and outline the potential ways that they could be financed. This plan will certainly need community input and review.

This is not everything that we will be working on, but it is a listing of the major projects known at this time. Let us know what you think. Follow along the next couple months and see how we do.