

City of Washburn 2023 Goals/Projects

So what is the City working on in 2023? 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, elections, cemetery matters, audits, various permits, 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:

Bayfield Street Reconstruction Phase 1 and Phase 2- For 2023, it will be necessary to prepare the financing for Phase 1, identify any properties that may need to be specially assessed, and inform property owners along the route of additional details and utility requirements. There will also be a significant public education process and cooperative work that will need to occur with the Chamber for detour/signage preparations. The DOT portion of project will start in August, with the detour route preparation occurring in the fall. The utility portion of the work will be bid in the winter with the entire project expected to start in April of 2024. Planning for Phase 2 has begun, and the first round of public meetings were held in March.

Planning for Early 2024 Borrowing – Phase 1 of the Bayfield Street Project will be starting in just over a year. With that, it will be necessary to have all of the financing set for that project by the beginning of 2024. This will include any other capital items that the City may be able to afford with the borrowing that will need to occur for the project (e.g., fire truck, park improvements).

Brokedown – It is anticipated in this year that the existing building will be taken down and construction will occur on a new facility. Work on this project for the coming year will focus on grant administration and zoning review.

West End Park Campground Expansion Planning – Based on recent Council action, the Council will likely be in a position later this spring/early summer to consider next steps on the desire to increase camping at West End Park. Once approved, the final engineering and financing plans will need to be completed.

Revaluation Project – With the revaluation occurring this year, which is the first time in about 18 years, we should anticipate a far more active Board of Review. This will likely occur in the late summer, early fall. Public education on this process will begin later this spring and into the summer.

Sidewalks – A discussion should be held with the Council and the Public to determine what the desire is for sidewalks in the community. If there is a desire for sidewalks throughout the City or if there is only a desire for sidewalks in certain locations will have an impact on how this could/should be funded and implemented.

Other Budgeted Projects/E-mail Conversion – There are other projects approved in the budget such as the HVAC replacement and window replacement at City Hall. It is the hope to have the e-mail conversion of all of the e-mail addresses in the City to a .gov by the time the new Council is seated. The Mayor would like to have the City's website replaced and we are looking at a contract with CivicPlus. Police contract negotiations will need to occur starting in July.

This is not everything that City staff 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. Know that sometimes things will come up as the year progresses. If they do, priorities may need to be re-arranged.