

# 2017 COUNCIL GOALS

## 1. PROVIDE AUSTIN RESIDENTS QUALITY CITY SERVICES THAT ARE DIGITALLY INCLUSIVE, PROFESSIONAL AND WHICH ENCOURAGE STAKEHOLDER AND RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT.

- Promote social media enhancements in an effort to reach and educate even more of the residents. Video blogs, Facebook posts, website enhancements, and the occasional newsletter will be utilized in 2017 in these efforts, plus we will research other modes of communication to get the word out on City activities.
- Complete the remodeling of city hall and the relocation of Austin Parks and Recreation Department into city hall and reevaluate the remaining budget for further enhancements to the facility to further maximize efficiencies and service the needs of staff and constituents who visit City Hall for our services.
- Maintain the financial affairs of the City of Austin at the expected high level. This includes maximizing investment returns while still maintaining liquidity within the City's investment portfolio; completing the budget, 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan and audit on a timely basis with minimal findings; and receiving the Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting for our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).
- Ensure the financial stability (both short-term and long-term) by working with staff to evaluate budgets, capital improvement plans, Vision 2020 projects, bargaining unit contracts, and staffing levels to ensure the long-term stability for the residents of Austin.
- Implement an on-line registration system for programs at the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center and Austin Parks and Recreation office.
- Solicit proposals to review the City's compensation and classification study to ensure the City can retain and recruit an effective workforce which produces value for the Austin community.
- Continue development of the City of Austin flood mitigation program including scattered site acquisition and structural projects such as the Turtle Creek levee project, Cedar River Phase 1, Lions Park and WWTP projects.
- Continue development of WWTP infrastructure to meet current and pending MPCA permit requirements. Build upon the WWTP Facility Plan to identify future projects for the CIP and also to maintain a rate structure to meet the upcoming needs of the CIP.
- Develop a plan to decrease the inflow and infiltration that focuses on sump pump inspections, private service inspections and sewer main and rehab and replacement.

**2. MAKE AUSTIN A LEADER IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROWTH WHILE FOCUSING ON ADDING QUALITY PAYING JOBS AND TAX BASE ENHANCEMENT.**

- Housing continues to be a leading challenge to business growth. As a result Council will build on our other economic development incentives efforts and establish a similar structure for multi-family housing development which will include predesign in next year's budget of a facility adjacent to the Cedar River that will visually represent the intended goal while providing an outline of a financial assistance package to bring a private project forward.
- Bring forward an update to the City's housing study to fully appreciate the housing marketplace while exploring policy changes and utilization of additional tools to spur new housing starts.
- Continue to develop a fund working with Mower County to have a standing \$200,000 commitment with incremental contributions from each partner over three years to build the fund while being ready to partner with potential development projects.
- In working with the DCA's sister association, Austin Community Growth Ventures, explore the possibility of developing an incubator to advance commercialization efforts from the Hormel Institute and possibly other business opportunities.

**3. MAKE AUSTIN AN ATTRACTIVE COMMUNITY THAT VALUES PUBLIC AMENITIES AND PROTECTION OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES THAT ULTIMATELY ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE WHILE BALANCING THE COSTS FOR THESE ENHANCEMENTS.**

- Move forward enhancements to our municipal pool, park shelters, pavilions, playground equipment and restrooms to ensure our public spaces are enjoyable and promote an active living lifestyle.
- Grow programs at the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center to build upon our existing programs and fully utilize the new interpretive center that will move the facility to a new level of community impact while increasing our presence as a regional destination facility.
- Complete new interpretative center construction and the demolition of the old building at the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center. Consider the old building site for plans to enhance that area as a usable outside gathering location.
- Assess current public recreation opportunities adapting to the changing needs and trends for youth and adults, allowing us to offer different or expanded programming for our residents to ensure recreation needs are met.

- To continue to support sustainability goals, including but not limited to the best practices recommended by GreenStep Cities and to continue to pursue greater efficiencies in building operations and management, ultimately identifying and defining an operations and maintenance position that incorporates sustainable practices such as identifying areas of energy/cost savings.

**4. A COMMUNITY DEPENDS ON THE PROTECTION OF ITS TAX BASE AND PRESERVING EXISTING HOUSING AND IMPROVE LIVABILITY IN AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOODS A PRIORITY.**

- After adopting a new comprehensive plan, zoning ordinances should be reviewed as a primary tool for implementing land use goals. Also, much of our current zoning was adopted in the 1970's. Updating zoning and related codes will reflect changes in zoning techniques, approaches and definitions.
- Review examples of a minimum housing rental property inspection and licensing program and consider adopting a plan which can be incorporated into the rental registration ordinance to further enhance public safety and preserve existing housing stock values.
- Ongoing update of subdivision ordinance to reflect changes in, and correct inconsistencies with, current development trends.
- Strengthen support and cooperation between the City and the Austin Area Commission for the Arts as well as explore the role of arts within the community. (Public Art and Planning Partnership with Forecast Public Art).
- As an inclusive community for all our residents we will work to develop a prioritized and financially responsible plan to meet the Americans with Disability Act access ramp requirements. Building upon our inventory assessment we will conduct a public process with impacted constituencies to meet our goal of providing street designs that meet our needs for those constituents with disabilities.