

## 2018 City Council Workplan Review

In January/February of 2018, the Shakopee City Council determined a list of priorities for city staff to work on during the course of the year. This has been a yearly exercise implemented in 2016 to give staff direction on issues of concern to the council. In general, staff will analyze the tasks presented and bring the best options to council for approval or guidance. Some issues fall within the purview of the city administrator and are addressed accordingly.

### **Finance**

#### Low Taxes

- 2019 budget has a tax decrease. This solidifies our status as one of the lowest taxed cities in the Metro area.
- Continue to have both the franchise fee and the economic development authority levy offset by general fund reductions resulting in no net tax effect to taxpayers.
- National study by *SmartAsset* ranks Scott County as the #1 MN “Best Place to Save” due in part to our low tax rate.

#### Continued Financial Stability

- Another clean audit completed for the second consecutive year.
- Recently received the GFAO *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* which reflects our continued stability.

#### Stable Tax Rate

- Tax rate significantly lowered from 37.971% to 35.231% as part of the 2019 Budget.

#### Increased Tax Capacity

- Tax Capacity growth continues with 7.33% increase to tax base for 2019.

#### Increased Bond Rating – AAA (LT)

- Finance has been conducting several meetings over the last few months to set the stage for the review.
- Rating agencies will do an extensive review of the city’s financial and economic position prior to issuing bonds for the Canterbury project and have agreed to do a site visit this summer.

### **Parks and Recreation**

Noting multiple areas of concern with the city park system, the City Council on July 3, 2018 contracted with Confluence to prepare a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The contract runs through July 2, 2019. In addition, the City Council convened a resident park planning committee (Park Advisory Committee) to give guidance to the process. Confluence is scheduled to present preliminary findings to the City Council in late April or early May 2019 and their final report at the last meeting in June. In addition, the Department of Parks and Recreation is under new leadership with expectation to focus on 1) Customer Service and 2) Revenues.

#### Park Asset Planning Process

- Park Advisory Committee continues to meet.
- Confluence began the park analysis and design process in January and should have a draft report to the larger committee in April.

#### Park Building and Maintenance and Replacement Review

- Confluence has gathered all the data on maintenance and programs with the intent to lead to better management of assets. Currently under review.

#### Private/Public Partnerships

- Issue expected to be addressed as part of park planning process. In the interim, Jay Tobin has begun the process of review of our current agreements and is laying the groundwork for other possibilities.

#### Trail signage (distance/locations)

- Issue expected to be addressed as part of park planning process.

#### Trail Connections

- Issue expected to be addressed as part of park planning process.

#### Park Asset Marketing

- Will create multiple marketing videos (2 per month) highlighting programs and facilities.
- Updating city parks and trails map.
- Issue expected to be addressed as part of park planning process.

#### Recreation Program Review

- Issue expected to be addressed as part of park planning process.
- Pros Consulting just completed its first draft of the Demographics and Trend Analysis for programs. Currently being reviewed by staff.

#### Park and Recreation Expenditure Review

- Issue expected to be addressed as part of park planning process.

### **Land Planning**

#### Life-Cycle Housing (density, affordability, market-driven)

- Currently have all phases of life-cycle housing being built or on the horizon, including houses that are affordable and market rate units.

#### River Crossing Capacity Increase (LT) – Continue outreach efforts to state and national leaders.

#### Riverfront Improvements (LT)

- Input to the Envision Shakopee process noted that riverfront development is a major issue for our residents. This builds on the Community Survey responses in 2016. With the passage of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, we can look to move forward on the issue in the future.

### **Economic Development/Infrastructure**

#### Riverfront Development

- TIF approved for market rate apartment building.
- Contract for private development approved with the Gaughan Companies.
- Comp Plan amended Dec. 18. Construction slated to start in Spring of 2019.

#### Attraction of High Paying Jobs

- Several corporate headquarters and regional headquarters are looking at sites in Shakopee.
- Active business retention and expansion program underway that has already identified one corporation seeking expansion.

#### Continued Downtown Improvement and Redevelopment

#### City Hall Parcel Redevelopment

- TIF approved. Contract for Private Development approved, and Comp Plan amended Dec. 18.

#### Rev. Pond Statue

- Fundraising continues with major and minor donations coming in. Over \$56,000 has been raised to this point.
- Sculpture contract approved Dec. 18.

#### Developer Fee/Regulation Review

- Implementation of 100% electronic submission and reduced review times for all planning and building applications.
- New Zoning Code Tables adopted, eliminating more than 120 pages of code.
- New Sign Code adopted.
- New PUD Ordinance adopted.
- New landscaping and tree replacement ordinance adopted.
- New parking ordinance adopted.

#### **Miscellaneous Projects**

##### Transparency/Communications/Community Engagement

- New city website redesign with a mobile-first approach to reflect the way people are increasingly visiting our site. Making a more conscious effort to include information about current projects – something residents have requested.
- Will produce a new City News Wrap which will be a video with 3 items every two weeks and posted to all platforms and emailed to our list.
- 2019 Community survey currently underway.
- Administrator continues with Coffee with Administrator and Beer with Administrator efforts.
- Included final budget information through an insert in the November SPUC bill to be sure that the community understood our current fiscal strength and to allow to review against our comparable cities.
- The city administrator continues with his outreach including a January 17<sup>th</sup> *State of the City* address.
- Increased video production to provide information in a different format.
- Increased use of Instagram to reach younger audience.

##### Southbridge Fire Partnership (LT)

- Staff has met on several occasions with representatives of the SMSC. Representatives of both groups are continuing discussions.
- Will look to state for bonding funds for Fire Station No.3 construction.