

2019 City Council Workplan Review

In February of 2019, the Shakopee City Council determined a list of priorities for city staff to address during the year. This has been a yearly exercise implemented in 2016 to provide the City Council a pathway to an actual strategic plan, and to give staff direction on issues of concern to the council. It will not be continued in the future upon adoption of the strategic plan.

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

- Continue to be one of the lowest taxed cities in the Metro Area. Our tax levy combined for the last two years is the lowest among our 10 comparable cities. The tax levy for the last four years is the second lowest.
- The marginal tax increase for 2020 equates to same tax liability as that experienced by residents in 2018.
- 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. Franchise fees help to relieve property tax pressure on low income property owners as any funds not collected by the fees would have to be made up through property taxes affecting lower income property owners the greatest.

Continued Financial Stability

- Clean audit for the third consecutive year.
- Received the GFAO *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* which reflects our continued stability.

Stable Tax Rate

- Tax rate lowered for the 3rd consecutive year in the 2020 Budget from 35.231% to 33.914%.

Increased Tax Capacity

- Tax capacity growth continues with 10.7% increase building upon the 7.33% experienced in 2019.

Increased Bond Rating – AAA (LT)

- Had a review by Standards and Poor's in first week of September. Unfortunately, just fell short of the AAA due to per capita income level. Still have the second-best bond rating shared with less than 7% of governmental units.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Trail signage and wayfinding (distance/locations)

- City Staff collaborating with a myriad of stakeholders to collaborate on a comprehensive wayfinding/signage strategy as identified in the Parks Master Plan. The park development planned for 2020 (including Ridge Creek) and coordination with other stakeholder plans (County wayfinding and kiosks along Scott County West Regional Trail) will provide a catalyst for planning in more detail.

Trail Connections

- Trail Gap study being completed by Planning and Development.
- State bonding funds secured for TH 169 Ped Bridge.
- 12th Ave Trail to be constructed in 2020 after obtaining easements in 2019
- New development trails and sidewalks in Windermere, Stagecoach, Ridge Creek, Countryside and Prairie Meadows developments, and along Shenandoah Drive, Schenian Drive and as part of the Crossing Blvd project east of Pike Lake Road.

LAND PLANNING

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

- Award winning comprehensive plan provides for mixed use development and raises density.
- Two workforce housing developments currently under construction.
- Housing project for those in the workforce with disabilities awarded state tax credits.
- Triple Crown and DECO market rate and above units both under construction.

Development Fees and Regulation Review (continuing)

- Created an easier to understand land development code by creating a zoning table for all commercial, residential and industrial zones and removing over 140 pages of text.
- Adopted new commercial and residential design standards formatted into an easier to understand table.
- Committed over \$350,000 to further automate the permitting process in 2020, which will allow full online submission of all permits and licenses, allow electronic check processing, provide online inspection scheduling, permit review status, and allow field inspectors provide immediate feedback to applicants from the field.

Continued Innovative Planning and Development

- Council approved removing more than 120 pages of the land development code with the adoption of a zoning table.
- Council approved new single-family home design standards along with new standards for multifamily housing, commercial and industrial developments.
- Council approved the Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan that sets the stage for the future of the city's park system after more than a year of public meetings led by a 14-member steering committee.
- A number of "Think Shakopee Business" videos were created that promote local industry to the community including behind the scenes tours. Featured business included Shutterfly, Cameron's Coffee, Rahr, Koda Energy, and Bayer Crop Science.

Louisville Township Orderly Annexation Agreement (LT)

- Staff completed the AUAR process in 2019 and will be bringing it to Council in early 2020. The AUAR sets the stage for annexation and development of the West End of Shakopee.

River Crossing Capacity Increase (LT)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/INFRASTRUCTURE

Riverfront Development

- Submitted riverbank stabilization for state bonding funds. Project included in the Governor's request (PR-23-002).
- Received DEED grant for \$332,732 for cleanup of the Riverfront Bluff area.
- Acquired Sweeney Marina property and Schroeder House. Plans being developed to restore and or demolish structures and creating public access to the river.

Attraction of High Paying Jobs

- Council approved an Economic Development Tax Abatement for KEB America, the North American HQ for KEB. The project will double the size of its headquarters and add at least 35 new jobs with an average wage of more than \$30 an hour.
- Staff working on the relocation of a corporate headquarters that would add more than 119 high paying jobs to the community.
- Staff working with developers on a potential business park expansion that could ultimately add more than one million square feet of new business park space and several corporate headquarters looking at the area.

Phase II Downtown Development

- Rev. Pond statue currently being cast to be installed downtown.
- ADA, Lighting and Tree Rehab project in CIP (CIF-21-003) to start in 2020 and finish in 2021.
- Governor included state bonding funds for Huber Park Riverbank Stabilization (PR-23-002).

"Shakopee University" Innovation Center

- HR&A completing feasibility study (completed 2020) for a potential Innovation Center with a post-secondary component. Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Minnesota State University as a potential component.

MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS

Citywide Public/Private Partnerships

- Approved a new ice use agreement with a local private skating organization.
- Partnered with All Saints to use their bus to transport seniors for senior programs.
- Parks and Rec has garnered 9 agency sponsors for senior events, and six for community events.
- Car seat distribution with Project Community Connect.
- Litter pick-up with Jackson Elementary (2nd Grade) along Vierling bike path.
- Partnered with Soccer Association to trim trees at the 17th Ave Sports Complex.
- Downtown landscaping partnership with River Valley Church.

- Partnered with Hosanna Church HEART voucher Program.

Transparency/Communications

- The city focused on delivering more digital communication, increased its video production and invested in a new email/text messaging delivery system to be rolled out in early 2020.

Community Engagement and Education

- Support for the Shakopee Diversity Alliance's International Festival through Police Dept.
- Support for the Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women Toy Drive, and their Homicide Victim Memorial fundraiser.
- Volunteer hours for multiple projects including painting of West Junior High in conjunction with River Valley Church, and Shakopee Community Assistance toy drive and summer celebration
- Multi-jurisdictional Sexual Assault Response Team formed.

Joint City/Committee Meetings to provide guidance and direction

- Held a joint City Council/SPUC meeting with mixed results at best.

Historical Tourism

- Worked with Three Rivers Park District and the SMSC to look at creating a cultural corridor along the Minnesota River Front to open access while protecting culturally sensitive areas. The project will include signage and digital imagery.
- Will be applying for a state grant in 2020 to fully develop a cultural tourism program. Funds to begin the restoration of Memorial Park is in the 2020 Capital Improvement Program.

Southbridge Fire Partnership (LT)

- Discussion continues with the SMSC.
- SCALE members have requested to have SCALE review the possibility of a larger county-wide fire partnership. Service Delivery Committee and Executive Committee have discussed.

River Water Quality (LT)