

# WORK SESSION AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



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## STAFF

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Ginny Sawyer, Project and Policy Manager

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## SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

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**Council Priorities Mid-Cycle Update.**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The purpose of this item is to review work and progress to date on Council Priorities.

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## GENERAL DIRECTION SOUGHT AND SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

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1. What questions or feedback do Councilmembers have on Priority work to date?

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## BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

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Every two years, following a Council election, the newly seated Council participates in a planning retreat to identify priorities and confirm strategic direction. City Council adopted 11 priorities for the 2024-2026 term. These priorities were intentionally developed by Council to encompass both on-going work, previously identified strategic initiatives, and opportunities to accelerate workstreams.

Work streams and timelines were further discussed at work sessions in February and May 2024. Council also resourced Priority work through the budgeting process. Priority updates are provided quarterly, and the 2024 updates are included as attachments.

### Updates and Touchpoints

#### Priority 1: Operationalize City resources to build and preserve affordable housing

Major on-going efforts under this priority include implementing land use code changes, most notably the allowance of ADUs, work to streamline permitting for affordable housing, analyze and articulate fee impacts and trade-offs, and utilize means across the City to address affordability.

Touchpoints:

- Council Finance and full Council meetings through mid-year to consider capital tax renewal and the inclusion of an Affordable Housing Fund.
- Fee methodology update discussion February 11, 2025.

- March 2025 work session focused on ADUs, fees, and the impact of fees, and broader housing production strategies.

Progress and Actions to date:

- 2025/26 funding for housing and fee credit programs.
- Basic Development Review for affordable projects in place. Expedited review process work underway.

### **Priority 2: Improve Human and Social Health for Vulnerable Populations**

Ongoing work under this priority is broad and includes environmental services air quality work, including monitoring and advancing the closure and reclamation of the Prospect Energy wells, as well as direct support programs and continued Citywide equity work through all departments and services.

Touchpoints:

- Priority 2 work session February 25, 2025.

Progress and Actions to date:

- 2025/26 funding for Immigration Legal fund, eviction Legal fund, and Mobile Home Park programs.
- Healthy Homes enhancement program funded.
- Engagement staff for equity and Inclusion Office funded.
- Prospect Energy wells are shut-in and awaiting permanent plugging and reclamation. The City is working towards a purchase agreement for contaminated property.

### **Priority 3: Pursue an Integrated, Intentional Approach to Economic Health**

The recent adoption of the Economic Health Strategic plan addresses and outlines much of the on-going work in this space including partnerships within the City and the community.

Touchpoints:

- 2025 work session TBD – Economic Health update.

Progress and Actions to date:

- Multicultural Business and Entrepreneur Center (MBEC) funded.
- Barriers to Business study underway.
- \$25K grant to support semiconductor and advanced industry ecosystem.

### **Priority 4: Advancing a 15-minute City by Igniting our Neighborhood Centers**

The land use work is a major part of this priority. Staff has conducted on-site outreach which will inform place-based assessment. Other work includes City-initiated efforts to draw the community to neighborhood centers such as Open Streets and Bike to Wherever events.

Touchpoints:

- April 22, 2025 work session on land use work and workplan.
- There will be Council items scheduled throughout the year with an intentional goal of having this Council adopt any changes.

Progress and Actions to date:

- Small Business Technical Assistance Program funded.
- Permitting improvements funded and implementation underway.
- Continued steps towards acquiring the former Albertson's property and possible expansion of URA work.

### **Priority 5: Accelerate Zero Waste Infrastructure and Policies**

The bulk of work in this area involves other partners including Larimer County and republic Services. Staff is also utilizing grant funding and consultants to complete research and baseline assessments.

Touchpoints:

- April 8, 2025 work session on zero waste priority.

Progress and Actions to date:

- Trash contract initiated and implemented. This is first step towards increased yard trimming collections.
- Ongoing discussion with the County on a construction and demolition facility.

### **Priority 6: Electrification of Buildings, Fleet, and City Small Engine Equipment**

Staff continues to make strides in City operations towards electrification. In broader efforts that will impact the community work continues through development of the Zero Carbon New Construction Code and finding/offering community facing resources.

Touchpoints:

- April 8, 2025 staff report on EV Roadmap and Readiness.

Progress and Actions to date:

- Budget funding to advance the Virtual power plant.
- Budget funding to work towards electrify municipal buildings.
- \$11M grant to build out charging infrastructure.
- Budget funding for small engine replacement. Seven replacement electric utility carts in operation in Parks through 2050 funding.

## **Priority 7: Protect Community Water Systems in an Integrated way to ensure Resilient Water Resources and Healthy Watersheds**

This body of work is broad and includes both policy and ordinance development and adoption. The City is working regionally on water issues including Northern projects and on a state funded Wildfire Ready Watersheds Action Plan.

Touchpoints:

- February 25, 2025 work session on Water Efficiency Plan.

Progress and Actions to date:

- Updated water supply requirements and allotment assignments in place.
- Halligan 1041 permit application has been submitted.
- Phase 1 of the One Water Strategic Plan completed at the end of January 2025.
- Stream restoration funded through budget.

## **Priority 8: Advancing a 15-minute City by Accelerating our Shift to Active Modes**

Touchpoints:

- May 13, 2025 work session on Which Wheels go Where: Micromobility.

Progress and Actions to date:

- Well attended Asphalt Art and Open Street events.
- Hosted the National Safe Routes to School Conference.
- Awarded approximately \$1.7 million in funding from the Federal Safe Streets for All program which will advance a Codes and Standards Audit focused on Active Modes, a Harmony Road Study to design active modes facilities for Harmony, and the Lake Street Demonstration Project to enhance active modes through CSU.
- 23 lane miles of buffered/improved bike lanes; 4 lane miles of protected bike lanes ;6 improved intersections for bike and ped safety; 8+ schools served by safer routes.

## **Priority 9: Develop a Use Plan for the Hughes Property**

Touchpoints:

- January 28, 2025 staff report.
- Council will be included on event dates and invites.
- Outcome report and recommendation anticipated in June 2025.

Progress and Actions to date:

- Project team underway and contract in place with Healthy Democracy.

## **Priority 10: Make Government More Accessible, Approachable and Fun**

Work streams supporting this priority include both very tactical work to ensure web accessibility and website revamp as well as Citywide project team considerations when engaging the public.

Touchpoints:

- Staff will continue to work with Councilmembers regarding community events, listening sessions, and addressing website development and community feedback.

Progress and Actions to date:

- City Manager report revamp completed.
- Digital Platform upgrades are underway including website navigation, eNewsletters, legislative management, and 311 services.

## **Priority 11: Modernize and Update the City Charter**

Staff hired outside Counsel to help advance this work.

Touchpoints:

- There was a work session in December 2025 to review 5 main areas of charter updates.
- Staff will work to bring back items in a time frame that let's Council take action by spring 2025.

Progress and Actions to date:

- Potential changes identified and initial Council discussion complete.

## **NEXT STEPS**

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Upcoming Council work sessions:

### **January 28: Hughes**

- Civic Assembly Update
- All Priorities Update

### **February 25: Water Resources and Vulnerable Populations**

- Staff Report: One Water
- Water Efficiency Plan

### **March 25: Housing**

- ADU Discussion
- Impact of Fees on Affordable Housing
- Operationalize City Resources to Build & Preserve Affordable Housing

## **April 8: Electrification, Zero Waste & Vulnerable Populations**

- Staff Report: EV Readiness Roadmap
- Zero Waste
- MHP Local Enforcement Options

Staff will continue to provide quarterly updates and bring forward progress and Priority related decisions throughout 2025.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

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1. 2024 Updates
2. Presentation