



2024 GOALS

Date: March 18, 2024

To: Tom Pagel, City Administrator

From: Mayor Connelly and Council

Re: Review of 2023 Goals and Establishment of 2024 Goals

In accordance with your employment agreement, you are directed by the City Council to work on up to three goals per year. This correspondence will summarize progress on the three goals for 2023 that the City Council established for you along with four goals to focus on in 2024.

The 2023 Goal updates are as follows:

1. **Housing** - Assist staff and community partners in developing housing, including the redevelopment of the former WWTP site into around 90 units of single-family housing. This is the same goal as in 2022. Its importance to the City remains paramount thus, it is to be a focus yet again in 2023.
 - a. **Update** – City staff has determined that the WWTP site can accommodate about 62 units of housing. We are continuing to develop the project with the Ives family.

The City Council met in closed session on March 11, 2024. After discussion the City Council felt very satisfied with your progress relative to this goal. The Council appreciates your collaboration with the Itasca County HRA specifically as it relates to the new housing development at the old Forest Lake Elementary school site. The City Council asks you to continue your good work in this endeavor.

2. **IRA Civic Center** – Secure IRRRB grant, along with securing Naming Rights Agreement. In addition, educate the public on the benefit of a local sales tax and assist in its implementation now that to referendum passed in November of 2022. Over see the remodeling of the IRA Civic Center.
 - a. **Update** – Secured a \$500k grant from IRRRB. Completed the reconstruction of the Civic Center on time and budget. Secured Yanmar North America as the naming rights sponsor.

The City Council met in closed session on March 11, 2024. After discussion the City Council felt that you moved the City smoothly through this goal. Your goal was successfully accomplished, and the project was a great benefit to the City.

3. **Central School/CBD**- Using the appraisal, community survey and the Downtown Master Plan, work toward a long-range plan to minimize the building's effect upon the City's budget. There appears to be dual tracks contemplated to achieve this goal. Additionally, focus on pedestrian safety in the Central Business District.

- a. **Update Central School** – Submitted a bond request to the State for bond funding. Was notified by the State that the facility does not qualify for State bonding dollars. Was directed to request State “cash”. Our Senator and Representative have submitted bills for cash. I have also submitted a preliminary request for federal funding from Representative Stauber.
- b. **Update Pedestrian Safety** – Staff continue to pursue funding for improvements to Pokegama Avenue, including the intersection of TH 2 which will involve enhanced pedestrian crossings.

The City Council met in closed session on March 11, 2024. After discussion the City Council felt that you made appropriate progress relative to this goal. The City Council acknowledges that it will need legislative help to fully complete this goal and that its work will continue in the years to come.

The following are your goals for 2024:

1. Central School – Continue to pursue funding for improvements to the facility
2. Legion Park Master Plan – Secure funding and move forward with a Master Plan for Legion Park that includes an economic impact component.
3. Cannabis Dispensary – Complete a feasibility to determine if the City should own or own/operate a cannabis dispensary.
4. Community Survey – Prepare and issue a community survey that allows citizens to provide insight into progress that has, and needs to be made, toward meeting the goals of the Comprehensive Plan. Specifically aimed at gaining satisfaction towards the goals accomplished along with identifying ideas for further progress towards the goals.

Best regards,

Mayor Tasha Connelly