

Input Provided for the City's Goals from Community Members 2026 Oelwein

This first set of feedback came in May and was provided to people at Party in the Park and on the city's website. We kept it open for a month. We asked the question of what the city should keep doing, and what the city should stop doing.

What should the city keep doing?

- Cleaning up the city and enforcing the codes
- Expand your much needed and proactive approach to water and sewer improvements into the demolition of ****box properties and accountability of property owners to maintain borderline structures.
- Fixing the streets and the water mains.
- Downtown TIF program
 - New housing opportunities
 - House demos
 - Hotel Motel funding
 - Tear down assistance
 - Event support"
- They should continue to work on recruiting new businesses to the community. Continue enforcing building codes. Continue the PD community interaction and improving relationships in the community.
- Work towards improving streets. Staff parks and rec so they can do the work that's been dumped down to them. Work harder improving properties.... we have codes regarding parked vehicles, trash, etc. - see code enforcement vehicle driving many miles with few changes. PD enforce cats and dogs running loose.
- Roads upkeep
- Cleaning up and fixing infrastructure
- Cleaning up property
- it is my belief that cutting parks is not the answer. It should be viewed as a money enhancer. It is vital for a community to provide an avenue for its citizens and employers.
- Activities that bring the community together. Getting rid of horrible house. Building new housing. Keep working on grant money.
- Continue supporting local small businesses and improving our downtown, but place a greater emphasis on community events, tourism, and economic development. The city should work with the Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, and community organizations to create larger events that attract visitors from surrounding towns. Oelwein has so much potential to become a destination for festivals, live music, farmers markets, holiday celebrations, and family-friendly activities. Bigger events, especially for holidays like the Fourth of July would bring visitors into town, support local businesses, and give residents more reasons to stay and celebrate here. The city should also make attracting

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larger employers and encouraging higher-paying jobs a top priority. Creating more career opportunities would strengthen our local economy, help retain young families, attract new residents, and support the small businesses that make our community unique.

- Fixing the roads, would like to see business owners updating buildings. More homeowners updating homes. Would like to see more statues, but priority should be the roads right now the middle of the roads are higher than the curbs on the SE side.
- Continue to provide basic services at reasonable cost to taxpayers.
- Not sure. I'll be honest, I have no idea if we have met any goals other than keeping the lights on. Not to discredit that.
- work on road repair and safe intersections
- Street repairs
- Keep the party in the park and other things for entertainment.
- The city needs to let people ride golf carts in town.
- Repairing and updating infrastructure
- Not sure what the city is doing. We need roads fixed, better upkeep of parks. Lake cleaned/dredged and stocked for fishing. More investment in Wellness center with new balls and games to play or check out for kids. Maybe a men's night league basketball of some sort. If we have money for party in the park we can find money for these things not everyone want to drink and listen to bad music. Invest in more books for library.
- Fixing roads
- Trimming and removing trees, repairs as needed
- "Pool, Christmas celebration, Easter basket hunt, party in the park.
- Improving rental properties. Improving roads"
- "Trying to get the community together
- Repairing roads
- Fixing the roads and creating activities for families
- RECYCLING!!!!
- Supporting our schools, fire and police departments.
- Having open communication with the residents. You give us a meeting a month of your time to hear your entire community's concerns for approximately 3 minutes each.
- Clearing abandoned and unsafe housing.
- Fixing streets, swimming pool.
- Making home owners/landlords be accountable for upkeep of property
- Cleaning up the eye sore houses in town.

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- Cleaning out lots that aren't showing a positive side of our town. Continue pushing drugs out of our community.
- Putting money towards the city for kids to be able to have thing to do
- Doing celebrations
- repairing streets
- Keep working on the pipes made of questionable material.
- Finding ways to stay within city budget.
- Clean up the neighborhood, and know the people that are making trouble
- Investing into our youth
- Fix the streets
- Keep the pool open. Keep our new youth sports. Live stream council meetings keep our parks looking good
- Cleaning up the dilapidated properties and fixing infrastructure. Pressuring property owners that are not being maintained to current building codes to be brought into code compliance.
- Keep trying to do Celebrations.
- Have opened council meetings
- repairing the streets and upgrading the water and sewer infrastructure.
- Fixing roads
- What is the city actually doing at this point?
- Continue actively pursuing grant opportunities and outside funding sources to support community improvements while reducing the financial burden on residents and taxpayers. Continue seeking resources that allow Oelwein to invest in infrastructure, recreation etc.
 - Continue prioritizing the recruitment of new businesses that bring quality jobs and competitive wages to Oelwein. Creating more employment opportunities can attract new residents, encourage younger generations to stay or return, increase support for local businesses, and strengthen the community as a whole.
- Cleaning up neighborhoods, enforcing yard debris throughout all yards, not just certain people.
- Tearing down crappy houses.
- Focus on maintaining parks, the swimming pool, schools, daycare, and fixing roads. Oelwein needs to remain attractive to young families. Keep up the work on holding dilapidated properties accountable.
- Oelwein celebration n Thursday in the parks
- Cleaning up the town, improving neighbor hoods.
- Keep moving forward. Don't let the negative Nancy's dictate how or what this city does.

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- I think another question could have been, what could the city do better or different.... communication. If you need something (i.e. volunteers) get it out there. The City of Oelwein's Facebook page is a very quiet one. It shouldn't be...post EVERYTHING that is going on in town, anything the city may need, when the meetings are, how to find them, and the list goes on... communication! The more you are involved, likely the rest of the community will be too. "
- Fixing roads, fixing sidewalks, cutting down dead trees, GETTING RID OF THE EYE SORE OF HOUSES. City use to spray for mosquitoes, I would love to have that back
- Offering affordable community wide events available for all families
- Prioritize funding to necessities that improve our town.
- Create equal opportunity for families of varying income. "
- Upgrading outdated water infrastructure to make tap water more potable
- The city should be focusing on infrastructure and promoting growth of the city as a whole. I feel there should be effort put into bringing more bigger businesses to it.
- "Consistency in and having events! (Oelwein days, Fourth of July, etc)
- Asking the community for more input!!
- Continue road improvement
- Fixing infrastructure, Getting new jobs and businesses. Spending on parks and rec to attract new families.
- Holding business owners accountable for their properties.
- Maintaining city/public property.
- Fixing infrastructure when financially possible
- Upgrade sewer and water infrastructure. Repair poor streets and pot holes.
- Fixing streets sewers put money into investments that help every citizen not a select few. Would like to see safe engaging entertainment for youth year round like a rec center or skating facility
- Keeping the ordinance's in place and enacting them. I believe there is a ordinance to not blow your leaves in the street. Last year my newborn did this and they all blew in my yard after I already had mine cleaned up. City needs to enforce this every year.
- Keeping the pool and Wellness Center open and affordable for our residents.
- Fix roads, Police speeding traffic in residential areas, especially 1st Ave NE!
- 1. Focus more on family friendly community events, and keep working to bring in entertainment options for children and young adults so we don't just have bars.
 - 2. Keep promoting the town's growth, but prioritize bringing in larger industries and commercial businesses that provide long-term job security and higher wages right here in town"

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- Making improvements, tearing down dilapidated houses, keeping our parks beautiful
- Keep funding for the parks and rec department for the youth.
- Keep building infrastructure.
- Bringing new businesses and upgrading downtown.
- CLEAN THE STREETS AND FLOWER BEDS DOWNTOWN
- Removing junk houses
- Code enforcement
- "Bringing in businesses Empty storefronts.
- Fill empty store fronts with something. Maybe a school could adopt a storefront and put artwork or items in the windows for a month.
- Dig out some of the shrubbery downtown. Too thick. Talking about the two places where you enter downtown Oelwein. By the O. Put some rocks in place of old shrubbery.
- By handicap parking don't put a bed of flowers."
- Repairing infrastructure
- The pool , the Williams Center.
- Fixing the roads and keeping the wellnesscenter and pool
- I am in favor of the 10 year plan for city water/sewer replacement. I am not in favor of how we as residents pay for it. Please consider a bond or whatever method to borrow some of the money needed. You can achieve the replacement in far less than 10 years. The water bill is killing us. It's much easier to pay over time, even if it costs a little more. I think interest rates are down a little. Just because the city admin wants to save us a little money, doesn't mean we have to do it. The city admin claims that paying upfront for the water/sewer project will save the city \$3million dollars. For a \$10 million dollar project, that estimate is 30% for interest. I don't believe this is accurate. Please check out the actual cost of funding a portion of the project. Maybe half? Maybe 75% funding???
- Keep the pool and Williams center open
- There is nothing "elective" I can think of that the city does that is productive.
- Party in the Park, Farmers Market
- Fix the streets
- Exactly what they are doing
- Tearing down old houses that are terrible, enforcing rules and regulations for home owners not just rentals.
- improving roads, managing money correctly, and improving infrastructure
- Keep swimming pool. Party in the park
- Bringing businesses to Oelwein. Build up the downtown with new business. Better cider enforcement not only for rentals but also property owners.

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- Fire the old guard
- Supporting park and rec which does a great job serving our community and bringing in visitors to spend money in our community.
- Fixing the roads, parks and creating more stuff for children and teens to do.
- Capital improvements
- Keep cleaning up the town
- "1. Keep our public areas, parks, pool, lake Oelwein, and trails available and maintained for our citizens. Without these amenities there is no draw for individuals/families to live in Oelwein.
 - 2. Keep working on the strategic road and sewer plan.
 - 3. More new housing and tear down of dilapidated houses.
 - 4. Keep the rental inspection going."
- I think you all are doing a fantastic job. No matter what you do you will make someone unhappy. I think continue to crack down on the drug problems we seem to have. Also please try not to increase water and other repairs onto the homeowners. Try to attract new businesses (factory, downtown stores and more restaurants.
- Enriching programs and opportunities for the youth and elderly
- Fixing streets
- Activities that bring people to the city- both permanently and to spend money here.
- "Trying to create better relationships with people and businesses. generate positive relationships and develop interest to bring back young families and affordable housing or jobs that support growth vs survival.
 - Service and community focused groups that encourage and support our youth as well as our senior citizens.
 - We can be a retirement community but don't have to NOT encourage bettering ourselves for the youth and or young families who do choose to reside here.
 - The youth sports programs have grown in a positive direction but aren't affordable for all incomes.
 - Better school and city administration that actually listen to the people and strive to show more interest in their thoughts and not just be interested in what best supports their interests or needs.
 - We can't grow into a better future without a better focus on what your community is focused on as a whole.
 - Housing, streets, and youth activities seem to be a big part of the 'social posts' as of past years.
- Improving fire department
- "Clear communication
 - Involve taxpayer if expenses are expected out of pocket

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- Fixing streets and intersections. Repair east entrance to the viaduct.
- Party In The Park has been a fantastic way of bringing the community together. Perhaps with a lowered vendor fee it could become an even bigger annual occurrence
- Fixing roads
- Street repairs
- Working on the roads and improve the community
- The city of Oelwein does a great job keeping our public parks and walking/biking trails in good repair. We moved to Oelwein from TX summer 2025. We loved all the beautiful parks and walkways and this was a big reason we chose Oelwein over other small towns in NE Iowa.
- Events. However I think we have OCAD doing to much event planning and not enough economic development.

What should the city stop doing?

- Giving money to non-city projects and organizations
- Stop cash gifts, gifts, and distributions of LOST, franchise fees, and hotel-motel tax to entities that are not City of Oelwein departments or operations.
- Wasting money on the airport.
- Can't think of anything off the top of my head
- Spending time and money on viaduct. It's not falling down.... maintain facial features.
- Viaduct situation
- Hiring police and spending so much on policing that gains nothing
- Not working together to make Oelwein a city to for people to move to.
- personally I am against flock camera's
- With our population, I find utilities high. I don't know what the answer will be to help fixed incomes
- Stop putting off basic infrastructure improvements and make them a higher priority. Many of our streets are in poor condition and need attention. Continue investing in downtown revitalization by expanding programs that help restore older buildings and encourage property improvements. Oelwein has beautiful historic architecture that deserves to be preserved and brought back to life. At the same time, make attracting new businesses and good-paying jobs a top priority. A stronger local economy, better infrastructure, and a vibrant downtown will help keep young families here, attract visitors, and support the local businesses already invested in our community. I also want to recognize and thank the city for the work that is already being done. I know funding is limited, and I appreciate the grants and programs that have helped improve our downtown. My hope is simply that these efforts can continue to grow because I truly believe Oelwein has so much potential. Thank you for all that you do for our community.
- Nothing your doing amazing Oelwein is starting to look better.
- Enter into projects that put a exorbitant tax burden on homeowners.
- Kicking the can down road.
- wasting money on beautification
- Chip sealing roads as it does nothing to fix the roads
- Charge huge water prices
- Stopping people from riding golf carts in town.
- Anything related to Joshua Ehn. Get rid of him.
- Get rid of cameras/ plate readers. Stop having police sitting trying to get speeders and do more regular city patrols to cut down on theft and people speeding down side roads were kids are at play.
- Raising taxes

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- Tearing down ever house that is bad some can be fixed . Letting businesses buy properties to add on without have expensive architectural prints done.
- Making the water bill go up constantly.
- Letting Barker just sit on the sides of roads watching people like he is still a cop.
- Start fixing roads 6th st ne would be a good start
- Living in the past.
- Raising water bills
- Passing the bill to fix roads to citizens. We already pay enough taxes that it should be taken care of
- ALLOWING LOUND CARS DOWNTOWN ANY DAY OR NIGHT!
- Don't make your citizens pay for city street repairs. I don't ask you to pay my bills.
- Using your position to line your pockets
- Seal coating streets, just keeps building up and is only a temporary fix, crown in my street is so bad that I sit in my living room and the crown of the street is higher than a standard height window. Run off goes straight to the sidewalk due to no curb and gutter.
- Wasting money on their own pet projects.
- Overpaying the city administrator.
- Buying things that the city don't need
- Stop canceling stuff
- buying new police cars every year
- Stop making it harder for small businesses to thrive, focus on why Oelwein is ranked so low on the list of schools in Iowa, and plan a community garden in the other side of town and advertise it everywhere!
- Wasting taxpayers money with a brand new police station that has a 24 hour holding facility that they refuse to use when they arrest people in the city.
- Letting the same people that caused trouble, not having anything done about it
- Taking away opportunities for the community to make money
- Ignoring how awful the cemetery looks, raising water rates, stop getting grants for "pretty" stuff and fix the infrastructure
- Charging too much for water!!!
- Nothing. Doing a good job
- Dispersing tax dollars to entities that are not departments of the City of Oelwein. Maintaining so many acres of "parks", these acres could be an opportunity to redevelop within city limits for residential tax base and housing and decrease annual maintenance expense to the City.
- Paying these high salaries to the people who are the head of this town
- Have only one garbage company. We the people should have a choice

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- Wasting money spraying the weeds in the creek running through Oelwein. All only thing you are killing is the Oak trees along the creek.
 - Nothing
 - See previous answer
 - Stop placing additional financial burdens on residents without considering the impact of rising costs of living and the fact that not all wages are increasing at the same rate. Continue looking for ways to control costs, prioritize spending, pursue grants and outside funding opportunities, and make financially responsible decisions that balance community improvements with affordability for residents
 - Overpaying certain employees, gouging the residents water bills, charging citizens for tree trimming, stop reallocating funds away from certain projects that the citizens have funded for years and still have not seen anything started.
 - Over paying the city administrator. For a town of our size, his salary is outrageous!
 - Police budget needs to be addressed- spending too much. Roads need to not be neglected and made a major priority. No more interfering with town celebrations. Need to allow a separate group to facilitate and plan that. City needs to have a more positive outlook about the town and her citizens overall.
 - Putting in flock cameras, raising price for utility bills
 - Don't have an answer
 - Raising the cost of water, spending money on things that the city really doesn't need or care about. (We are a small town not a big flashy city) spending all the time and money into the downtown Depo area... (REALLY WORTH IT?). I honestly think unless the plan is to have celebrations that include the downtown shops I would much rather have it out at the park again (more for kids to do and have fun)
 - "Allowing individuals to stay in a higher power who continue to make questionable choices for the towns well being.
 - Separating the upper and lower class. "
 - Buying vacant buildings making the city responsible instead of the current owner responsible for failing buildings.
 - The city should stop remaining idle and stagnant in terms of it's growth.
-
- Spending without a return on investment. Look at other communities and follow by example.
 - Stop neglecting some of their own properties and create communities or put out posts for volunteers to help clear up weeds, example being the little cabin area across from the Legion
 - Overcharging and harassing the people. I've had more than one instance where I've received a notice about something in my yard or driveway being there for over

48 hours, when in truth (camera footage to back this up) it was less than 12. The city bumped our water cost a great deal to fix our system and charges large amounts to poor residents but then redo downtown buildings for an event center or to just tear it down or to place art in the town. Your residents shouldn't have to fear financial ruin or even have to move because of this. I understand wanting to make the town more attractive, but shouldn't we focus on the necessities first? Otherwise the people who have resided here for years, the ones who built this community, have to worry about how they will make it month to month. There's not even a payment plan available through the city for residents who are on hard times, ones who have families.

- Giving better explanations on projects getting done and why that project was chosen. Maybe explain how much the city budget has been cut by the state
- Outward appearances are important but significant sums of money should be spent on infrastructure first
- Wasting money on things that don't directly help citizens. Lower salaries of board members. Stop raising water and sewer bills or fining renters and home owners.
- Making the property owner pay more taxes. We simply can't afford it.
- Trails-we have plenty now. Let's focus on City Park-revive and refresh!
- Everything else
- 1.Stop allowing out-of-state landlords and corporate investors, like Fortress Joy, to buy up local apartments and houses without a local point of contact
 - 2.Cease the use of flock safety cameras. If tracking must continue, implement strict data deletion policies, independent oversight, and explicit community consent
- Allowing businesses to look messy, run down. Forgetting about all of our great assets. We need to highlight, show off all of our best parts, not just a select few. We have beautiful parks, several historic venues, work together to bring notice to ALL of these.
- Funding projects that don't compel to the citizens.
- Canceling town events.
- SAYING THEY DO NOT HAVE MONDY TO BEAUTIFY THE DOWNTOWN AREA
- Wasting money. There are a lot of small things that could be done that would save a lot of money. For instance, why do we need to leave every light on in the new event center when no one is there? Why do the mayor and council take a step back and think of Oelwein like it was their business instead of wasting time and money then raising our taxes and water bill? Assuming the mayor and city council receive compensation, maybe since we have a volunteer fire department, the council and mayor shouldn't be getting paid either.
- Getting stuck with tearing down all these house these worthless landlords don't deal with. And make Bruce Barkers job part time.

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- "Who is working to bring in more businesses and industry? We need that to happen. Indy just got 2 new businesses. Why can't we."
- Lower the prices on our water bill...sewer prices."
- Having July 4th celebration in June
- Flock cameras (saves BIG monies)
- Stop the madness with these flock cameras and allowing them to pollute the air
- Why are you paying chief Logan to be the fire chief, and the volunteer fire chief gets nothing. Why not pay the volunteer fire chief that salary instead? I believe the council said they would approve an interim change of 1 year for chief Logan as fire chief and police chief. How is it chief Logan can have the time to do both jobs at the same time and get paid for both?
 - About the rental inspection program... this is an expensive program. Rental property is not being inspected as stated in the city code. You still have too many employees in the permit inspection department. They aren't even doing electrical inspections now, and permits are issued online. Wondering why the 4 building inspectors I'm paying for in my taxes can't get their work done in a timely fashion. You have achieved your goal of getting the rental properties cleaned up. However, it seems the real eye sore properties are owner occupied. You know, I'm so tired of paying more and more taxes to the city, and city admin says we need to raise our city property tax levy to the MAX, which is highly irregular for any city. Check it out, no other towns our size has a maxed out property tax levy. Also, NO other towns have 4 building inspector employees. Oelwein doesn't have a very big tax payer base evidently, and I am really, really, tired of paying for everyone else."
- Get rid of all the flock cameras and spending 30,000 a year on them
- Installing traffic cams, having local police, investing in things like community centers or parks, raising taxes and fees instead of cutting waste out of the budget.
- NA
- Being a HOA town
- Nothing
- Attacking rentals
- Letting residents get away with parking cars, boats, equipment on their front yards. Looks bad
- Allowing business to run on their time to fix buildings. Maybe the city could fix and put on the owners property taxes like they do for street repairs on property owners
- Invest in getting business yo oelwein!
- Letting the school administration run or attempt to run the town. Separation of duties just like church and state is needed or you lose democracy and get a dictatorship. It's already out of control.

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- Letting certain "authority " run/ruin the town
- Stop taking away the celebrations we use to have
- NA
- I don't know.
- Raising prices and asking community members for funds that have already been found and used by the city. Concentrate on improving the community and not the wallets of city officials. This should not be a profitable job.
- Flock cameras
- Stop Raising utility prices. Especially as often as you do.
- Can't even go there.. start seeing your community as you supporting structures and for some your paycheck.. our taxes and utilities are on a surge, but incomes do t support the increase.. we need to be more active at how we can get through these financial crises.. guessing the avg income for Oelwein is shy \$45-50k so as administration recognizing your privilege of 6 figures is not the norm for families in the community you are overseeing.. step out of your tiny circle and show some respect to those busting their tail to survive and create a better future for their families... we are all equal in the big picture so let's treat our citizens as such..
- Installing flock cameras in neighborhoods. This town is not big enough for the need. Just have people with nest/camera systems register so if something happens the police can contact them for video.
- "Allowing for the bullying of volunteer organizations
- Demanding payment without clear communication in advance"
- Flock cameras
- The city should ease up on the homeless population. They have it rough enough as is
- N/A
- Empowering the city manager and give the elected council/mayor more of a voice
- Focusing on stupid little things
- My husband and I haven't lived here long enough to answer this question.
 - We enjoy the monthly music in Depot park with the food trucks in the summer. Love the Library and Wellness Center. Appreciate the close proximity to healthcare like BCHC & Mercy One. Our grandchildren enjoy the swimming pool and parks.
- Thank you for taking the time to ask!!"
- See question 2 answer. Reaction planning and budgeting. Stop sending out questionnaires that are intended to have skewed answers and results. I don't know who comes up with this but stop it. This is not a logic based method for determining solutions to our toughest problems. If you need help ask, there are people in the

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community with experience in critical thinking to help come up with solutions. I'm not sure what the intent of this questioner is.

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This feedback was solicited using the city's website and the Facebook page. The following question was asked: The City of Oelwein is developing its strategic goals for the next 10 years. What do you believe should be the top priorities?

- The streets
- Better roads, remove/ renovate poor/dilapidated housing, modern/updated - good sized park for kids/young families in good part of town. Maybe include splash pad. Maybe "inside" a newer housing development?
- Lowering costs for citizens, bringing new businesses to city.
- Roads, run down housing
- Abandoned buildings. Houses not lived at. All the wooded area behind depo on sw side. Looks gross make viaduct taller
- Storm drainage systems on roads need updated. We have flooding up to our property every time it rains. The city should be looking at smaller trees for the front of properties not huge trees. Smaller ones are easier to maintain and don't damage peoples properties as much. They have dwarf varieties.
- Affordable but well kept housing. No slumlords! Attracting new downtown stores (not second hand stores) and more restaurants. Also any factory that offers a lot of jobs. I have lived in Oelwein my whole life and love Oelwein but it is sad to know what it was and what it is now.
- "Maintain the great things we have: parks, lake, businesses, industry, wellness center, hospital, library, movie theater, and Williams Center.
- Promote more affordable housing projects for young families. Continue to support community events like Party in the Park and Old Tyme Christmas. "
- "Enhanced and expedited clean up of dilapidated residential, commercial, and abandoned properties.
- Water and sewer repairs to reduce emergency fixes on breaks, so....
- Road maintenance and improvements are long term with good infrastructure under them.
- Reduce the total number of park acres so we can properly maintain what acres we do keep, and...
- Look for residential development options in park properties.
- Eliminate the outflow of currency payments to other entities that are not departments of the City.
- Increase revenues by ensuring as close to 100% compliance in rental property and vacant property registration. Evaluate service fees and rates to reduce loss.
- "
- "Street repair
- Removal of houses no longer inhabitable

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- Expand housing stock so blue collar workers can live here
- Upgrade water and utility infrastructure to support new residential construction
- Continue to support quality of life amenities:
- Entertainment, Recreation, Community events"
- Economic development and revitalization of the downtown area.
- Infrastructure upgrades
- Bringing in more families, maintaining the large and small business we have and improving our look of our town
- Improvement to downtown and adding small businesses
- "Job creation and retention.
- Street and infrastructure improvements. "
- Affordable and safe housing, education, roads
- Roads
- Streets
- Roads
- Bringing revenue generating businesses to the city, building affordable housing (no age restriction) and sewer repairs.
- "1. No roundabouts or retroactive roadway lane changes.
 - 2. Additional street, alley, sidewalk and water maintenance.
 - 3. Create a specific reason to travel miles to shop here...like make Oelwein the official antique capital of Northeast Iowa.
 - 4. Create a financially sound, low cost local home maintenance program for the social security, low income elderly and the medically dependent along the lines of the Alliant Electric System and the water line maintenance program.
 - 5. Support the county 'No power-hungry data centers' located here.
 - 6. To avoid one-sided decision making, find ways to get people to attend and take part in City Council meetings. It could involve a simple audience attendance drawing program where the name in attendance drawn at the end of the meeting gets a free meal for two at a participating local restaurant.
 - 7. Change the meeting times to a more generally convenient one.
- "Attract new business; Continue to clean up blight; Encourage/Promote relationships among residents.
- We are really enjoying the Monthly music and food trucks at Depot Park. Also we are enjoying the new and existing art downtown. I like how that shows a unique level of pride in our community!"
- Bringing in new businesses, that will employ people from the town. Entice people to move to town to help bring valuation of homes higher. Discourage the school

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from promoting free and reduced lunch, which brings people here for that, which in turn over the decades has hurt the town.

- Improving the water filtration system. Lowering property taxes. Getting rid of positions in the city government that are not needed
- Housing and jobs

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AI was used to take the last three major goal retreats and combine them into a set of goals for the city. With the newly created goals, staff talked to people at the Rotary Sweet Corn feed and asked them to prioritize goals. Like golf, the low score ranked the highest for patrons.

Low scores showed the highest feedback	Points
Promote Economic Development, Business Growth, and Downtown Revitalization: Support existing businesses while attracting new businesses, jobs, retailers, and services to Oelwein. Continue partnerships and strategic investment in Downtown Oelwein and other areas positioned for economic growth.	1.58
Maintain and Improve City Infrastructure and Core Services: Maintain reliable City services while systematically improving streets, water, sewer, utilities, equipment, transportation infrastructure, and public facilities. This includes planning for replacement and maintenance as infrastructure ages.	1.82
Improve and Diversify Housing: Improve the quality, availability, and variety of housing through rehabilitation, demolition, enforcement, new construction, redevelopment incentives, and infill development. Support housing options that meet the needs of residents at different income levels and stages of life.	2.1
Expand Parks, Recreation, Trails, Sidewalks, and Wellness Opportunities: Maintain and expand recreational facilities, programs, parks, trails, sidewalks, open spaces, and wellness opportunities for residents and visitors. Improve connectivity and accessibility while supporting new and enhanced recreational amenities.	2.2
Strengthen Community Image, Identity, Beautification, and Downtown Appearance: Strengthen Oelwein's community identity through beautification, downtown improvements, arts and culture, events, marketing, and improvements to key public spaces. Continue efforts that make the community more inviting to residents, visitors, and businesses.	2.29
Improve Community Health, Safety, and Quality of Life: Promote a healthy and safe community through public safety, wellness, healthcare access, walkability, recreation, and other services that improve residents' quality of life. Continue evaluating public safety and wellness needs as the community changes.	2.67
Strengthen Communication, Community Engagement, and Transparency: Improve communication between the City and residents while creating opportunities for public participation and community collaboration. Continue outreach efforts that keep residents and staff informed and engaged.	2.8

Input Provided for the City's Goals from Community Members 2026
Oelwein

Maintain Effective, Sustainable, and Responsive City Government: Maintain dependable City operations while strengthening long-range planning, facility and equipment management, staffing, policies, financial sustainability, and organizational effectiveness. Establish processes that help the City monitor and accomplish its priorities.	3
Strengthen Local and Regional Partnerships: Build and maintain partnerships with schools, businesses, nonprofits, neighboring communities, Fayette County, and state and federal agencies. Use collaboration to advance economic development, recreation, transportation, community development, and natural-resource initiatives.	3
Address Standalone Initiatives, Facility Questions, and Council Discussion Items: Continue evaluating specific issues that have been identified but do not yet have a clearly defined strategic outcome, including the airport, Wellness Center funding, recycling arrangements, City Hall, City-owned properties, staffing, and other standalone initiatives. These should remain visible until Council determines whether they should become formal goals or projects.	3
Advance Sustainability, Resiliency, and Natural Resource Protection: Promote environmental and economic sustainability while protecting land, water, natural areas, and other community resources. Prepare for hazards and strengthen Oelwein's ability to respond and adapt to environmental and community challenges.	3.14
Improve Transportation, Connectivity, and Multimodal Access: Improve the condition, safety, accessibility, and connectivity of Oelwein's transportation system for motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and other users. Coordinate transportation improvements with local and regional partners.	3.67