

City Council Meeting Minutes

**June 11, 2024
Library Meeting Room
951 South Street
6:00 PM**

Call to Order – Mayor Leh called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. **Roll Call** was taken and the following members were present:

City Council: ***Mayor Chris Leh
Mayor Pro Tem Caleb Dickinson
Councilmember Deborah Fahey
Councilmember Barbara Hamlington
Councilmember Dietrich Hoefner (attended remotely)
Councilmember Judi Kern***

Staff Present: ***Jeff Durbin, City Manager
Samma Fox, Deputy City Manager
Rob Zuccaro, Community Development Director
Adam Blackmore, Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Director
Ryder Bailey, Finance Director
Sharon Nemechek, Cultural Services Director
Rafael Gutierrez, Police Chief
Meredyth Muth, City Clerk***

DISCUSSION/DIRECTION – 2025 CITY COUNCIL WORK PLAN

Mayor Leh introduced the item.

City Manager Durbin noted the City Council establishes their work plan annually and most recently revised their 2024 work plan in January of this year. The City Council work plan also helps staff prioritize internal work plans and schedule the work needed to bring to City Council for engagement. Tonight is the first step in establishing the 2025 Work Plan.

Deputy City Manager Fox reviewed the current work of the City highlighting the importance of core services and the work that City staff does every day to allow the City to function. City Manager Durbin reviewed some projects and priorities departments are doing already that are above and beyond the core services.

City Manager Durbin proposed a modified process this year to connect the Council Work Plan with the City's strategic initiatives. He reiterated that the role of Council is to set policy, not to lead individual tasks or projects. The strategic framework should inform the Council work plan and both should align.

Deputy City Manager Fox reviewed the timeline for the work plan process. City Manager Durbin stated the goal was to have Council focus their thinking at the strategic priorities level and he gave examples of what that might look like. The 2024 work plan was a mix of priorities, projects, and tasks and staff is suggesting the 2025 work plan focus solely on strategic priorities. This would then allow staff to determine the steps and tasks it will take to get there.

Deputy City Manager Fox stated that for this year staff is asking each Councilmember to submit a list of strategic challenges or opportunities they would like in the work plan. With the list please identify what success would look like in taking on that issue.

Deputy City Manager Fox reviewed the next steps for the work plan and the meetings that will be scheduled.

Members discussed how they might define success, noting some items are difficult to define.

Hamlington asked if Council could get a list of the project staff already be will doing so Council does not have to include those in their lists.

Mayor Leh noted staff is already doing a large amount of work on core services and that takes up a great deal of time. That needs to be taken into account when Council created additional items on their work plan.

Mayor Pro Tem Dickinson noted it is hard to evaluate how many projects can get done with the time constraints, financial constraints, and limited staff time. It is hard to identify what can be done reasonably and within budget.

City Manager Durbin stated if Council can identify clear priorities then staff can steer their work better to fit into those priorities. Deputy City Manager Fox added that if the priorities are clear staff can then identify the tasks needed to address the goal and what tradeoffs might be needed to get there.

Public Comments

Sherry Sommer, Louisville, stated she is interested in how community demands will be incorporated in the work plan. She stated ideally these goals can be met without political pressure.

Mayor Leh observed that aspirations and community demand are good, however core services need to be addressed before the aspirational goals, particularly preparedness.

Mayor Leh asked for staff to provide an update on the status of items on the 2024 Work Plan in this process so they can determine if changes need to be made and see how it might impact the 2025 plan.

Staff will distribute the template for Council to complete with their suggested goals; staff will compile those for the July 23 meeting.

ADJOURN

Members adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Christopher M. Leh, Mayor

Meredyth Muth, City Clerk