



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Thomas J. Aspell, Jr.
City Manager

DATE: March 6, 2024

SUBJECT: Calendar Year 2024-2025 City Council Priorities

Recommendation

Review, approve and adopt the City Council Priorities as developed by Mayor Champlin and members of City Council at their March 4, 2024 City Council Priority Setting Session.

Background/Discussion

Members of City Council met on March 4, 2024 to discuss and set priorities for 2024-2025. The following items are the top priorities members of Council chose for 2024-2025.

- Finance & Technology:
 - Balance the Budget Minimizing Tax Rate Impact
 - Maintain AA+ Bond Rating
 - Maintain Compliance with Fiscal Policy Goals (Debt Ratio)
 - Enterprise Resource Planning Implementation
 - Assessing Full Measure & List
 - Pursue Federal/State Funding
 - Cost Containment – Health Insurance Costs
 - Technology Infrastructure Projects

- Organizational:
 - Recruitment & Retention
 - Class & Compensation Study
 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice and Belonging Implementation
 - Solid Waste Contract Implementation
 - Community Communication

- Housing / Homelessness – Continue to Enter in Public-Private Partnerships to Support Housing Projects (market rate / workforce / affordable) Utilizing Available Tools and Programs to Support Partners & Developers:
 - RSA 79-E Community Tax Relief Incentives
 - Community Development Block Grants
 - Revolving Loan Fund Program

- Sale of City Owned Development Sites / Surplus Real Estate
- Zoning Amendments
- High Functioning, Coordinated, Quantified Approach to Homelessness with Public Updates
- Pursue City/County/State Partnerships

- Transportation & Utility Infrastructure:
 - Fully Fund Street Paving & Sidewalk Program
 - New Airport Terminal
 - Loudon Road Bridge
 - Heights Sewer Improvement Project
 - Broken Ground Water Booster Pump Station
 - McKee Square
 - I-93 Project w/ or w/out Bridge Deck (including Storrs Street Extension)
 - State Parking Garages
 - Public Transportation

- Community & Economic Development:
 - Interim Zoning Amendments / Initiate Master Plan Update / Concord Next 2.0
 - Implement Economic Development Advisory Committee
 - Economic Development Website Overhaul / Digital Marketing Package
 - Destination Marketing
 - New Airport Terminal
 - Heights Sewer Project
 - Pursue Public / Private Partnerships
 - Placemaking / Gateways / Community Art / Murals (Food Trucks)
 - Regulatory Amendments – Review Charitable Gaming
 - Mayor’s Business Visitation Program
 - Historic Preservation Initiatives

- Energy / Environment / Sustainability:
 - Community Power Review
 - Complete Solar Arrays at Old Turnpike Landfill / Hall Street Waste Water Treatment Plant
 - Convert Remaining Ornamental Street Lights to LED
 - EV Charging Stations (Parking Garages, Surface Lots, Parks)
 - Energy Diversification / Efficiency
 - Street Trees/Open Space

- Public Safety:
 - New Police Station
 - City Hall Campus Master Plan & Schematic Design
 - Fire Gear Replacement
 - Build Out Police Department Social Worker Staffing and Funding Options
 - Community Policing
 - Fire Department Equipment Replacement
 - Continuous Improvement in Public Safety Effectiveness
 - Recruitment/Retention

- Recreation & Leisure:
 - Complete Construction of New Canal Street Riverfront Park
 - White Park Inclusionary Playground
 - Complete New Penacook Library & Activity Center (Divest 3 Merrimack Street)
 - Memorial Field Design & Partnership Review
 - Keach Park Lights
 - Bicentennial Square “Light Renovation” (Paver Replacement)
 - Merrimack River Greenway Trail (MRGT)
 - Complete Purchase of Horseshoe Pond to Contoocook River w/New Hampshire Department of Transportation
 - Sunflower Field Section
 - Beaver Meadow Golf Course Club House Options
 - Garrison Park Pool
 - Terrill Park
 - Kiwanis Park Design
 - Identify Additional East Side Greenspace