



# City Council **ACTION**

The following is a summary of select City Council action items from the May 12, 2025 City Council meeting.

## **Boards & Commissions Appointments**

The following board and commission nominations were approved:

- Paul Storiato – Tourism Commission
- Josh Dunbar – Trades Board of Appeals
- Dr. James McMillen – Social Welfare Board

## **Summarized City Council Actions**

Following is an explanation of select items that were taken up by the City Council:

**Transient Guest Tax Collection** (Item #9 Bill #1246-22): The City Council approved an amendment to the Code of Ordinances to require online short-term rental listing services to collect and remit the City's Transient Guest Tax to the City on behalf of the property owners and provide penalties for failure to do so. The City charges a 3% transient guest tax on short-term room rentals, including those booked through services like Airbnb and VRBO. However, most property owners using these platforms do not collect or pay the tax. Compliant property owners have raised concerns about this unfairness. To improve compliance, the amendments will require online booking platforms to collect and remit the tax on behalf of hosts.

**Tuscany North Community Improvement District** (Item #10 Bill #1238-22): The City Council authorized an ordinance that approves a petition and establishes the Tuscany North Community Improvement District (CID). The petition proposes a 1% CID sales tax and a \$2.00 per square foot special assessment on building space to fund public improvements and the provision of District Services to assist with the development of the property within the District. Planned improvements include upgrades to 169 Highway, new sidewalks, utility extensions, and related professional services. The District will last 27 years unless extended under the CID Act.

**Economic Development Policy** (Item #11 Bill #1247-22): The City Council approved the adoption of a St. Joseph Economic Development Policy. Economic development remains a top priority for the Mayor, City Council, and community partners. City staff work closely with the Chamber of Commerce, School District, and Buchanan County to address both business needs and community goals. The Economic Development Team meets regularly to review current and potential projects, ensure efficiency, and keep timelines on track. Staff also work directly with companies and developers. A new policy will guide efforts to attract both residential and commercial development.

**St. Joseph Housing Infill and Needs Assessment Plan** (Item #12 Bill #1248-22): The City Council approved the adoption of the City of St. Joseph Housing Infill and Needs Assessment Plan to use as a tool to focus on new residential development to fill the current and future housing gap. This plan analyzes housing affordability, conditions, demographics, and market demands to identify key housing gaps. It will guide efforts to promote development, support the workforce, revitalize neighborhoods, and grow the population. Funded by ARPA to address blight and expand housing options, the plan was shaped by six months of community and business input. Prior to completion of the Plan, City Council received an update and a copy of the Plan for review prior to an overview of the document at an April 14, 2025, Council Work Session.

**1501 North 10<sup>th</sup> Street Rehabilitation Contract** (Item #13 Bill #1249-22): The City Council approved the execution of a Housing Rehabilitation Contract with HIIP 1, LLC (grantee). The grant will be used to purchase construction supplies for rehabilitation of the home located at 1501 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, which is currently owned by the grantee. Once rehabilitation of the property is complete, the home will be marketed to low- and moderate-income families for sale. The homebuyer will be required to own and occupy the home for five years.

### **City Manager's Report**

City Manager Mike Schumacher reported the following:

- The liner installation for Cell 8 at the Sanitary Landfill is expected to be completed this week, with the DNR approval process to follow.