



Meeting Minutes

Work Session | June 2, 2026, 5:00 PM

Strategic Planning Work Session

Call to Order

Mayor Anna Vogel called the work session to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Anna Vogel; Alderpersons Evelyn Days, Mike Capstick, Ryan Brockschmitt, and Terri Durand.

Also present: City Administrator Rachel St. Pierre.

Purpose of Work Session

The purpose of the work session was to begin the City's strategic planning process and provide the Board with an overview of the proposed planning structure, timeline, engagement process, and expected deliverables.

City Administrator Rachel St. Pierre presented a strategic planning guide prepared for the session and explained that the process is intended to help the City move from a primarily reactive approach to a more proactive, goal-oriented approach that can help guide future budgets, projects, priorities, and policy decisions.

Strategic Planning Process Overview

The Board discussed a proposed six-month planning timeline, beginning in June and continuing through December 2026. The process is expected to include Board work sessions, public input sessions, surveys, community conversations, and ongoing review of feedback and priorities.

The proposed process includes:

- Approximately six Board sessions
- Approximately six public sessions
- Community surveys in multiple formats
- Development of a State of Bel-Nor Report
- Development of a vision statement
- Preparation of a strategic or comprehensive plan
- Creation of an implementation matrix
- Identification of government commitments and future priorities

Public sessions may be held at City Hall or other community locations, such as local churches, Christine's Café, or Clearview Park. The Board discussed using multiple survey formats, including paper surveys, email, online forms, door-to-door outreach, flyers, and other accessible methods to encourage broad participation.

Board Discussion and Strategic Planning Themes

The Board participated in a facilitated discussion regarding Bel-Nor's strengths, challenges, opportunities, and long-term priorities. Alderperson Capstick departed the meeting at approximately 5:18 PM. Discussion themes included the following:

Community Strengths

The Board identified several strengths of the community, including:

- Quiet and discreet neighborhood character
- Tree-lined streets
- Attractive and unique housing stock
- Friendly residents
- Walkability and sidewalks
- Community safety
- Diversity
- Green space, parks, and recreational assets
- Golf course
- Horatio Park and Clearview Park
- Proximity to trails and regional amenities
- Active social events and community-building efforts
- 24:1 municipal partnership
- Affordability compared to nearby communities
- Improved financial position
- Grants and prior successful community projects

Challenges and Opportunities

The Board discussed several challenges and opportunities, including:

- Sidewalk condition and accessibility
- Curbs, streets, and infrastructure needs
- ADA considerations
- Traffic speed and safety concerns
- Aging housing stock and property maintenance needs
- Affordability challenges for residents needing home repairs
- Vacant and underutilized properties
- Future use of the restaurant space
- Communication with residents
- Centralized public information
- Continued technology improvements

- Expanded City Hall hours
- Resident engagement and customer service
- Board training and onboarding
- Policy and ordinance review
- Continued grant opportunities
- Lighting, cameras, and public safety improvements

Past Improvements

The Board discussed issues that have improved over time, including:

- Improved financial condition
- Court operations being handled differently
- Code enforcement and permitting processes being in place
- Increased use of grants
- Park and trail improvements
- Playground and gazebo improvements
- Street paving and prior infrastructure work
- Improved use of technology
- Recording of meetings
- Better organization and customer service at City Hall

Policies, Ordinances, and Future Review Items

The Board discussed several items that may need future review, including:

- Sign ordinance updates
- No Mow May / Low Mow-related ordinance considerations
- Dog tax/license requirements
- Vehicle registration sticker requirements
- Property maintenance and inspection practices
- Communication policies
- Board procedures and rules of decorum
- Board onboarding and training materials

Board Reflection and Governance Discussion

The Board discussed what future elected officials should understand and continue, including:

- Maintaining strong City processes and documentation
- Preserving housing and neighborhood standards
- Continuing social events and community engagement
- Supporting training for elected officials
- Providing clear onboarding materials
- Understanding Board roles, procedures, and Robert's Rules
- Encouraging residents to participate in local government

- Leaving the City better than they found it

The Board also discussed the importance of providing sufficient information for decision-making, including summaries, supporting documentation, comparisons with other municipalities when appropriate, and continued opportunities for questions and discussion.

Public Engagement Discussion

The Board discussed current and future ways to engage residents, including social events, neighborhood conversations, community surveys, public meetings, direct communication with City Hall, and improved public information sharing.

The Board discussed the importance of meeting residents where they are and making participation accessible to residents with different communication preferences.

Next Steps

City Administrator St. Pierre identified several next steps, including:

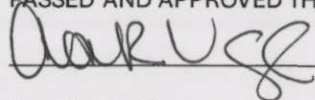
- Drafting the first community survey
- Scheduling the first public strategic planning session
- Developing a stakeholder list
- Gathering existing conditions data
- Beginning inventory work related to streets and sidewalks
- Continuing work toward a State of Bel-Nor Report
- Developing a communication plan for the strategic planning process
- Documenting Board and resident feedback throughout the process

Board members were encouraged to speak with residents, gather feedback, identify community stakeholders, and share input with staff for inclusion in the planning process.

Adjournment

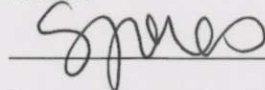
A motion to adjourn was made by Alderperson Ryan Brockschmitt and seconded by Alderperson Terri Durand. The work session adjourned at approximately 5:59 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 18 DAY OF June, 2026.



Anna Vogel, Mayor

ATTEST:



Savannah Jones, City Clerk

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