

Councilmember Anderson's Priorities for 2026

Number:

I think that Councilmember Nash's idea of one priority per Department has merit; however, I am also mindful of former Councilmember Brill's suggestion that too many priorities can lead to no forward progress on any of them. Here is one way of merging both ideas: take the aggregated list of priorities from the council and align them (as closely as possible) to the Departments. Make those the Department priorities (provided that the council agrees) Then, from that list, ask the Council to choose the "top four".

My Priorities

Traffic Synchronization: I can support keeping it on the list until the Director of Public Works is satisfied that it is fully operational, but I propose choose a back-up "replacement" priority now that will automatically replace it when it falls off.

1. **Capital Budget Review:** This certainly is a very high priority for me. Essentially, perhaps as part of the budgeting process this spring, I would like to have a comprehensive analysis of the capital budget. I think that it is essential that we have a clear picture of all of our capital needs and our resources before committing a huge part of those resources to an aquatic/fitness center.
 - a. First, I think that it is important to do some historical analysis. Specifically, what has been our annual capital expenditures for the past twenty or so years, separately split into general assets, water and sewer, and stormwater? And what is the historic pattern of expenditure of major new capital projects? That is, in what years did we fund the construction of major new capital projects such as the community center expansion and the police station, and how much did we spend on them? And what was the source of those funds, split into general bonds, water and sewer fees, or ARPA, Maud Robinson, trust and other (such as state grants)?
 - b. Second, some going forward projections: Please provide a projection of annual funds for capital improvements available to us for the next ten years, based on revenues and borrowing. What are the projected amounts over the next ten years that we can spend on capital projects, separately for earmarked (water and sewer and stormwater) versus non earmarked (all the rest, including roads, parks and rec, and building upgrades)? And what are our major needs over the next ten years? For the major needs, I would like to roll in the recent water system assessment, as well as our latest projections for sewer replacement. I

would also like to see the total estimates of funding set forth in the Parks Master Plan (both with and without aquatics/fitness center) included.

2. **Communications Improvements:** As I mentioned in the work session, I think that we need to right size and reorganize our public outreach. For this reason, I would keep communication improvement on the priorities list.
3. **Ongoing Land Use:** I divide this into two major items: Finish the new comprehensive plan, with an emphasis on finding acceptable ways of promoting housing diversity; and try to complete as much of the unfinished business in the town building code review as possible (especially parking).
4. **Cellular Reception:** I support this as a priority. The council needs to get a handle on both the state of the technology and the law with respect to cellular coverage. I would propose a work session (maybe led by a consultant) to educate us on these important elements of the problem. Then, we can have an informed discussion of what our policy options are, including a consideration of Councilmember Francis' idea of leasing town land for cell towers in areas of poor reception.
5. **Elections:** Although I recommend adopting only four major priorities, I offer up a fifth, so see if there is support. I would like the council to consider moving to four year terms, with elections every other year, and the terms staggered so that three council members are elected every other year. The mayor would also have a four year term. This is the only formula that aligns Town Council elections to fall on odd years, and have staggering of council terms.