



City of Reedsburg

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Staff Report



2017 Annual Legislative Policy - Strategic Plan

Policy Statement

Approved December 2016

The Annual Legislative Policy - Strategic Plan document provides policy direction to the City staff, and any of the City's state and federal legislative advocates which may be assisting the City outside the normal General Guiding Principles contained within the Legislative Policy.

Policy Statement

The objective of the City of Reedsburg legislative program is to keep the City Council, community and staff fully advised of proposed legislation with a potential impact upon the City. It is the City's general policy to take timely and effective action in support of, or opposition to, proposed legislation affecting Reedsburg at the County, State, and Federal levels. In addition, the City, where appropriate, will take the initiative to seek introduction of new legislation beneficial to Reedsburg.

General Legislative Priorities

1. Protect and increase local government discretion and oppose legislation, policies and budgets that reduce the authority and/or ability of local government to determine how best to effectively operate local programs, services, and activities.
2. Protect local revenue sources and prevent unfunded mandates.

Oppose Federal or State legislation, policies and budgets that have negative impacts on services, revenues and costs. Ensure that legislation, policies and budgets do not detract from Reedsburg's ability to draw on local revenue sources.

3. Protect and increase funding for specific programs and services.

Support County, State and Federal funding for local service by maximizing existing funding levels and seeking new and alternative funding for programs. Promote increases in the allocation of funds to cities and flexibility in distribution.

Annual Legislative Strategic Initiatives

The Legislative Strategic Initiatives provides additional policy direction to the City staff, and other agencies or City's State and federal legislative advocates (Unfunded) on policy issues outside of the General legislative Priorities. When relevant, the Council's annual priorities may help inform advocate agency on the City's position on legislation.

Six annual legislative strategic initiatives are listed below in heading in order of importance.

Top Six Annual Legislative Policy – Strategic Plan Initiatives



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1. Advocate for position of “Local or Home Rule” legislation and oppose any legislation that would remove authority of the elected Mayor and Council authority.
2. Advocate for policies that promote the long-term stability of Municipal revenue oppose any proposed changes to distributing property tax or sales tax base away from use by the City.
3. Obtain grant funding for public safety, affordable housing, recycled water, homeless issues, and/or public infrastructure;
 - ~ Support continued funding for the Law Enforcement and Fire Training programs to provide training of firefighters, police officers, and emergency management personnel. Support funding as may be available from the U.S. Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program. Support continued funding for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant and the U.S. Fire Administration, the National Fire Academy, and the Emergency Management Institute.
4. Advocate for City employee housing to support industrial and commercial business development;
 - ~ Support industrial and manufacturing job related residential housing needs and support as needed through the use of CDBG Funding for employees home ownership. Review local housing numbers and densities in general plans and zoning ordinances to remove barriers.
5. Advocate for environmental initiatives that promote funding to support external funding to assist with property management and cleanup for Reedsburg Properties.
 - ~ Pursue funding for the cleanup of blighted properties. Currently there is no budget for the cleanup of private properties where action has been taken by the Building Inspection/Property Maintenance Program. Large projects where potential hazardous material exists, such as asbestos are handled on a case by case basis.
6. Immediate Funding Gaps: Continue to monitor State and Federal funding for major drainage, roadway construction and leisure property development funds.
 - ~ Seek and maintain local road funds for construction of South Dewey
 - ~ Seek funding for the extension of South Viking Drive into the Industrial / Commercial Business Park.
 - ~ Seek bridge repair funding for facilities in the City as may be available.
 - ~ Seek funding to support the development of Park, Recreation and Forestry areas; The 400 Trail, the Popple Nature Area a city premier nature area and walking trail along the Baraboo River, Half Moon Lagoon and Hay Creek. These areas can be developed into a destination for tourist and community pride.
 - ~ Seek large scale funding of “Flood Protection” measures along the Baraboo River. Several times this water course has reached outside the normal river boundaries and impacted nearby residential, commercial and essential public facilities. These areas should be programmed and under continuous grant applications seeking “Federal Assistance”.