

**City Council Priorities
Fiscal Year 2017-18**

Priority #1; Public Roads & Infrastructure Improvements & Repairs

- City Council will focus on the planning and execution of as many paving projects as possible, throughout the city. The following tasks will be completed:
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff and consulting engineers on the implementation and construction of the SAW/SRF infrastructure improvement projects (e.g. Monroe, North Shore Drive, Black River, Lovejoy, Kalamazoo, and pump stations.)
 - Utilizing the SRF/SAW studies which were provided by the State of Michigan, the city will seek to secure grant funding for the planned improvements for the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The purpose of the work is to improve the plant's treatment process, add capacity, and ensure the city can handle proposed commercial and industrial developments. These projects will seek to ensure the sanitary sewer system will maximize benefit to the public sewer system and the health of the community.
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff and consulting engineers on the construction and the implementation of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant funded improvement of Lakeshore Drive and the city's North Beach Park.
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff to execute paving projects in the 2017-18 paving season and begin planning for 2018-19 projects.
 - The City will identify a "mix of fixes" and invest in both the resurfacing and the reconstruction of streets. The city will identify the publicly controlled alleys, and will plan and implement necessary maintenance and improvements to those alleyways. Further, the city will seek to partner with the Michigan Department of Transportation and Van Buren County Road Commission to seek improvements to the intersection of Phoenix Street and Blue Star Highway, along with the I-196 Business Loop (e.g., Phoenix Street, Phillips Street, and Broadway Street.)
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff and the Downtown Development Authority to finalize the planning and design for the reconstruction of the Center Street, between Michigan Avenue and Williams Street.

Priority #2; Economic Development

- City Council will seek to participate in Economic Development efforts for the City of South Haven. The following tasks will be completed:
 - The Council will continue to actively work with the leaders of Casco Township and South Haven Charter Township to implement the Water/Sewer Authority structure.
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will focus on continuing to explore and enact partnership opportunities with the local units of government which surround the City of South Haven.
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff to implement the Corridor Improvement Authority, which seeks to redevelop the public infrastructure along Business Loop I-196 (e.g., Phoenix Street, Broadway Street, and Phillips Street.) Further, the authority should seek to encourage private investment in the areas adjacent to Business Loop I-196.
 - Begin working to plan and implement improvements to the Business Loop hardscape, to improve pedestrian access and to improve aesthetics.
 - The Council will seek to partner with the Michigan Maritime Museum to develop a capital improvement plan for the museum facility. As part of the planning process, an analysis will be performed to determine if the site can house a shared space conference center.
 - The Council will seek to partner with impacted stakeholders to explore the proposed sale of commercial property along the Black River, and determine if the city should be engaged, and how, in the redevelopment efforts.
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff, private developers, and public agencies to encourage, attract, and develop additional market rate housing options for year round residents. The housing development efforts will focus on vacant land with appropriate zoning, along with undeveloped spaces within the Central Business District.
 - As part of the effort to create housing options within the Central Business District, Council will work with staff and the Planning Commission to actively review parking requirements for residential developments within the Central Business District.

- Council will also work with the Housing Commission to determine if there is a need for additional senior housing options within the community, and to plan for those needs.
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff, local businesses and stakeholders to encourage, attract, and maintain local businesses and opportunities.
 - The city will attempt to attract and develop agriculture based businesses and industry within the South Haven community.

Priority #3; Parks & Public Spaces

- City Council will seek to improve, maintain, and seek funding opportunities for the city's parks and public facilities. The City Council will seek to develop new recreation opportunities within the city. The following tasks will be completed:
 - Council will work with the city's staff, consultants, and Parks Commission to develop a long term maintenance and improvement plan for the city's South Beach bluff property, which extends along Monroe Blvd.
 - The Council will work with staff and appointed officials to review and update the local recreation plan.
 - Maintenance of the city's various beach access points will be a priority. Staff will work with the city's Parks Commission to plan and landscape and signage standards for the various public bathing beach access areas.
 - Complete the planning, and submit a grant application, for the proposed "splash pad" water park.
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff to finalize and implement the landscape plans for the Water Street hillside (the public property on the south side of Water Street, between Kalamazoo Street & South Beach.) That plan will seek to improve public space, improve accessibility to Water Street, from the adjacent streets, and create a unified landscape design.
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff and the Parks Commission to develop and implement repair and replacement plans for the city's Kids' Corner playground at Monroe Park.
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff and the Harbor Commission to plan and implement repair and replacement plans, dredging plans, and harbor improvement plans, for the city's public marina facilities. As

- part of this process, the city will continue actively seeking funding from the State of Michigan, to assist with the project planning and implementation.
- During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff to implement grant funds to assist with the redevelopment at Black River Park. Those improvements should allow greater access to the Black River and attempt to improve water quality.
 - The Council will seek to fund improvements to the riverfront at Black River Park. The Council will implement the partially grant funded projects at Black River Park, using the LWCF grant from the State of Michigan. Those improvements will include parking, stone based seawall, and landscape upgrades.
 - The Council will seek grant funding for the proposed fish cleaning station at Black River Park. Further, the Council will seek grant funding and local financing for paving the Black River Park overflow parking area access road, which is currently gravel based.
 - The Council will seek grant funding to expand the parking lot, which is included in the Black River Park plan, and provides additional parking to the park and the Central Business District.
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff and the regional community stakeholders to assist with planning and development of the additional recreation areas.
 - Staff will continue to assist with the development of the South Haven Area Recreation Authority (SHARA.) Staff will assist with the restoration of the farm lease agreement for the SHARP property, in Casco Township, in an attempt to develop additional project revenue.
 - Staff will actively work with SHARA to implement the planned improvements to the soccer fields owned by South Haven Public Schools.
 - Staff will actively work with SHARA to implement the planned improvements at the Pilgrim Haven natural area.
 - Staff will actively work with SHARA to implement the planned acquisition of the 14th Avenue property, located in South Haven Charter Township, for the development of the SHARP athletic field concept.
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff to complete the planning and construction of the MNRTF grant funded BMX/Pump Track park facility.

- During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff, along with the impacted organizational stakeholders, to begin the implementation of the completed capital improvement plans for the buildings and grounds at the South Haven Center for the Arts, Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum, and the South Haven Memorial Library.

Priority #4; Central Business District Maintenance & Improvements

- City Council will seek to improve the city's downtown Central Business District. The following tasks will be completed:
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to plan and implement additional parking areas to service the Central Business District.
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff and the DDA to plan and implement blight elimination plans for the Central Business District.
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff to plan and implement repairs and maintenance of the downtown public infrastructure.
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff and the DDA to plan and implement the expansion of the public WIFI system, throughout the Central Business District. The proposed WIFI system should be reviewed for the possible creation of a new enterprise fund.

Priority #5; Land Acquisition & Redevelopment

- City Council will explore the possible acquisition of property which present specific value (e.g., recreational and/or environmental) to the citizens and guests of the City of South Haven. The following tasks will be completed:
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff to seek grant funds to assist with the potential acquisition of the privately owned, undeveloped parcels adjacent to Lake Michigan and/or the Black River.
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff to develop a plan for the future of the city's dump site, located at Blue Star Hwy and 2nd Avenue. The city will seek to partner with the local LDFA/BRA board to determine if redevelopment of the site is a benefit to the community.
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff to develop a plan to partner with the condo association at the Central Lofts development to expand public space at the property commonly referred to as "Baer Park."

- During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff and the South Haven Public School system to seek grant funding for the purchase of the Packard Park property.
- During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff and the Harbor Commission to explore space needs for future Black River dredging project spoils, and will research privately owned and/or undeveloped parcels which could house dredge spoils.

Priority #6; Budget Controls

- City Council will seek to develop policies and procedures which assure budget controls and cost containment are a priority.
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff to plan and develop an operating budget which aligns with the decreasing State and local anticipated revenues.
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will seek to update the City's capital improvement plan. That plan will seek to incorporate and update the adopted Infrastructure Improvement Plan, WWTP Capital Plan, Electric System Capital Plan, and Parks & Public Spaces Plan and seek to guide spending decisions and budget planning for the next ten (10) years.
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will refine policies and programs which encourage, whenever fiscally prudent, the purchase of local goods and services.

Priority #7; Building Improvements & Construction

- City Council will seek to construct and/or improve a portion of the city's public buildings and grounds. The following tasks will be completed:
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff to plan and implement upgrades to the Department of Public Works facility, which may include the development of a cold storage area for electric transformers, may include the possible expansion of the facility's grounds, and the possible development of an additional driveway to Blue Star Hwy.
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff and the City's Housing Commission to plan and implement housing improvement grants for traditional neighborhoods in the City.

Priority #8; City Code, Charter, and Zoning Review

- City Council will seek to review and consider possible alterations to the city's Code of Ordinances. The following tasks will be completed:
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff to review and consider alterations to the City's Code of Ordinances to ensure best practices. Staff will be expected to prepare a variety of code review reports, with possible alterations, for the City Council's consideration.
 - Also included in the review process, the Council will work with staff and the Planning Commission to review the Code of Ordinances and Zoning Ordinance to determine whether updates are needed to address concerns related to short-term rentals.
 - The Council will work with staff and the Planning Commission to complete the mandated review of the adopted Master Plan.

Priority #9; Bicycle, Pedestrian Pathways, and Water Trails

- City Council will seek to plan and construct bicycle and pedestrians paths throughout the city. The following tasks will be completed:
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff on the planning and development of the Blue Star Highway multi-use trail project.
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff on the planning and development of water trails on the Black River and Lake Michigan. The focus of the water trail planning is to focus on maintaining and creating access to public waterways for non-motorized water craft.

Priority #10; Customer Service

- City Council will seek to improve customer service and support from the city's various departments. The following tasks will be completed:
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff to plan and implement customer service and job training to city staff, focusing on improving the public's impression of and interaction with the city's staff.
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff to plan and implement improvements to the City's website. The improvements will be designed to improve the public's access to information and services.

- During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff to plan and implement the addition of electronic forms to the city's website. In an effort to improve customer service and expedite requests for city services.
- During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff at the South Haven Police Department (SHPD) to continue and expand citizen engagement programs. The SHPD will be asked to continue its Citizen Police Academy for local residents. Further, the SHPD will be asked to plan and implement additional citizen engagement programs which will include women's self-defense training, CPR training, and summer youth engagement opportunities.

Priority #11; Explore Youth Services Programs

- City Council will explore the possible expansion of services tailored to address the needs of local youth. The following tasks will be completed:
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff to explore the possible development of youth services. Staff will seek to develop possible partnerships with South Haven Public Schools and Lake Michigan College to develop youth services programs. Staff will seek possible funding sources to offset the service costs.
 - The city will work to partner with local non-profit organizations to plan and implement summer youth activities that are intended to promote organized and positive recreational opportunities.
 - During the 2017-18 fiscal year Council will work with staff to explore potential partnerships with MiWorks, and other agencies, to improve employment opportunities for local youth.