



Monday, September 22, 2025

Council Holds Special Session to Approve Downtown Arch Details

City council members met in a brief special session on Friday afternoon to approve time-sensitive details of an agreement to bring back a piece of the city's history by constructing a welcome arch in downtown Boone.

The council unanimously approved a resolution authorizing an agreement to place the arch over Story Street at the intersection of Fifth Street. "All associated costs, including but not limited to materials, construction, engineering, and installation, shall be the sole responsibility of Downtown Boone, Inc., which shall ensure that all such costs are fully paid," the resolution states.

R.H. Grabau Construction, Inc., the project's general contractor, is required to obtain and provide proof of all required liability insurance and a surety bond, naming the City of Boone as a loss payee. The project must follow approved engineering plans and specifications, "with final approval by the City of Boone required before installation begins."

The resolution also states that if any noncompliance is found, the city will provide written notice to Downtown Boone, Inc., which will have up to 21 days to correct the issue. If the issue is not resolved, the city may require Downtown Boone, Inc., to remove the arch and restore the site to its original condition at the organization's expense.

The city, which will become the owner of the arch once it has been accepted, will be responsible for all maintenance. The city will retain sole discretion to determine if the arch should ever be removed at the city's expense and makes no guarantee that the arch will remain over Story Street permanently.

In February, council members approved a \$30,000 grant from the city's hotel-motel tax fund to help defray the project's estimated \$135,000 to \$145,000 cost. Local business leader George Eckstein told councilmembers at the time that a local group was raising funds to build the steel arch to welcome people to "Try Boone, You'll Stay." A similar arch, erected in 1915 by the Boone Business Club, was a Story Street mainstay until it was removed as part of a national effort to gather metal for the World War II push to build warships, planes, tanks, and other vehicles.

"A group of us want to see that arch put back up," Eckstein said then, noting that the arch's materials would all be purchased from Boone companies and its assembly would be performed by local professionals.

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