



Friday, November 21, 2025

Council Hears Downtown Boone Main Street First-Year Review

During the city council's second regular meeting of the month, Downtown Boone Main Street Executive Director Holly Stecker told council members that the organization is off to a strong start in its first year.

Presenting the organization's year-in-review report, Stecker said downtown activities include six business starts or expansions, a net gain of 12 new jobs, nine building projects, three building sales, \$367,903 in private investments, \$5,000 in public investment, and 842 volunteer hours valued at \$19,138.66.

Downtown Boone Main Street's first-year accomplishments include a tree grate transformation project, a trash receptacle "glow-up," In Bloom at Eighth and Story, a birthday bash and volunteer thank you event and the adoption of design guidelines. Its crowning accomplishment is the reconstruction of the historic arch at Fifth and Story streets that will welcome visitors to the downtown. The original arch, erected in 1915, was removed as part of a national scrap drive during World War II to collect metal to build warships, planes, tanks, and other vehicles.

The arch's 18-foot-deep cement footings, which required roughly three weeks to cure, have been poured, and topped with limestone caps that will hold the 84-foot wide metal arch that reads, "Try Boone, You'll Stay." The arch, which will have a 16-foot clearance and stand 22 feet high at the top of its arch, and its lighting are scheduled to be installed next week.

Downtown Boone Main Street's priorities as it moves into its second year will include growing partnerships with schools, Boone County and businesses; strengthening trust between downtown businesses and building owners; defining its culture by spelling out its goals, values and standards; and shaping the downtown's future together, Stecker said.

Christina Skalkow with Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc., which provides engineering consulting services to the city, reported that two geotechnical firms provided bids to conduct soil borings for the new water tower project to be erected northeast of the Boone Veterinary Hospital near the Daisy Brands dairy-processing facility currently under construction. The council approved the low bid of \$15,670 from Braun Intertec Corp., of Urbandale. As requested by the city, Braun Intertec will drill three test borings 80 feet below grade.

"We will perform standard penetration tests at 2-1/2 foot vertical intervals to a depth of about 20 feet, and at 5-foot intervals at greater depths. If the intended boring depths do not extend through unsuitable material, we will extend the borings at least 5 feet into suitable material at greater depths. The additional information will help evaluate such issues as excavation depth, consolidation settlement, and foundation alternatives, among others," the company stated.

The council approved the city's annual street finance report required by state law. The report indicates fiscal year 2025 spending totaled \$3,823,746. Revenues included \$1,817,755 from the road use fund, \$955,980 from capital projects funding, \$485,418 from other special revenues, \$296,064 from debt service, \$189,000 from utilities and \$12,634 from the general fund streets.

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