



Friday, December 19, 2025

## **Council Acts on Water Infrastructure, Approves 2026 Strategic Goals**

During its final regular meeting of the year, the City Council continued action to improve Boone water infrastructure and approved its strategic goals for the coming year.

Council members voted 6-0 with Councilman Kole Hilsabeck absent to award a contract for the water treatment plant ground storage reservoir rehabilitation project to Minturn, Inc., of Brooklyn, Iowa. The company presented the low bid of \$1.034 million for the project's base bid and \$144,600 to replace the reservoir's roof. Short Elliott Hendrickson, which provides engineering guidance to the city, had estimated the base project cost at \$1.125 million and the roof replacement at \$377,000. Two other firms submitted bids that exceeded SEH's estimate. A community development block grant will cover \$500,000 of the project cost and the balance will be funded through water fees.

The council voted to solicit bids for a 1-million-gallon water tower to accommodate the Daisy Brand dairy processing facility under construction south of the municipal airport and future growth in that part of the community. At-large Councilman Kyle Angstrom, who chairs the Public Works Committee, said a comparative analysis of three styles of water towers resulted in the recommendation that the city move forward with a composite elevated water storage tank.

Angstrom said that type of tower has a number of advantages that made it the preferred option over two other designs, including \$10 million in reduced maintenance costs over 50 years and more uniform water pressure.

The city's annual efforts to rehabilitate sanitary sewers will continue in 2026 with the approval of a \$180,067 contract with Municipal Pipe Tool Company of Hudson to clean, prepare and install cured-in-place pipe lining. The project areas and estimated costs are: Part 1, Cedar Street from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Street, \$31,631; Part 2, Meridan Street from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> Street, \$29,347; Part 3, 14<sup>th</sup> Street from Cedar to Argo, \$42,704; Part 4, Boone Street from Third to Union, \$43,024; Part 5, Greene Street from Union to First, \$15,620; and Part 6, First Street from Greene to Carroll, \$17,740.

The council also approved strategic goals, developed during a December 2<sup>nd</sup> work session with city staff, for the coming year. Those goals focus on quality of life for the community's residents, economic vitality and growth, and infrastructure improvements. Priorities in each category are:

- Personnel: emergency services; applying for a federal Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant for the potential hiring of three new firefighters; a staffing/salary study; the hiring of one full-time parks employee; and a review of city services.
- Quality of Life: rebuilding of the greenspace, funding the 10-year Boone Municipal Parks Comprehensive Plan, and increasing activities for children, teens, and older residents.
- Growth: economic development priorities, housing needs, debt service utilization, downtown building improvements and incentives, and updating the city's comprehensive plan.
- Infrastructure: water, sanitary sewer, and street improvements.

In other business:

- The council heard reports from Visit Boone County Executive Director Kris Blocker and Ames Regional Economic Alliance Senior Vice President Brenda Dreyer. Blocker said several large events – the 2025 Pyrotechnical Guild International convention the first-ever 2025 NJCAA Division II Women's Golf Championship and Iowa Firefighters Association convention – “brought thousands of people into Boone and Boone County for the time that they were here.” “They spent quite a bit of time here, as well as they used a lot of local vendors for what they did,” Blocker said. “You’ll see our hotel/motel tax dollars are up almost \$11,000 – \$10,904 to be exact – so, I’m really excited about that.” Dreyer said two numbers illustrate the success of efforts to grow Boone. The first, she said, is a \$273 million increase in the city’s taxable valuation over the past five years. While acknowledging that some of the increase is due to a recent statewide property reassessment, she emphasized a large share is due to economic development successes and housing growth the second number is an increase of 204 housing units in the past two years. “It’s fun to get work alongside you. Not every day do we have things going in a positive direction, but it’s fun to look at the end result and what it means,” she said.
- City attorney Rafael Montag noted that Jim Robbins, whose 51-year legal career includes many years as Boone County attorney and more than 13 years as the city attorney, will end his public service at year’s end. “Jim is definitely somebody who is always looking to find a way to move things forward. It’s always for the betterment of the community, and he’s always been a big advocate for public employees, so I wanted to (recognize him) for that, and also thank him for personal mentorship that he’s given me and many, many other attorneys in the community over the years,” Montag said.
- Councilmembers tabled a request to fund banner hangers on the new light poles in the downtown district.