



Wednesday, June 19, 2024

## **Council Discusses Development and Housing Needs Assessment**

The Boone City Council held a public hearing to consider adopting a community development and housing needs assessment during its regular meeting on Monday evening.

The assessment lists community needs of Boone's low- and moderate-income residents. Those needs were identified by city government's elected and appointed officials based on capital planning sessions and the development of a hazard mitigation plan over the past few months.

City officials have already addressed some needs identified in the assessment, programming them into the city's five-year capital improvement plan. Councilmembers, Mayor Eli Stines and city staff are working to identify the appropriate resources to make other projects a reality.

High-priority needs include increasing the quality of existing housing stock through rehabilitation; addressing a major need for new housing by developing "both owner-occupied and rental units; meeting Americans with Disabilities Act health and safety standards for sidewalks throughout the city by installing ADA-compliant ramps; replacing police, fire and public works essential equipment critical to city operations; constructing improvements to the Snedden Drive Lift Station to "ensure continued operations of the sewer collection system;" and completing improvements to the wastewater treatment facility.

In other business:

- Stines signed a proclamation designating June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month in Boone, encouraging "our residents to reflect on the ongoing struggle for equality members of the LGBTQ+ community face and celebrate the contributions that enhance our city."
- Councilmembers approved resolutions to hire Drew Schwering and Michael Salati as full-time firefighters to fill vacant positions. Both men took the Boone Fire Department oath of office, as administered by Stines, and were welcomed into their new roles.
- The council appointed Marty Montag to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a five-year term, expiring June 30, 2029, to replace Rich Sterns.
- The council approved Resolution 3224, ordering construction of the Boone water and wastewater treatment facilities roofing replacement project and fixing a date for taking of bids therefor, and Resolution 3226, ordering construction of the lime slaker replacement project and fixing a date for hearing thereon and taking of bids therefor.