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Mayor Stines' 2025 priorities: Keep momentum going with focus on the basics

Mayor Elijah Stines is welcoming the new year with priorities that are “not that flashy,” but are essential to maintaining Boone’s economic and quality-of-life forward momentum.

Stines, who was elected mayor in November 2023 after serving as Third Ward council member since 2018, has just completed his first full year as mayor. He entered the mayor’s office expressing that he was “relentlessly optimistic” about the city’s future. And nothing has changed his positive mindset.

Before turning his focus to 2025, Stines expressed appreciation to everyone involved in the Story Street reconstruction project, Boone’s designation as a Main Street Iowa community, the development of housing at various price points, and securing the Daisy Brands \$626.5 million dairy processing facility. The Daisy Brands project includes extending Hancock Drive by approximately 1,700 feet and adding turn lanes and a traffic signal at the intersection of Corporal Roger Snedden Drive and Hancock Drive to provide access to the Daisy Brands site and future development.

“All of those efforts set us up well for the future,” he said. “This will allow us the opportunity to grow and widen the pool of taxable valuations to hopefully get property tax relief for current residents. The variety of housing will allow people to remain in Boone and be able to change their housing situation as they go through their different stages of life.”

He continued, “I think 2025 is going to be a year where our focus is going to be on this deferred maintenance.”

He noted that the city council voted unanimously in early December to set the following goals for the upcoming year:

- A continuation of ongoing demolitions and nuisance abatements.
- A multi-year plan for stump removal in parking areas, which is estimated to cost up to \$75,000 per year.
- An update of the City of Boone logo.
- Allocating \$100,000 from the city’s 331 account to repair damaged curbs and smaller defects on streets.

Stines is also looking forward to receiving a 10-year comprehensive plan from the Boone Park Commission’s five members. He said city leaders will budget funding in this fiscal year for a “very large street reconstruction project for the following fiscal year along First Street.”

“That’s the thing with infrastructure – you’ve got to go back and fix it. It may not be flashy but it’s the responsible thing to do and it’ll save us money in the long run. “We also did our 20-year studies for improvements to our water and wastewater systems to keep up with future needs, so that fits into this same theme.”

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