



Thursday, February 20, 2025

Council Approves Grant for Downtown Welcoming Arch

The Boone City Council approved funding during its regular meeting on Monday evening to bring back a piece of the city's history with the construction of a new downtown landmark.

Local business leader George Eckstein told councilmembers that a local group has been raising funds to build a steel arch that welcomes 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.

He noted that the arch's materials would all be purchased from Boone companies and its assembly would be performed by local professionals. Eckstein asked the council for a \$30,000 city grant to help defray the project's estimated \$135,000 to \$145,000 total cost.

The group hopes to build the arch at Eight and Story streets, but alternative sites are the original Ninth-and-Story location or south of the intersection of Sixth and Story streets. City officials will work with the group to select the final site.

Noting Eckstein's role in advocating for the city's hotel-motel tax and fund years ago, Mayor Elijah Stines said it would be "fitting to fund this project with those funds." The council unanimously approved the request for \$30,000, which will still leave the fund with a reserve of at least \$130,000 this fiscal year.

Public Works Director Waylon Andrews updated the council on plans for this year's citywide clean-up, which marks its 15th year. He said the program has been a success, but some people have tried to take advantage of the free service by discarding prohibited items, such as shingles, or throwing out far too many unwanted items. He added, "We've had four dump-truck loads from a property."

The city staff will be sending out updated information about this year's clean-up, emphasizing the total amount and list of items allowed for disposal.

In other action, the council:

- Approved resolutions authorizing loan and disbursement agreements and the issuance of sewer revenue capital notes not to exceed \$1.131 million and water revenue capital notes not to exceed \$866,000 to improve the city's water and wastewater infrastructure.
- Set public hearings for 6:00 p.m., March 3, for the consideration of the sale of property located at 117 West Ninth Street and the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Improvement Plan.
- Appointed Lisa Addy to the Family Resource Center Board to complete the remainder of Lacey Dreezen's term, expiring June 30, 2027.
- Approved the first reading of an ordinance to create a handicapped parking space on Sixth Street for the Boone County Historical Center, 602 Story St. The space is on the north side of Sixth Street and is the fourth space from Story Street with close access to the center's east entrance.

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