



Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Council Action Moves New Well Project Forward

Southeast Boone First Street Overlay Project Postponed to 2027

Moving long-term improvements to the city's water system forward was a top issue for the City Council during its second regular meeting of the month on Monday evening as members took action on several resolutions related to the development of Well No. 30. The well project is part of the Water Expansion Project that has been going on for a couple of years.

Following a public hearing, the council voted to apply for a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$500,000 for the Well No. 30 project.

The grant would provide matching funds for \$20,471,000 from the Iowa Finance Authority and the State Revolving Fund (SRF), which provides Iowa communities with low-cost funds to invest in infrastructure that delivers safe drinking water and keeps waterways clean. That amount is the estimated cost for the entire water expansion project.

As part of the Well No. 30 project, council members also approved a contract not to exceed \$21,330 with Bear Creek archeology, Inc., to conduct a "phase 1 archeological survey, including fieldwork, data review, analyses, report preparation, and all tasks necessary to complete the survey in accordance with the current Association of Iowa Archeologists guidelines for archeological investigations in Iowa."

The council also approved a change order from Braun Intertec to extend drilling for the Hancock Drive Water Tower project another 20 feet from a planned 80 feet to a 100-foot depth based on soil types found during the work.

The council approved an agreement with WHKS & Co. to conduct the 2026 sanitary sewer inflow and infiltration inspection program, which will take place in the area bordered on the north by Union Street, Park Avenue, and First Street to the city limits on the east and south, and McHose Park on the west.

This year's work is the eighth phase of an ongoing effort to reduce the amount of rainwater and groundwater entering the sanitary sewer system during wet weather, reduce sewage handling and treatment costs, minimize sanitary sewer overflows, and extend the life of upgrades made to the sewer system and treatment facilities.

Under the contract not to exceed \$170,901.09, the contractor's duties will include scheduling and conducting all sump pump inspections and re-inspections; installing, maintaining and removing temporary flow meters and rainfall gauges and graphing gathered information; conducting smoke testing of the sewer mains and manhole inspections.

Director of Public Works Waylon Andrews said the Southeast Boone First Street Overlay Project, which was expected to begin in July, fell behind schedule when the city's engineering firm was unable to send design details to the Iowa Department of Transportation for approval through the state agency's bidding process.

He said it would make sense to delay work until the summer of 2027 to avoid creating traffic issues connected to the Boone Middle School at the start of the academic year. Andrews added,

A delay will not interfere with the next overlay project because Andrews said one wasn't scheduled for 2027. He said the next overlay plan under consideration for 2028 would be North Linn Street between 11th and 22nd streets.

In other business, the council:

- reappointed Amy Landas to the Civil Service Commission for a four-year term, expiring March 31, 2030; Scott Kelley to the Planning and Zoning Commission and Toni Herrick to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for five-year terms, expiring June 30, 2031; and Sarah Dvorsky, Rachel McKenny and Barbara Rardin to the Library Board of Trustees for six-year terms, expiring June 30, 2032
- appointed former First Ward Councilman David Byrd to a five-year term on the Planning and Zoning Commission, expiring June 30, 2031, and replacing Monica Hanson.
- entered into closed session to discuss the disposition of particular real estate in which “premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the government body would have to pay for that property or reduce the price the governmental body would receive for that property” and to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered.

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