

North Branch City Council

Work Session

Date of Meeting: February 18, 2016
Present: Councilmembers Theresa Furman, Joyce Borchardt, Robert Canada,
and Kirsten Hagen-Kennedy.
Absent: Councilmember Kathy Blomquist
Also Present: Administrator Konrad

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Goal Setting Session

Konrad provided an overview of the goals as submitted by Council and then outlined the process for the discussion.

Hagen-Kennedy reviewed her goals for the City.

- Make sure decisions about planning maintain and meet financial obligations now and in the future.
- Don't make decisions that hurt financial stability.
- Habitat for Humanity veteran's house is a priority.
- Attract developer for workforce housing development.
- Ice rink safety on Grand Avenue. Little kids going into street to get pucks. Would like to explore maintaining the high school hockey rink and leave the rink for skating. She knows an Eagle Scout who may want to work on this project.
- Expansion of public Wi-Fi access. Identify one good public location for public Wi-Fi. Possibly the Senior Center.
- Transportation Plan to access Interstate Business Park.
- Social media presence expanded. She would like to explore economic development through the use of Twitter, Facebook, etc.
- Public input on city priorities.
- Expand I love North Branch campaign.
- Affordable housing options.
- NB Police Department fully staffed
- Attract businesses to North Branch.
- Sustainable Initiatives.
- Splash pad in North Branch.
- Mice on Main. People from all over come to see the mice. The City that did this it cost them \$2,000 to get it up and running and it brings people to town.

Borchardt reviewed her goals for the City.

- Transportation plan.
- Determine cause of rent burdened housing.
- TIF housing.
- Assist with private land development to bring in residential development.
- Sell lots in Olson Trust.
- Park development.

Furman reviewed her goals for the City.

- Pay off debt.
- Increase jobs.
- More professional at meetings.

- Increase quality housing.
- Continue goals from first year.
- Increase participation with community organizations.
- Spotlight the City as a destination.
- Show off North Branch attributes.
- Transportation hub for the area.
- Tax for hotels/tourism.

Canada reviewed his goals for the City.

- Develop Business Park.
- Work with business owners.
- Habitat for Humanity housing.
- Attract light industrial business.
- Advertise the City and what it has to offer.
- Work with owners of outlet mall to update it or find developer to redevelop it.
- Improve welcome signage.
- Transportation bypass around City.
- Move City Hall out to Fire Hall property.
- Increase housing stock.
- Create a way to draw folks to the City.

Konrad read Blomquist's goals for the City.

- Workforce housing.
- Build on I love North Branch campaign.
- Update Comp plan.
- Update Parks comp plan.
- Workforce housing near Business Park.
- Attract businesses.
- Love North Branch fun.
- Attract businesses to park.
- Transportation plan.
- Community for lifetime with council on aging.
- Enhancements at Williams Park.
- Greensteps City Designation.
- Street, sewer and water reconstruction.

Konrad reviewed the Goals and wrote them on sheets on the wall.

Furman asked that alternative revenue sources be added to the goals list.

Council marked their goal choices as a way to prioritize. Staff will compile the list and discussions will continue.

Adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridgitte Konrad, City Administrator
jrl/TOSS