

**City Council Priorities
Fiscal Year 2015-16**

Priority #1; Street Repairs

- City Council will focus on the planning and execution of as many paving projects as possible, throughout the city. The following tasks will be completed:
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff and the Downtown Development Authority to plan the reconstruction of the Center Street, between Michigan Avenue and Williams Street.
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff and consulting engineers on the construction planning and financial planning for the implementation of the Indian Grove infrastructure improvement (e.g. Monroe, Lovejoy, and Kalamazoo Streets) project.
 - Utilizing the SAW grant funding provided by the State of Michigan, through the SRF program, for the Indian Grove infrastructure improvement project, the City will ensure the sanitary sewer system planning is complete and future capital projects will maximize benefit to the sewers.
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff to execute paving projects in the 2015 paving season and begin planning for 2016-17 projects.
 - The City will identify a “mix of fixes” and invest in both the resurfacing and the reconstruction of streets. The City will identify the publicly controlled alleys, and will plan and implement necessary maintenance and improvements to those alleyways. As part of these investments, the City will prioritize the street reconstruction of portions of Kalamazoo Street and Michigan Avenue. And will also prioritize street repair efforts on portions of Center Street, Brockway Avenue, and Park Avenue. Further, the City will seek to partner with the Michigan Department of Transportation and Van Buren County Road Commission to seek improvements to the intersection of Phoenix Street and Blue Star Highway.

Priority #2; Economic Development

- City Council will seek to participate in Economic Development efforts for the City of South Haven. The following tasks will be completed:
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff and the Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) to redevelop the recently acquired industrial site at 220 Aylworth.

- During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff, local businesses and stake holders to encourage, attract, and maintain local businesses and opportunities.
 - The City will attempt to attract and develop agriculture based businesses and industry within the South Haven community.
 - The City will review the current special events and consider new special events, in an attempt to ensure that the special events generate a positive economic impact for local businesses, and seek to improve the quality of life of community residents and visitors. The City will review the use of the South Beach for future special events, and determine whether to limit the number of events and/or modify the fees for the beach usage.
- During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will focus on continuing to explore and enact partnership opportunities with the local units of government which surround the City of South Haven.
- During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will focus on supporting training initiatives/internships for existing and potential citizens and businesses in the City of South Haven, and will attempt to finalize a partnership with Kinexus/MiWorks, in an attempt to provide local job placement services. Further, the City will pursue a partnership with Southwest Michigan First for economic development services.
- During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will refine policies and programs which encourage, whenever fiscally prudent, the purchase of local goods and services.
- During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff to develop a plan for the future of the city's dump site, located at Blue Star Hwy and 2nd Avenue.
- During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff to continue the monitoring of the Meijer commercial development, along with the potential development of the adjacent properties, and their effects on the surrounding neighborhoods.

Priority #3; Parks & Public Spaces

- City Council will seek to improve, maintain, and seek funding opportunities for the city's parks and public facilities. The City Council will seek to develop new recreation opportunities within the city. The following tasks will be completed:

- During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff to complete the planning and submit grant funding requests for the proposed improvements to the city's North Beach Park.
 - Maintenance of the City's various beach access points will be a priority. Staff will work with the City's Parks Commission to plan and landscape and signage standards for the various public bathing beach access areas.
 - Complete the planning for the proposed "splash pad" water park and begin financial planning for the project.
- During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff to develop landscape plans for the Water Street hillside (the public property on the south side of Water Street, between Kalamazoo Street & South Beach.) That plan will seek to improve public space, improve accessibility to Water Street, from the adjacent streets, and create a unified landscape design.
- During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff and the Parks Commission to develop repair and replacement plans for the City's Kids' Corner playground at Monroe Park.
- During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff and the Harbor Commission to develop repair and replacement plans, dredging plans, and harbor improvement plans, for the City's public marina facilities. As part of this process, the City will actively seek funding from the State of Michigan, to assist with the project planning and implementation.
- During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff to seek grant funds to assist with the planning and development of improvements in and near the Black River Park. Those improvements should allow greater access to the Black River and attempt to improve water quality.
 - The Council will seek to fund improvements to the riverfront at Black River Park. The Council will implement the partially grant funded projects at Black River Park, using the LWCF and CZM grants from the State of Michigan. Those improvements will include a new kayak launch, parking, stone based seawall, and landscape upgrades.
 - The Council will seek grant funding for the proposed fish cleaning station at Black River Park.
 - The Council will seek grant funding for the proposed parking lot, which is included in the Black River Park plan, and provides additional parking to the park and the Central Business District.

- During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff and the regional community stakeholders to assist with planning and development of the SHARP project.
 - Staff will continue to assist with the development of the South Haven Area Recreation Authority (SHARA.) Staff will assist with the restoration of the farm lease agreement for the SHARP property, in Casco Township, in an attempt to develop additional project revenue.
- During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff to complete the planning and construction of the proposed BMX/Pump Track park facility.
- During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff, along with the impacted organizational stakeholders, to begin the implementation of the completed capital improvement plans for the buildings and grounds at the South Haven Center for the Arts and the Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum.
 - The Council will seek to partner with the South Haven Memorial Library to develop a capital improvement plan for the library building. As part of the planning process, an analysis will be performed to determine the funding source(s) for the improvements.
 - The Council will seek to partner with the Michigan Maritime Museum to develop a capital improvement plan for the museum building. As part of the planning process, an analysis will be performed to determine if the site can house a conference center.
- During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will explore new park and public space programs which enhance City revenue and provide greater management oversight.
 - The Council will explore park rental programs, and continued updates to the beach parking program, and other revenue enhancements which could be used to benefit the City's parks and public spaces.

Priority #4; Infrastructure Maintenance & Improvements

- City Council will seek to maintain the highest quality public infrastructure. The following tasks will be completed:
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff and the Board of Public Utilities to explore the city's sanitary sewer system and eliminate inflow and infiltration of storm water connections from flowing to the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

- During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff to implement the creation of a Corridor Improvement Authority, which seeks to improve the public infrastructure on portions of Broadway and Phoenix Streets, and develop street improvements plans for Phoenix and Broadway. Those plans will seek input and potential funding from MDOT.

Priority #5; Central Business District Maintenance & Improvements

- City Council will seek to improve the city’s downtown central business district. The following tasks will be completed:
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff and the Downtown Development Authority to plan and complete the demolition of the Baars Printing building, and construct additional parking for the Huron Street parking lot.
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff to plan and implement repairs and maintenance of the downtown public infrastructure.
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff to review funding options to make improvements in the city’s downtown.
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff to plan and implement the expansion of the public WIFI system, throughout the Central Business District. The proposed WIFI system should be reviewed for the possible creation of a new enterprise fund.
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff to plan additions to the decorative lighting systems in the Central Business District, specifically along Broadway Avenue, between Phoenix Street and Williams Street.

Priority #6; Building Improvements & Construction

- City Council will seek to construct and/or improve a portion of the city’s public buildings and grounds. The following tasks will be completed:
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will actively explore concession stand proposals for the South Beach. These proposals may include potential partner agencies to assist with the capital cost for the proposed project.
 - As part of the concession stand planning, City Council will explore improvements which provide greater access to restrooms, family restrooms, changing rooms, and accessibility improvements.
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff to plan and implement upgrades to the Department of Public Works facility, which may include the

development of a cold storage area for electric transformers and the possible expansion of the facility's grounds.

- During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff to plan and implement upgrades to City Hall, which may include improvements to the building's emergency exits.
- During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff and the City's Local Development Finance Authority and Brownfield Redevelopment Authority to plan and implement the demolition of the "Overton Building" at 229 Elkenburg Street.
- During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff and the City's Housing Commission to plan and implement housing improvement grants for traditional neighborhoods in the City.

Priority #7; Land Acquisition

- City Council will explore the possible acquisition of property which present specific value (e.g., recreational and/or environmental) to the citizens and guests of the City of South Haven. The following tasks will be completed:
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff to seek grant funds to assist with the potential acquisition of the privately owned, undeveloped parcels adjacent to Lake Michigan and/or the Black River.
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff and the South Haven Public School system to seek grant funding for the purchase of the Packard Park property.
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff and the Harbor Commission to explore space needs for future Black River dredging project spoils, and will research privately owned and/or undeveloped parcels which could house dredge spoils.

Priority #8; City Code & Charter Review

- City Council will seek to review and consider possible alterations to the City's Code of Ordinances. The following tasks will be completed:
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff to review and consider alterations to the City's Code of Ordinances to ensure best practices. Staff will be expected to prepare a variety of code review reports, with possible alterations, for the City Council's consideration.

- Included in the review process, the Council will work with staff to review the effect of term limits for local elected officials, and consider whether term limits are beneficial to the City of South Haven.
- Also included in the review process, the Council will work with the Board of Public Utilities and staff to review the adopted Utility Policy and determine possible updates and improvements to the document.
- Also included in the review process, the Council will work with staff and the Planning Commission to review the Code of Ordinances and Zoning Ordinance to determine whether updates are needed for the Monroe Park neighborhood, adjacent to the North Beach.

Priority #9; Budget Controls

- City Council will seek to develop policies and procedures which assure budget controls and cost containment are a priority.
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff to plan and develop an operating budget which aligns with the decreasing State and local anticipated revenues.
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will seek to update the City’s capital improvement plan. That plan will seek to incorporate and update the adopted Infrastructure Improvement Plan, WWTP Capital Plan, Indian Grove Infrastructure Plan, and Electric System Capital, and seek to guide spending decisions and budget planning for the next ten (10) years.

Priority #10; Bicycle & Pedestrian Pathways

- City Council will seek to plan and construct bicycle paths throughout the city. The following tasks will be completed:
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will seek to partner with the MDNR to complete the construction of the Van Buren Trail bicycle pathway project. When completed, the pathway will connect pedestrians from the city’s downtown to the State of Michigan’s Van Buren State Park.
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff on the planning and development of the Blue Star Highway multi-use trail project.

Priority #11; Explore Youth Services Programs

- City Council will explore the possible expansion of services tailored to address the needs of local youth. The following tasks will be completed:
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff to explore the possible development of youth services. Staff will seek to develop possible partnerships to develop youth services programs. Staff will seek possible funding sources to offset the service costs.
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff to explore potential partnerships with MiWorks, and other agencies, to improve employment opportunities for local youth.

Priority #12; Customer Service

- City Council will seek to improve customer service and support from the city's various departments. The following tasks will be completed:
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff to plan and implement customer service and job training to city staff, focusing on improving the public's impression of and interaction with the city's staff.
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff to plan and implement the addition of electronic forms to the city's website. In an effort to improve customer service and expedite requests for city services.
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff to plan and implement improvements to the City's website. The improvements will be designed to improve the public's access to information and services.
 - During the 2015-16 fiscal year Council will work with staff to research the implementation of a one-time parking ticket forgiveness plan, for the City's beach parking lots. The plan is intended to allow beach visitors a one-time parking ticket waiver, in an effort to improve relations with beach goers and encourage greater compliance for returning guests.