

2025 City Council Goals



Councilmember
Brent Campbell



Councilmember
Heather Rostad



Mayor
Erik Skogquist



Councilmember
Sam Scott



Councilmember
Jeff Weaver

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ANOKA CITY COUNCIL GOALS

Goals listed in alphabetical order by last name.

Councilmember Brent Campbell

1. Progress on the sale and development of City owned land in the Highland Park neighborhood.
2. Sale and development of City owned property at 7th Avenue and Main Street.
3. Seek to reach a compromise plan with Anoka County for the jail expansion that preserves Anoka’s historic downtown and neighborhood around the jail.
4. Improve the profitability of some “Enterprise Funds”:
 - a. Relocate municipal liquor store to a better location.
 - b. Explore new business model for Green Haven golf course, including more usage of the event center for weddings and other special events.

- c. Open the municipal Cannabis dispensary in 2025.
5. Progress on Phase I of the Transit Oriented Development.
6. Explore ways to provide more adequate funding for City parks and playgrounds.

Councilmember Heather Rostad

1. Feasible Jail Solution for City/County

Collaborate with state/county leaders to either:

- Reduce current proposed option size.
- Find alternate site in the county.

2. Greater Fiscal Responsibility

- Sell property to be developed, emphasizing housing development in the TOD and Highland Park area to increase tax base.
- Stop using Electric Fund as internal bank.
- Prioritize development of TIF spaces: 7th/Main, 2nd/Harrison, etc.
- Prioritize cannabis and liquor retail opportunities.
- Clarify and document for the city and public how any future purchases/developments align with long range plans of the city, giving ample opportunity for citizen input and consideration for the historical footprint of the city.
- Establish and implement best practices for contract review/audits on an annual/biennial cycle.

3. Update Code of Conduct for Council and City Staff

- Clarify how city and citizens' values translate into a vision, mission, and goal statement that guides city staff and council interactions with each other and the public for enhanced transparency.
- Review terms on a biennial basis.

4. Community Safety/Engagement

4.1 Public Safety Services:

- Prioritize and ensure that city police, fire, and public emergency services receive the resources and materials to sustain the high quality of service citizens have been accustomed to.

4.2 Update Website:

- Eliminate old/bad links.
- Add software to create accessibility (language options/dropdown menu).
- Identify challenges in user experience (follow up/close the loop-many older residents will not use email prompts and call).

4.3 Youth Connections on City Boards & Commissions:

- Partnership with local high school student leaders to give voice and experience in city government.

4.4 Amplify Social District Family/Parks/Community Impact/Accessibility:

- On event days reserve street parking along 2nd Ave to be handicap only for events (Farmers Market, Rockin' on the Rum).
- Identify additional "Third Places" growth and development-bring to community and determine what ideas they may want to see explored.
- Prioritize and identify opportunities to expand walking/biking paths (ex: MRT extension on west side of city, 4th & Pleasant).
- Explore reusable cups for the Social District.

4.5 Enhance Community Self Service:

- Provide printable, online permits for overnight parking to eliminate busywork/paperwork for police staff (Burnsville does this).

4.6 City Resources Availability at Local Events/Festivals (may be doing this, but elevate visibility): *Ex: Pride event collaboration with 1st Congregational Church*

- Have a city table/resource at event to increase awareness of how city can help/support citizens (*WRRB does a great job of this*).

4.7 Identify Measurement Strategies (population accountability or performance accountability):

- What are current issues that the city would like to analyze/measure?
- Are there current metrics/data that is of concern to city staff/public?
- How can we increase communicating successes to city residents? Elevate and highlight the great work that the city staff does?

Councilmember Sam Scott

1. Develop a responsible city budget.
 - a. Budget and plan for opportunities that extend lifespan and enhance city assets.
 - i. Encourage multi-modal transport options.
 - ii. Reserve dedicated monies for the eventual replacement of city assets (playgrounds, buildings, roads, etc.) so when the asset needs to be replaced, the city is prepared with limited need to borrow from other city funds or to bond (ex. river maintenance fund).
 - iii. Accounts for minimum service requirements for the citizens of Anoka.
 - a. Adjusts for reasonable compensation packages to attract and retain talent in all departments (limits shortages especially for seasonal needs) for minimum service requirements.
 - b. Make investments that prepare Anoka and its residents for the future (redevelopment of the Anoka dam and trail system, RR grade separation project).
 - c. Divest city-owned land to expand tax base where appropriate.
2. Develop city protocols that promote local development and growth of citizenry and business development.
 - a. When considering business proposals, ensure consideration for local growth (incubation of our small businesses) when possible.
 - b. Adding a non-voting youth representative on our city boards and commissions to encourage youth citizenry and engagement.
3. Continue to evaluate security and redundancy of susceptible city assets and operations and create action plans to ensure stable services.
 - a. Work with our police, public works, and technology partners to develop actionable recommendations to ensure our power, water, and buildings have adequate security and redundancies in place to prevent potential sabotage, breakdown of equipment, and security breakdowns where feasible and appropriate.
4. Work with Anoka County counterparts to find a solution that works for both parties on the new jail facility, where a downtown solution is not acceptable in its current plan from the county.
5. Enhance public amenities/infrastructure that encourage stronger community spirit.
 - a. Continue to support and develop the Riverwalk plan.

- b. Continue to enhance the city Social District (addition of permanent restroom).

Mayor Erik Skogquist

1. Restore the city to a position of financial flexibility.
 - Build back reserves that have been depleted purchasing property over the past decade.
 - Sell or develop property in a way that fits the character of Anoka.
 - Grow the tax base both inside TIF districts to pay back internal loans to the Electric Department and outside of TIF districts to lower future levy impacts to all taxpayers.
2. Work with Anoka County on a mutually agreeable solution for an upgraded jail.
 - Address issues with releasing inmates in downtown Anoka.
 - The scale and scope of a facility in any location that is agreed to should fit with its surroundings.
3. Increase sidewalk/trail connections enhancing multimodal transportation.
 - Construct missing trail segment on 4th Ave and railroad tracks.
 - Plan for a trail between Garfield and Bunker Lake Blvd on west side of 7th Ave.
 - Stripe on-street bike lanes where practicable (e.g. Garfield, 4th Ave).
 - Increase sidewalk and trail connections on primary and secondary roads and to parks and schools.
4. Begin the process of creating infill standards so new construction blends with neighborhoods not redefines them.
 - Single family areas should be protected and complimentary home and uses should be the focus.
 - Certain development types and styles (townhouses, modern style like split levels) should be limited in the core historic neighborhoods (Christian Hills, Slab Town, Swede Town, Whiskey Flats).
 - Have HPC continue to identify zones to focus on first, then create overlay standards based on criteria in our existing ordinances or others cities’.
5. Explore future uses for the Miller Manufacturing property along Grant Street including feasibility as a community center.
 - Work with local sports organizations on indoor court/field needs and demand.
 - Gather community feedback on desired uses for a community center.

- Determine feasibility/layout of building based on feedback.
- Perform a financial analysis based on construction & operations costs and potential lease revenue.

Councilmember Jeff Weaver

1. Make sure to have a responsible budget. Finding new sources of revenue, or enhancing some of our revenue generating enterprise funds, like the golf course, to reduce the levy. Creating new development opportunities by selling non-tax generating city-owned properties which will increase the tax base. Only using bonding if there is a revenue generating component which does not affect the levy.
2. The agricultural area must be preserved if there is a façade easement in place, and a Letter of Intent with a potential long-term buyer.
3. The Rum River Dam project “must” include a navigational lock. The automated gates and walkway will be a safety feature extremely beneficial to our Public Works and Anoka’s overall trail system. The fish passage will help the matching funding requirement, and the river surfing, if possible, will put this use in Anoka “on the map”!
4. Infill standards in historic neighborhoods.
5. Responsible Anoka County Jail expansion in the City of Anoka.
6. River recreation, public safety accessibility on the water, trails and access to stone house, and a Riverboat or water taxi should be a top priority! The two rivers are Anoka’s biggest park system!
7. Continue to move forward with the golf course reconfiguration/closing of Garfield St., and multi-season driving range at Green Haven, if the financial analysis shows a pay back to the Anoka taxpayers.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS GOALS

Boards & Commissions listed in alphabetical order. Goals not necessarily listed in any specific order.

Economic Development Commission

1. Meet with or attend ABLA, Discover Anoka, and Chamber of Commerce meetings.
2. Bicycle Promotion Efforts to Attract Biking Enthusiast to visit Anoka.
3. Support, Promote, and Attract River Recreational Uses (River Boats/Electric Boats) or “Watertainment Activity”.

4. Support and advocate for the creation and utilization of enterprise funding sources outside of the standard property tax levy.
5. Continue to support Green Haven Golf Course improvements.

Heritage Preservation Commission

1. Support efforts to establish residential infill (zoning) standards.
2. Explore designation as certified local government (CLG)
3. Expand City Register.
4. Conduct televised meeting showcasing HPC award recipients.
5. Collaborate with Anoka-Hennepin School District on new interpretive signage and Lincoln School anniversary.

Home Rule Charter Commission

1. Hold annual meeting in the fall.

Housing & Redevelopment Authority

1. Identify and allocate funding for a qualifying Local Affordable Housing Aid Project(s).
2. Encourage the upkeep and renovation of commercial buildings to expand the tax base and create quality jobs through the HRA Commercial Loan Program and Façade Improvement Loan Program.
3. Complete the scattered-site, single-family, owner-occupied infill project at 426 Taylor Street (latest update from owner is groundbreaking in the spring after fence/driveway dispute is settled).
4. Provide up to \$100,000 to recipients of the CARE Grant Program in its fourth funding year.
5. Continue to maximize home improvement loan funds for Anoka residents.
6. Involvement in another successful North Suburban Home Show.
7. Further enhance HRA webpage, including frequent HRA related updates, where possible.
8. Encourage renovation and expansion of older, smaller homes in the City to adapt them to contemporary lifestyles.
9. Continue to acquire properties citywide through the Scattered Site Replacement Program as they become available for redevelopment. If a property is acquired by the HRA, list all properties on MLS prior to demolition.

Human Rights Commission - Have not met in 2025.

Park & Recreation Advisory Board

1. Complete easement acquisition and pre-planning/engineering for Rum River Trail 4th Ave Rail Crossing and complete construction.
2. Complete West Rum River Trail Phase 1 construction.
3. Complete park evaluation and assessment; identify long term funding strategy for park capital fund to support park system needs in the future.
4. Work with council to commit funding for future park redevelopment/enhancement projects and facility improvements.
5. Pursue grant funding for future projects.

Parking Advisory Board

1. Monitor and adjust permit-parking stalls, time-limit parking stalls, and e-charging stations in the downtown area – which include the review of handicapped parking spaces in the downtown parking area.
2. Monitor potential parking changes around the Jackson Street entertainment area, Anoka Courthouse area, and Regional High School area.
3. Monitor business changes and keep parking scheme updated to match business climate.
4. Assist city staff in getting empty permit parking stalls filled and leased. Examine full permitting process and update as necessary.
5. Consider and study requests from citizens and businesses for parking changes and traffic control changes.

Planning Commission

1. Implementation of Anoka Station Area Master Plan Update.
2. Consider changes to residential parking standards.
3. Continue review of zoning district use regulations.
4. Review of zoning architectural standards.
5. Continue fulfillment of the Planning Commission's obligations and responsibilities in service of Anoka, its residents and City Council.

Utility Advisory Board

1. Hire locally and promote internally.
2. Support a Rate and Costs of Service Study to justify current electric rates and distributed generation fees.
3. Support EV options for charging station growth.
4. Support proper Safety and Training for Employees.
5. Build AMU/customer awareness with AMI meter deployments and time of use rate structures.

6. Support Energy Audits with use of the CIP/ECO.
7. Build AMU money reserves.
8. Support City Hall Dam hydropower development.

Waste Reduction & Recycling Board

1. **Increase Organics Recycling Program Participation:** Boost participation in the organics recycling drop-off program to 300+ participants while continuing to provide education on the benefits and practices of organics recycling.
2. **Promote Safe Battery Recycling:** Continue to raise awareness about safe battery recycling with a focus on educating the public about the dangers of lithium batteries and proper disposal methods.
3. **Swap and Reuse Events:** Organize and host at least one swap event and one reuse event to encourage the exchange and repurposing of materials, promoting sustainability in the community.
4. **Plastic Cup Recycling Education:** Prioritize education on the recycling of plastic cups during the Anoka Social District season, offering a practical solution for reducing waste.
5. **Diverse Newsletter Content:** Provide a variety of recycling-related topics in the RAW newsletter to engage residents, ensuring that the content is informative to both beginning and experienced recyclers.

CITY DEPARTMENTS GOALS

Goals not necessarily listed in any specific order.

Administration

Administration/Human Resources Related

1. Develop policy related to suspensions/revocations related to Alcohol licensing.
2. Develop new FMLA Policy and Paid Family Leave Policy to address new laws going into effect for 2026.

Personnel/Human Resources Related

1. Negotiation Labor Contracts for Electric Utility, Public Services (Parks & Streets Division and Sewer & Water Division), and Patrol Unit.
2. Develop successive planning for retirements that will be occurring in 2025.

3. Locate firm to review and update the City's Wage-Point System (for Pay Equity purposes), begin process for the study.
4. Develop a more efficient process for Seasonal hiring.
5. Develop an improved process for Data Requests.
6. Develop new positions for Cannabis Dispensary.

Communications Related

1. Achieve 100% ADA compliancy with the city website.
2. Shift recycling program and SCORE grant funding responsibilities to allow for more focused communications efforts.
3. Begin website redesign process.
4. Enhance public communications utilizing all available tools and researching additional resources.
5. Develop a communications and marketing plan including a social media scheduling process.
6. Streamline special event permitting process.
7. Attend monthly Discover Anoka meetings to focus on marketing collaboration.

Anoka-Champlin Fire Department

1. Conduct a complete review of all Fire Department policies and procedures and revise as needed.
2. Conduct a complete review and update fire prevention policies and permit processes to meet current needs and remain uniform between both cities.
3. Continue to promote physical and emotional well-being within the department through education and providing opportunities and programs that support it.
4. Hire additional personnel to bring both full-time and on-call staffing levels as close as possible to authorized levels.
5. Continue to evaluate our staffing model with regards to full-time staffing levels and Duty Crew staffing hours and adjust as needed for the most optimal response model.

Anoka Municipal Utility

1. Enterprise Sub phase 2 bus and transformer work completion.
2. 2025 SSIP project design and completion.
3. Begin AMI metering with an Initial deployment area electric and water install completion.
4. AMI Utility Hawk customer portal development and implementation.
5. Crooked Lk Sub rebuild phase 1 completion.
6. Anoka County Jail Project design completion.
7. Develop budget yearly layover work order process with inventory control.
8. City hall Dam reconstruction Project with MMPA solar generation option.

9. Early in 2025. Completion of Rate and Cost of Services Study to support rate design.
10. Build Electric Dept. budget reserve fund.
11. UAB policy to hire locally and promote from within.
12. Support EV options for chargers and future growth.
13. Support home and business energy audits under the EOC (formerly CIP program).

Electric Dept. 1 to 5 year Projects

1. AMI meter deployment completion phase.
2. Greenhaven and Greenhaven Parkway project development.
3. 7th Ave and Main St City development project.
4. Miller Building (Grant St) project development.
5. Hwy 47/ Alter Metals area development.
6. Development at Champlin Restaurant site.
7. Future Data Center growth in Industrial park.

Anoka Police Department

1. Fill all sworn officer vacancies, and continue to make APD an “attractive” agency by way of culture and competitive pay.
2. Assist Anoka County Emergency Management with the Anoka County Hazard Mitigation plan. This is a multi-step process involving all municipalities and townships.
3. Define and comply with the DOJ Consent Decree by obtaining clear steps and goals from legal counsel.
4. Partner with Anoka County Sheriff’s Office on a Realtime Crime Center – implementing the FUSUS platform on camera systems.

Better Values Liquor Store

1. Successfully pass all compliance checks.
2. Develop Mission and Vision statement for the Liquor Operation.
3. Replace a retiring Full-time position with 1 or 2 Part-time positions.
4. Continue to look for ways to improve the operation now and for the future by attending MMBA events, touring other municipal liquor operations.
5. Adapt and evolve the operation to changing industry habits. Pay attention to industry trends by keeping open communication with vendors and colleagues throughout the industry.
6. Make community involvement a high priority.
7. Continue planning for a move to a new location either at 7th avenue and Main Street or 7th Avenue and Bunker Lake Blvd.

Community Development

1. Update and Adoption of Zoning Changes and Comprehensive Plan Changes associated with the Anoka Station TOD Masterplan Update.
2. Purchase and Replace Building Permit Software System.
3. Continue to market, sell, and develop real estate as directed by City Council.
4. Implement required change per the DOJ agreement.
5. Draft and bring forward Infill standards for consideration and consistent with City Council goals.

Finance

1. Good Budget Management – Ensure city departments operate within its financial budget by managing its spending and staying within budget for capital projects.
2. Revenue Optimization – Maximize tax revenue collection through development, more grant applications for city projects, such as the Riverwalk Project.
3. Fiscal Transparency and Accountability – Provide clear/understandable financial reports, clean audits, and applying for and receiving awards for outstanding financial reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)
4. Cost Control and Efficiency – Implement cost-saving measures by seeking alternative sources/vendors or by increasing efficiencies.
5. Long-Term Financial Planning – The city is working with Ehlers to complete a 10 year long financial management plan, to help the city plan for capital improvements and levy projections.

Green Haven Golf Course & Event Center

1. Facility Manager – hire a facility manager by the end of 2025.
2. Master Plan – conduct a master plan to identify the physical needs of the golf course (bunkers, cart paths).
3. Visioning Session – conduct a visioning session in May with all stakeholders to discuss the possibilities of Green Haven Golf.
4. Buldoc Building – develop a plan to utilize the Buldoc building to its highest and best use.
5. Buldoc / NorthStar Fence Property – develop a plan to utilize this newly acquired properties (youth golf camp, short game practice area...).
6. Youth Golf – develop programs that promotes youth golf – implement in 2026.
7. Lessons – develop a lesson program – implement in 2026.
8. Driving Range – conduct a financial analysis on the concept of the driving range (look at standard technology along with utilizing tracer technology).
9. Competitive/consistent pricing structure for outside golf events.
10. Website/Social media updates & controls.

Housing & Redevelopment

1. Identify and allocate funding for a qualifying Local Affordable Housing Aid Project(s).
2. Encourage the upkeep and renovation of commercial buildings to expand the tax base and create quality jobs through the HRA Commercial Loan Program and Façade Improvement Loan Program.
3. Complete the scattered-site, single-family, owner-occupied infill project at 426 Taylor Street (latest update from owner is groundbreaking in the spring after fence/driveway dispute is settled).
4. Provide up to \$100,000 to recipients of the CARE Grant Program in its fourth funding year.
5. Continue to maximize home improvement loan funds for Anoka residents.
6. Involvement in another successful North Suburban Home Show.
7. Further enhance HRA webpage, including frequent HRA related updates, where possible.
8. Encourage renovation and expansion of older, smaller homes in the City to adapt them to contemporary lifestyles.
9. Continue to acquire properties citywide through the Scattered Site Replacement Program as they become available for redevelopment. If a property is acquired by the HRA, list all properties on MLS prior to demolition.

Public Services

1. Complete Construction of the Anoka Cannabis Dispensary for Dec. 19, 2025.
 2. Dam Modification Project: Work with legislators to secure funding package.
 3. Rum River Bank Stabilization (Woodbury House) Project.
 4. Complete Construction of West Rum River Trail Phase I.
 5. Complete construction of the at grade pedestrian crossing at 4th Ave for the Rum River Regional Trail.
 6. Continue leading the Hwy 47 project in partnership with MnDOT for the Realignment/Railroad Crossing; pursue funding and begin preliminary design.
 7. Implementation of Phase II Lead/Galvanized Service Line Replacement Grant; utilization of entire grant award (\$1.1).
 8. Implementation of the \$491,000 Forestry bonding grant funds.
 9. Water meter replacement program.
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CITY COUNCIL 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mayor Erik Skogquist

1. Continued major capital investment rebuilding streets, sidewalks & underground utility infrastructure.
2. Started construction of the first phase of the West Rum River Trail.
3. Outlined new ways to pay for the level of services residents want without relying as heavily on the property tax levy moving forward.
4. Increased historic preservation and property maintenance focus by continuing the HRA Curb Appeal Grant Program.
5. Completed a citywide survey of residents. Positive feedback was received.

Councilmember Jeff Weaver

1. Nothing is, and never will be accomplished individually. ALL accomplishments are done by the entire Council by their votes. A TEAM effort.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Not necessarily listed in any specific order.

Economic Development Commission

1. Held annual televised meeting.
2. Held annual Anoka Enterprise Park meeting.
3. Completed 2024 Business Survey and presented final results to the City Council.
4. Completed Anoka Market Study and presented final results to the City Council.
5. Participated and provided comments related to the TOD Plan Update for the Anoka Station Area.

Heritage Preservation Commission

1. Completed restoration of Stone Stoves at Atkin and Goodrich parks.
2. Completed brush cleanup at Giddings Gardens and Goodrich Park.
3. Aided in the design of a portion of the Riverwalk Trail, minimizing impacts to the Giddings Gardens.
4. Held Tree of Valor Event at Haven for Heroes.
5. Completed sandwich board signs inventory and replacement project.

Home Rule Charter Commission

1. Met in November; discussed the ballot question that passed at the Special Election held on August 13, 2024.
2. Recommended adding a new Section 13.13 to the City Charter. Voter Approval of City-Organized Solid Waste Collection Process. Recommendation made at the City Council meeting on Dec. 2, 2024.

Housing & Redevelopment Authority

1. Established and adopted the Façade Improvement Loan Program for commercial properties in downtown Anoka.
2. Provided a \$7,870.50 Façade Improvement Loan to the owner of 219 E. Main Street.
3. Completed the 3rd year of the Curb Appeal Residential Enhancement (CARE) Grant Program, resulting in 33 projects and \$480,000 in home improvement projects, which were supplemented by approximately \$91,000 in HRA grant funds thus far. Program totals now exceed \$1.2 million invested in projects with a \$235,000 HRA contribution via the CARE Grant Program.
4. Sold HRA owned land at 7th Avenue and Main Street to the City of Anoka for future redevelopment.
5. The North Suburban Home Improvement Show attendance was 1,289 attendees, which brought in donations of 445 lbs. of food and \$157.75 for the ACBC Food Shelf.
6. Provided Home Improvement Loans to thirteen (13) Single Family Households in the community via HRA funds and funds to another sixteen (16) households using Minnesota Housing Finance Agency and Center for Energy & Environment Funds. Total home improvement loans of \$394,772.24 to 29 homeowners. Of that, the HRA closed loans totaling \$145,329.24 in 2024.
7. Transferred the property at 1900 South Ferry Street to the City of Anoka for use in the future West Rum River Trail.
8. Expended all budgeted home improvement funds.
9. Provided input and participated in Anoka Station Transit Oriented Development Master Plan Committee.
10. Outperformed 2024 budget with clean audit.
11. Updated HRA website.

Human Rights Commission

1. Community Garden Project – identified four local service organizations. Applied for a garden plot and two commissioners planted everything from seed and managed the garden. A delivery schedule occurred on a weekly basis. This is operating under a 501c3.
2. Resource Document – updated information including preventative links, such as domestic violence, utility payment needs, etc. It is a searchable document and now at 15 pages.

3. Emergency Housing - conducted interviews at hotels in Canada.

Park & Recreation Advisory Board

1. Completed Construction of Veterans Stage Roof Structure
2. Completed the Installation of Highland Park Playground
3. Began the West Rum River Trail Project
4. Completion of the 2022-2024 Preparing for EAB Grant
5. Replaced history signs at Akin Riverside Park

Parking Advisory Board

1. Monitored and adjusted permit-parking stalls, time-limit parking stalls, and e-charging stations in the downtown area – which included the review of handicapped parking spaces in the downtown parking area.
2. Monitored potential parking changes around the Jackson Street entertainment area, Anoka Courthouse area, and Regional High School area.
3. Monitored business changes and kept parking scheme updated to match business climate.
4. Assisted city staff in getting empty permit parking stalls filled and leased. Examined full permitting process and updated as necessary.
5. Considered and studied requests from citizens and businesses for parking changes and traffic control changes.
6. Monitored the parking fine amounts annually.
7. Monitored the Highway 10 project in Ramsey.

Planning Commission

1. Completed update to the Anoka Station Area Master Plan.
2. Initiated zoning text amendment eliminating car wash uses.
3. Reviewed and held public hearings on 3 variance applications.
4. Reviewed and held public hearings on 2 CUP applications.
5. Reviewed and held public hearings on 4 text amendments.

Utility Advisory Board

1. Kept up with changes at MMUA, MMPA and APPA including Green Power incentives
2. Review APPA Utility Reliability Study
3. Incorporate MMPA distributed generation fee schedule.
4. Filled UAB positions with Ed Evans as President and Daniel Pinewski as Vice President.

5. Review the State of AMU Utility including rate structure, purchased power, Infrastructure and employee safety/ retention.

Waste Reduction & Recycling Board

1. **Initiated Recycling Center Research**

Expressed interest to the City Council regarding the potential establishment of a recycling center in Anoka. Conducted research by touring a local facility to assess feasibility and best practices.

2. **Community Outreach at Farmers Market on the Rum**

Actively engaged with local residents at the Farmers Market on the Rum, promoting recycling initiatives and the organics program to encourage community participation.

3. **Educational Outreach on Recycling Best Practices**

Provided informative materials and guidance to residents on the proper recycling of batteries and electronic waste (e-waste), raising awareness of environmental impact and safe disposal methods.

4. **Expanded Organics Drop-Off Program**

Successfully grew participation in the organics drop-off program, increasing the number of participants to over 240, resulting in 7.06 tons of organics collected, significantly advancing local sustainability efforts.

5. **Sustained Annual Recycling & Reuse Events**

Coordinated and continued the city's annual recycling and reuse events, including spring and fall curbside collections, citywide garage sales, a reuse event, and the Pumpkin Smash, fostering an ongoing commitment to waste reduction.

CITY DEPARTMENTS 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Accomplishments not necessarily listed in any specific order.

Administration

Administration/Human Resources Related

1. Held successful Presidential Nomination Primary, Municipal Primary/Special Election & General/Special Election.
2. Received and processed a Petition that amend the City Charter relating the process for implementing an Organized Solid Waste Collection System, through voter approval.
3. Presented 97 Resolutions to the City Council for adoption.
4. Presented 14 Ordinances to the City Council for adoption, and made City Charter and City Code changes that would reflect direction within the Ordinances.

5. Met with Bar/Restaurant Owners to develop additional alcohol licensing requirements, which were approved and implemented for 2025.
6. Processed 69 Public Data Requests.

Personnel/Human Resources Related

1. Approval of Labor Contracts for Electric Utility, Public Services Parks & Streets Division and Sewer & Water Division, Patrol Unit and Sergeants Unit.
2. Processed 20 Property/Vehicle Damage Incidents.
3. Processed 22 Worker's Comp Claims.
4. Hired 55 New Regular Employees and 111 Seasonal Employees.
5. Processed terminations for 35 Regular Employees and 146 Seasonal Employees.
6. Began training on NeoGov software program for a more user-friendly online job application process.

Communications Related

1. Conducted a citywide survey.
2. Published quarterly City View newsletters and Annual Community Resource & Residents' Guide.
3. Processed 20 special event permits.
4. Distributed four press releases to the media.
5. Assisted in coordination of several city-sponsored events.
6. Organized a blood testing and soil testing clinic.
7. Attracted more than 1,000 additional social media followers.

Anoka-Champlin Fire Department

1. Purchased and took delivery of a new engine that replaced a 25-year-old truck. This is rare in current times as new trucks have a typical lead time of more than two years.
2. Took delivery of two new Grass Trucks upgrading our grass fire capabilities with new tanks and pumps that include foam capabilities.
3. Completed a full year of Duty Crew Staffing.
4. Worked with County Dispatch centers to implement CAD to CAD communications reducing notification time in Champlin significantly.
5. Completed an Insurance Services Org. (ISO) survey and maintained a level 3 rating across our communities.

Anoka Municipal Utility

1. Hwy 10 project. Primary feeder crossings 100% completed. Loops and feeder ties 100% completed.
2. Ramsey Gateway Project electric transfer work completed.
3. Completion of meter files system information check.

4. Feeder 401 completed to feed Federal North
5. Feeder 407 completed to north service area and Anoka High School
6. AMI Vender negotiations completed with WESCO/Honeywell Solution signed contract
7. Completion of SRP in Colburn/ Wingfield area.

Anoka Police Department

1. Implemented more robust and up to date Body-Worn Camera System by AXON.
2. Implemented new Administrative Citation system with online payment method.
3. Participated in 2024 State of MN Toward Zero Death Grant with deliberate traffic enforcement strategies.
4. Explore opportunities to enhance recruitment of CSO's to provide security services and attract quality candidates for the Patrol Division.

Better Values Liquor Store

1. Successfully passed all compliance checks.
2. 100% attendance from staff attending Beverage Server Training.
3. Completed three physical inventories with adjustments well below industry standards.
4. Reduced slow moving inventory to allow us to purchase better deals on National brands to remain competitively priced with our competition.
5. Limited print ads to only tasting event and spring wine sale while trying our digital advertising to promote our low-dose THC department with great success.
6. Participated in three community events with one of our Distributor partners (Pet fundraiser, Fire Fighter fundraiser and canned food drive).
7. Attended the annual MMBA annual conference in Alexandria for the first time in the operation's history.
8. Continued planning of the East store to 7th and Main Street.

Community Development

1. Completed and Adopted the Anoka Station TOD Masterplan Update.
2. Reviewed options for building permit software updates.
3. Completed inspections in 3-year period for all rental properties.
4. Maintained proactive code enforcement efforts/neighborhood sweeps.
5. Completed and Adopted the Cannabis Registration Ordinance.

Finance

1. **Achieving a Balanced Budget** – In 2024, we successfully came in under budget even with funding unbudgeted projects and implementing changes to GASB 101 compensated absences which requires recording of future payroll leave liabilities.

2. **Planning for Funding Infrastructure Projects** – In 2024, we started working with Ehlers on a utility rate study for Electric, Water, Sewer and Storm. This study recommended implementing a change to the rate structure and actual rates themselves with future recommendations on rate increases to fund infrastructure needs.
3. **Maintained a High Credit Rating** – Anoka has maintained its AA+ rating from Standards and Poor’s Global, this is the second highest possible rating you can receive.
4. **Enhancing Financial Transparency** – Anoka Finance is always working to improve its financial reporting in 2024 we received all three of the GFOA awards for excellence in financial reporting for the Adopted Budget Report, the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and the Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR).
5. **Reducing Debt and Managing Liabilities** – In 2024, the city reduced its total outstanding municipal debt; principle payments are due in February each year.

Housing & Redevelopment

1. Established and adopted the Façade Improvement Loan Program for commercial properties in downtown Anoka.
2. Provided a \$7,870.50 Façade Improvement Loan to the owner of 219 E. Main Street.
3. Completed the 3rd year of the Curb Appeal Residential Enhancement (CARE) Grant Program, resulting in 33 projects and \$480,000 in home improvement projects, which were supplemented by approximately \$91,000 in HRA grant funds thus far. Program totals now exceed \$1.2 million invested in projects with a \$235,000 HRA contribution via the CARE Grant Program.
4. Sold HRA owned land at 7th Avenue and Main Street to the City of Anoka for future redevelopment.
5. The North Suburban Home Improvement Show attendance was 1,289 attendees, which brought in donations of 445 lbs. of food and \$157.75 for the ACBC Food Shelf.
6. Provided Home Improvement Loans to thirteen (13) Single Family Households in the community via HRA funds and funds to another sixteen (16) households using Minnesota Housing Finance Agency and Center for Energy & Environment Funds. Total home improvement loans of \$394,772.24 to 29 homeowners. Of that, the HRA closed loans totaling \$145,329.24 in 2024.
7. Transferred the property at 1900 South Ferry Street to the City of Anoka for use in the future West Rum River Trail.
8. Expended all budgeted home improvement funds.
9. Provided input and participated in the Anoka Station Transit Oriented Development Master Plan Committee.
10. Outperformed 2024 budget with clean audit.
11. Updated HRA website.

Public Services

1. Dam Modification Project: Complete feasibility report
2. Successful completion of permitting for lower Rum River corridor for future river maintenance projects; completed dredging of the Rum River channel from Mississippi to City Hall.
3. Constructed Phase II of the Franklin School Neighborhood SRP.
4. Successful completion of the Well 6/8 expansion project.
5. Successful completion of Phase I Implementation of Lead/Galvanized Service Line Replacement Grant; utilization of entire grant award (\$1.2); fully reimbursed.
6. Completion of installation of shelter at Riverfront Memorial Park.

2025-2026 CITY COUNCIL GOALS



Development, Redevelopment & Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Responsible Anoka County Jail expansion in the city of Anoka. ➤ Seek to reach a compromise plan with Anoka County for the jail expansion that preserves Anoka’s historic downtown and neighborhood around the jail. ➤ Feasible jail solution for City/County; collaborate with state/county leaders to either reduce current proposed option size or find alternate site in the county. ➤ Work with Anoka County on a mutually agreeable solution for an upgraded jail; address issues with releasing inmates in downtown Anoka; scale and scope of facility in any location agreed to should fit with its surroundings. ➤ Work with Anoka County to find a solution that works for both parties on new jail facility, where a downtown solution is not acceptable in its current plan from county. ➤ Develop city protocols that promote local development and growth of citizenry and business development; considering business proposals for local growth, add non-voting youth rep on boards and commissions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The agricultural area must be preserved if there is a façade easement in place, and a Letter of Intent with a potential long-term buyer. ➤ Sale and development of city-owned property at 7th Ave. & Main St. ➤ Infill standards in historic neighborhoods. ➤ Begin the process of creating infill standards so new construction blends with neighborhoods, not redefines them. ➤ Progress on sale and development of city-owned land in Highland Park neighborhood. ➤ Continue to move forward with the golf course reconfiguration/closing of Garfield St., and multi-season driving range at Green Haven, if the financial analysis shows a pay back to the Anoka taxpayers. ➤ Explore future uses for the Miller Manufacturing property along Grant St., including feasibility as a community center. ➤ Progress of Phase I of the Transit Oriented Development.
Finances & Business Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Have a responsible budget; find new sources of revenue, or enhance some revenue generating enterprise funds (golf course) to reduce levy. Create new development opportunities by selling non-tax generating city-owned properties to increase tax base. Only use bonding if there is a revenue generating component which does not affect the levy. ➤ Develop a responsible city budget; plan for opportunities to extend lifespan and enhance assets. ➤ Restore city to a position of financial flexibility; build back reserves, sell or develop property to fit character of Anoka, grow tax base inside TIF districts to pay back loans to Electric Dept. and outside of TIF to lower future level impacts to all taxpayers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improve profitability of some “Enterprise Funds”: relocate municipal liquor store, explore new business model for Green Haven, including more usage for weddings and special events, open municipal cannabis dispensary in 2025. ➤ Greater fiscal responsibility; sell property to be developed, stop using Electric Fund as internal bank, prioritize development of TIF spaces, prioritize cannabis and liquor retail opportunities, clarify and document how future purchases/developments align with long range plans, giving ample opportunity for citizen input and consideration for historical footprint; establish and implement best practices for contract review/audits on annual/biennial cycle.
Streets, Parks, Trails & Rivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enhance public amenities/infrastructure that encourage stronger community spirit; support and develop Riverwalk plan. ➤ The Rum River Dam project “must” include a navigational lock. Automated gates and walkway will be a safety feature extremely beneficial to Public Works and overall trail system. Fish passage will help match funding requirement, and river surfing, if possible, will put Anoka “on the map!”. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ River reaction, public safety accessibility on the water, trails and access to stone house, and a riverboat or water taxi should be a top priority! The two <u>rivers</u> are Anoka’s biggest park system! ➤ Explore ways to provide more adequate funding for city parks and playgrounds. ➤ Increase sidewalk/trail connections enhancing multimodal transportation.
Miscellaneous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continue to evaluate security and redundancy of susceptible city assets and operations and create action plans to ensure stable services. ➤ Prioritize and ensure the city police, fire, and public emergency services receive the resources and materials to sustain the high quality of service citizens have been accustomed to. ➤ Enhance community service; provide printable online permits for overnight parking to eliminate busywork/paperwork for police staff. ➤ City resources available at local events/festivals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continue to enhance Social District (addition of permanent restroom). ➤ Amplify Social District family/parks/community impact/accessibility. ➤ Update Code of Conduct for Council and City Staff; review on biennial basis. ➤ Update website; eliminate old/bad links, add accessibility software (language), identify challenges in user experience. ➤ Youth connections on City Boards & Commissions. ➤ Identify measurement strategies (population or performance accountability).