



# Council Priorities

The council sets their near-term priorities for the upcoming annual budget at their yearly retreat. These identified priorities inform the Mayor's recommendations of how funds should be allocated to achieve the council's strategic aims. For 2024, the Council Priorities are focused on three key areas.



## Implement Housing Action Plan directives to realize increased housing opportunities for residents.

- Planning Consultant for HAP implementation (carryover)
- Middle Housing Grant pursuit
- Comms Support for web design/services
- Travel/staff time for conferences/advocacy
- Grant support for programmatic funding



## Increased focus on wildfire preparation and mitigation strategies, including year-round focused community education activities.

- Set aside funding for public events/workshops
- Chief stipend/staff time committed to outreach
- Website/Voyent Alert services
- Grant support for funding opportunities



## Address gaps in resources and opportunities for the city's youngest residents

- Staff time/participation in Klickitat Childcare Committee
- Rheingarten Park amenity installations (playground/splash pad)
- Youth Center relocation-staff time
- Strategic planning for Community Center & Youth Center funding stacks
- Grant support for funding opportunities

## In Focus: Housing Action Plan Directives



### SHORT TERM (Initiated within one year):

1. Ease (further) the restrictions on infill within existing residential zones, by working with neighbors to establish agreed models that increase density, reduce setbacks, allow smaller and narrower homes, lower parking standards, and at the same time, maintain quality ("QUIMBY" approach).
2. Establish a website providing technical assistance as well as a second community survey and input of information resources, to facilitate infill development, make pre-approved plans available, assist builders and developers with technical requirements, recruit market-rate developers and/or identify suitable sites for development. Provide walk-in and phone assistance as required for technical assistance.
3. Compile a database of existing and potential sites for development, and conduct a community workshop for each suitable site to develop appropriate plans and/or recruit developers.

### MEDIUM TERM (Initiated within two to five years):

- Create an office (or task an existing office) to recruit and develop partnerships with existing non-profit housing institutions and agencies. Identify incentives, such as "feebates", that will encourage these institutions to initiate projects.
- Develop an "existing housing protection ordinance," including provisions to restrict tear-downs (with exceptions for more and/or more affordable replacement units), provide incentives for upgrades, and/or tax reductions when rented at affordable rates.
- Develop a Housing Trust Fund to assist with the procurement of land (and/or land trusts), pay for infrastructure and/or regulatory costs, and/or provide direct funding for the purchase and/or conversion of housing for those with special needs.



## 2024 City of White Salmon City Council Priorities

Developed at the September 5, 2023 City Council Retreat  
Direction for Budget Development  
Adopted by City Council on *September 20, 2023*

### **2024 COUNCIL PRIORITIES:**

- Implement Housing Action Plan directives to realize increased housing opportunities for residents.
- Increased focus on wildfire preparation and mitigation strategies, including year-round focused community education activities.
- Address gaps in resources and opportunities for the city's youngest residents, to include relocating the Youth Center, clear commitments to supporting expanded childcare access, as well as increased recreation and enrichment opportunities for youth.