

Gregory City Council

2023 Projected Planning

HISTORY

August 8, 1904, Gregory was formally opened to the public as a government town-site. By June 23, 1905, Gregory was boasting 250 buildings and 500 inhabitants. In 1906 the railroad had contracted for the first stretch of track from Bonesteel to Gregory. In 1907 Gregory citizens voted to construct a \$12,000 water works, and investors agreed to install electric lights. Local businessmen organized to construct an opera house and town hall. By the end of 1908, the great registration for Tripp County lands was on, and fifteen trains arrived in Gregory daily. Gregory continued to grow and prosper as a service center for farmers and ranchers in the area.

Today, Gregory's City Council is the lead government body for city infrastructure decisions, consisting of six Ward representatives and a mayor. A Planning and Zoning Commission, a five-member volunteer board, assists the Council with reviews and recommendations on land use and development applications.

POSITIVE ASPECTS OF GREGORY TODAY

- People are willing to invest in the community
- Council has been described as good listeners without negativity
- Experience in leadership
- Appreciation via thank yous are noted from Council
- Pride in the community shows.
- Tenacity to keep Main Street vibrant
- Excellence noted in school system, health care, city park and ballfields, fire, police, ambulance, July 4th event
- Joy and recognition are felt in youth awards
- The Community Foundation is thriving, and pride was felt when \$100,000 was able to be used to support projects

CHALLENGES FOR COUNCIL TODAY

- √ People understanding the length and complexity of the code enforcement process
- √ Staffing employees with labor shortage
- √ Funding and continued cost inflation
- √ Unity of the local businesses – Chamber and Community work

✓ Getting younger generations more involved in organizations and government

COUNCIL VALUES

- *Service to community residents and businesses for the good of the whole*
 - *Honesty & transparency*
 - *Investing time in Gregory*
 - *Guidance & leadership for the future – learning from the past to plan 3-5 years out*
 - *Willingness to listen to community people*
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- *Willingness to make necessary change*

COUNCIL PRIORITY GOALS

1. Re-do city streets and add curb and gutter.

Project is planned and will be done in increments with streets identified for work in three phases. City will spend \$993,000 for replacing the streets in phase I that do not qualify for funding. The estimated total cost for phase I is \$8,930,000. Grants for the water and sewer portion would be \$2,381,100 and State loans would cover \$5,555,900. Which would leave \$993,000 for the streets that are not included in the grants or loans portion. The City will re-pay the loans thru a surcharge for water and sewer. The surcharge will not count against the City's debt limit. At this time the funding for phase 2 and 3 has not been fully identified.

- Phase 1: 2024 – 2026
- Phase 2: 2028 – 2030
 - *Main Street included – work with existing task force and Economic Development to communicate with businesses
- Phase 3: 2032 – 2034

City Council will use transparency to keep citizens informed and aware of progress and changes.

2. Plan and build a new City Hall

- Plan for new building will be completed in 2024.
- New building constructed in 2026.
- Building funding will be secured from CBDG, Rural Development, and other sources.
- Building needs to include:

- Meeting room for City Council 2X bigger than current room (possible divider)
 - Five City offices: finance officer, support staff, mayor, Chamber, P&Z/BID
 - Accessible bathrooms
 - Accessible entrance
- City Police will continue to use existing City Hall building

3. Remodel bathrooms and kitchen in Auditorium

- Work with school district on planning, funding, and implementation.
- Keep communication lines open by asking representative to report at City Council meetings regularly.
- Project timeline 2023 – 2024.

4. Build new outdoor pool, new park bathrooms with storm shelter

- Work with Pool Task Force to continue fundraising and development
- Keep communication lines open by asking representative to report at City Council meetings regularly.
- Project timeline 2025 – 2026 tentative.

FUTURE IDEAS

- Affordable housing – apartments & starter homes
- Finish the city bike path
- Add a ballfield/soccer field/sports complex
- Restaurant by school
- Fishing pond/ice skating rink
- More community promotion of assets
- Add two more City workers

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