

2026 Council Goals



February 12, 2026

Increase housing by improving the viability of projects (including small-scale) via revised ordinances and codes and financial incentives; and help residents stay in their homes.

Increase and broaden the tax base by becoming more attractive for developers and entrepreneurs, advancing specific projects, and attracting and retaining small businesses, all in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan.

Maintain and improve our organizational excellence, civic engagement, and professionalism aligned with City policies and plans.

Improve mobility and access by developing dependable, affordable transportation that supports economic development and quality of life.

Improve quality of life by enhancing community spaces, community activities, and maintaining public order.

Protect public assets and reduce long-term costs through strategic infrastructure investment and maintenance.

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1 - Increase housing by improving the viability of projects (including small-scale) via revised ordinances and codes and financial incentives; and help residents stay in their homes.

Objectives

- Encourage housing developments of other types of housing to include single-family
 - Make big impacts with a lot of little deals
 - “Push what we have” – get permitted projects completed
- Align ordinances and codes with our housing goals
 - Modernize city codes
 - Consider recommended land use ordinance changes to increase housing
 - Pass the shelter ordinance
 - Focus on encouraging infill development
 - Explore “pre-approved” housing plans
- Help people stay in their homes
 - Provide educational resources for people who are challenged
 - Keep taxes down
- Financial incentives
 - Incentivize small housing opportunities
 - Consider financial tools to encourage small developments
 - Prioritize Maine-based developers
 - Activate the Shelter RFP
- Utilities sewer/water expansion
 - Offer Tax Increment Financing to offset costs
 - Collaborate with utility districts and Board of Trade
 - Continue to explore creative financing

Goal 2- Increase and broaden the tax base by becoming more attractive to developers and entrepreneurs, advancing specific projects, and attracting and retaining small businesses, all in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan.

Objectives

- Explore new specific opportunities with promising impact
 - Explore impact fees for new tax-exempt properties
 - Consider additional education to nonprofits about this
 - Continue and explore new options for events – to make Augusta a destination
- Support businesses development and retention throughout the City
 - Support the Downtown Alliance and partner with the Roux Institute, the Augusta Board of Trade and others
 - Offer special supports and incentives to small businesses
 - Revitalize the Tipping-Point Loan Program
- Focus on high-stakes projects, including but not limited to:
 - Support the Western Avenue partnership - PPI
 - Renew discussions with the owners of the AIM parcel
 - Continue progress on Capital Heights

- Explore targeted development opportunities for the North End of Water Street
- Continue to implement Civic Center Facilities Master Plan
- Completion of the road at North Station

Goal 3- Maintain and improve our organizational excellence, civic engagement, and professionalism aligned with City policies and plans.

Objectives

- Good communication with the citizens
 - Continue our public relations efforts
- We follow through on implementing our plans
- Committees are high-functioning, well-populated, and well-staffed
 - Review and align our boards and committees
- Continue to maintain strong relations with the State, including legislative relations (such as an annual gathering)
- Maintain good communications and collaboration with the schools
- Review the Comprehensive Plan to
 - Align land use planning initiatives
 - Insure alignment with other community initiatives with the plan
 - How the plan could be used to support grant seeking

Goal 4 - Improve mobility and access by developing dependable, affordable transportation that supports economic development and quality of life.

Objectives

- Support development of the Active Transportation Plan
 - Pedestrian visibility and safety – sidewalks, lighting, crosswalks
- Improve access to all types of reliable transportation for all residents and visitors
- Consider a Public Transportation Plan
- Support and improve single-ride for-fee opportunities, such as
 - Review and revising our regulatory requirements for taxis
 - Provide education at our website and other places about transportation options such as ride-sharing options

Goal 5 - Improve quality of life by enhancing community spaces, community activities, and maintaining public order.

Objectives

- Consider establishing staff positions to improve quality of life, such as
 - a position to coordinate homeless services
 - deputy fire chief
 - another community response specialist
 - and others.
- Improve safety and response to crime by
 - Develop recommendations to revise the Homeless Protocol law
 - Consider neighborhood-level initiatives
- Unify and promote park amenities according to plans
- Support cultural anchors such as the Colonial Theater and First Amendment Museum

- Educate the public about the safety of our public spaces and encourage activities.

Goal 6 - Protect public assets and reduce long-term costs through strategic infrastructure investment and maintenance.

Objectives

- Follow the City's paving and road maintenance plan and address deferred maintenance
- Continue capital improvements at the Civic Center, Public Works, East Side Fire Station, and complete final planning for Hatch Hill