



The Watertown City Council has adopted the following legislative priorities for 2016. These are issues that will be monitored by city staff and elected officials and the positions of the city will be shared when appropriate. This list is not intended to be comprehensive of all issues of importance to the community at large, but a list of priorities for the organization. During legislative session, other issues may arise that require the city's attention. The City Council will consider its approach or response to those issues on a case by case basis.

Transportation

The City of Watertown benefits from being the convergence point of multiple significant local and state road corridors. Conveniently located between two major transportation corridors, U.S. Highway 12 and State Highway 7, the city urges the development of a sustainable road improvement plan that maintains and enhances these and other important regional corridors and access points. The city has been a proven partner in investing local resources cooperatively in upgrading road facilities within the community along state and county roadways.

The city supports legislation that:

- Increases funding to offset the burden placed on cities for improvements completed on state and county highways within city limits.
- Creates a dedicated and sustainable state funding source for non-MSA city streets in small cities.
- Provides funding to improve safety and access to U.S. Highway 12 between Orono and Delano.
- Provides funding for local and regional trail connections to the Luce Line Trail within the City of Watertown and Carver County.
- Creates a sustainable and dedicated funding plan for MnDOT road projects and maintenance activities within the region, and more specifically State Highway 25.

Natural Resources

The City of Watertown is bisected by the South Fork of the Crow River and is the heart of the Luce Line Regional Trail. Both of these amenities have helped to establish and shape identity of the community throughout history and as we look to the future. Connection to, preservation, and interaction with the natural world is an important quality for the lives of local citizens.

The city supports legislation that:

- Supports the conveyance of parcel 85.4450550 to a local unit of government to complete the development of a wetland restoration and trail project.
- Protects or limits run-off into the South Fork of the Crow River that has a potential to further impair the waterway or increase flood impacts.

- Recognizes the potential for greater occurrences of flood conditions and subsequent natural disaster related damages and provides financial assistance for mitigation or recovery efforts.
- Supports the enhancement and maintenance of the Luce Line Trail through the City of Watertown and the region.

Economic Development

The City of Watertown has a long history of supporting local businesses and economic development via grants, loans, TIF, and abatement tools. As a small community in the metro that competes with much larger and developed cities in the region, our city supports legislation that offers greater flexibility and expanded use of economic development tools to support investment efforts of local residents and business owners.

The city supports legislation that:

- Does not restrict the current or future use of TIF, but rather expands the types and scope of development that can be supported by TIF.
- Allows for the extension of already certified TIF districts, redevelopment areas, and eliminates the “Five-Year Rule” for districts taking longer to develop.
- Provides creative grant opportunities and partnerships with DEED for small metro fringe communities to provide similar incentives available to outstate communities.

Local Governance and Support

The City of Watertown, with a population of approximately 4,300 residents, provides a unique blend of small town charm and lifestyle while offering metropolitan convenience within the seven county metropolitan area. As a Rural Center within the metropolitan planning area, the city prides itself on offering a full slate of municipal services efficiently and effectively and often in partnership with other area units of government. The city operates and maintains its own water and wastewater processing facilities, provides fire protection to surrounding townships, contracts with Carver County for law enforcement, and shares resources and knowledge with surrounding municipalities.

The city supports legislation that:

- Maintains the Local Government Aid (LGA) formula currently in use and opposes the freezing, reduction, appropriation, or limitations placed on the distribution or allocation of support funds. In addition LGA should be increased to aid in cities’ responses to inflationary and population pressures.
- Allows for greater participation and influence by local cities in the appointment and representation of members of the Metropolitan Council. The city favors representatives that have shown a commitment to understanding the importance of local governance and expertise we have in managing our local communities.
- Recognizes and provides support for operators of municipal waste water treatment plants, or point-source dischargers. Legislation should support the equitable treatment of small plants discharging in close proximity, permitted effluent and TMDL’s discharged, and provide equitable funding for independent treatment facility upgrades around the state.

- Provides adequate funding for state programs for municipal wastewater permitting and technical support programs that provide financial resources to city treatment facilities, storm water management, or other water quality improvement projects undertaken by a municipality.

Watertown (pop. 4,273) is a vibrant and connected community located in northwest Carver County. The “Heart of the Luce Line” is situated along the banks of the South Fork of the Crow River. An easy and picturesque drive to the 494 loop, and conveniently located between US Hwy. 12 and State Hwy. 7, our community offers a robust and convenient lifestyle to its residents. A thriving downtown commercial district connected to the world via free public WiFi and direct access the Luce Line Trail regional trail, draw consumers and visitors alike. Great local schools, affordable living, and a variety of housing choices await you!

For more information please visit www.ci.watertown.mn.us or Shane Fineran, City Administrator at sfineran@ci.watertown.mn.us or 952-955-2681.