

# Town Council Goals—Fall 2007

The Town Council goals, along with other strategic planning tools, shape how the town uses its staffing, equipment and financial resources. To address these goals, town departments undertake specific actions and initiatives. This report briefly describes the progress that has been made toward completing the action items and meeting the goals. The Town Council goals, focus areas and actions are listed below:

## Leadership & Governance

*Promote citizen participation and ensure top financial performance and responsive citizen service.*

## Financial Performance

### Progress on Town Council action items:

- Presented 5-year financial forecast
- Presented quarterly financial reports
- Planning to present vehicle replacement plan by December 2007.

### Additional initiatives:

- Restructured Finance Department position to focus on accounting
- Implemented budget monitoring tools and special revenue fund tracking.

## Customer Service

### Progress on Town Council action items:

- Website redesign (roll out begins October 2007)
- Launched “Service Excellence Initiative” in summer 2007.

### Additional initiatives:

- Made improvements to the way Public Works Department service requests are managed
- Made land records from 1810-1970 electronically accessible for customers.

## Citizen Participation

### Progress on Town Council action items:

- Held Citizen’s Academy (22 attendees)
- Hosted budget workshops (25 attendees)
- Held financial forecast workshop (35 attendees & WGTV audience).

### Additional initiatives:

- Broadcast budget show on WGTV
- Increased outreach and distribution of Elderly Tax Benefit opportunities
- Produced WGTV commercial on new voting technology.

## Intergovernmental Affairs

### Progress on Town Council action items:

- Joined 1,000 Friends of CT
- Lobbied for transportation initiatives
- Participating in CROG Shared Services Task Force and made joint-purchases (\$45,000 in savings).

### Additional initiatives:

- Collaborating with Bloomfield on some special police operations
- Recognized by CROG (Capitol Region Council of Governments) for Regional Traffic Enforcement Task Force.

## Growth Management & Green Technology

*Preserve community character while facilitating sustainable economic growth.*

### Open Space Preservation and Community Character

#### Progress on Town Council action items:

- Presented open space overview to Town Council in June 2007
- Presented Plan of Conservation & Development amendments to Town Planning & Zoning Commission and Council in September 2007.

#### Additional initiatives:

- Applied for state funds to create connections with Riverfront Recapture trail system.

### Economic Development and Redevelopment

#### Progress on Town Council action items:

- Participated in Chamber of Commerce Transportation Summit
- Presented multi-modal transportation initiative to State officials
- Assisting with Day Hill Road Transit Study and Route 305 Corridor Study beginning in fall 2007
- Pursuing state funding for Exit 38 flyover and transportation oriented development
- Lobbied state for local hotel/motel room taxing authority.

#### Additional initiatives:

- Facilitating 1.8 million square feet of industrial and commercial construction
- Facilitated introductions of Windsor's small businesses at the ING Business Fair
- Researching transportation-oriented development opportunities in Windsor Center
- Approved use of the Freight House by the Windsor Art Center.

### Green Technology

#### Progress on Town Council action items:

- Adopted sustainable technology resolution June, 2007
- Receiving a free 1 KW photovoltaic system
- Reviewing proposed stormwater ordinances
- Testing new sediment control technology on storm drains.

#### Additional initiatives:

- Authorized the town to become a "Smart Energy Community."

## Neighborhoods & Family Services

*Promote quality of life in Windsor's neighborhoods through delivering services for youth, families and seniors by ensuring safe and vibrant public spaces.*

### Public Safety

#### Progress on Town Council action items:

- Provided 210 hours of bike patrols in neighborhoods, parks and trails
- Developed draft master plan for Volunteer Fire Department
- Initiated discussions with Windsor Volunteer Ambulance regarding future service delivery plan.

#### Additional initiatives:

- Achieved lowest rate of serious crimes among all towns that surround Hartford
- Participated in Windsor Volunteer Ambulance's contract negotiations with American Medical Response for back-up coverage.

### Senior Programming

#### Progress on Town Council action items:

- Approved additional FY08 funding for evening and weekend transportation
- Delivered 12 new evening programs during summer of 2007
- Delivered 2 new weekend programs during summer of 2007.

#### Additional initiatives:

- Restructured Senior Center Coordinator position to gain efficiency and enhance service delivery.

### Recreation Opportunities and Public Spaces

#### Progress on Town Council action items:

- Initiated Adopt-a-Park program
- Provided 937 hours of park clean up through the Youth Services Corps
- Served 970 residents in 10 special neighborhood events and programs.

#### Additional initiatives:

- Revamped and expanded Summer Concert Series in partnership with First Town Downtown
- Hired part-time help for property maintenance enforcement
- Adopted regulations for newspaper racks.

### Youth Programming

#### Progress on Town Council action items:

- Implemented Youth Service Corps.

#### Additional initiatives:

- Added programs and strengthened teen network through the newly hired Teen Services Librarian.

## Solid Waste Management

*Ensure efficient and environmentally sound collection and disposal of solid waste.*

### Recycling

#### Progress on Town Council action items:

- Implemented recycling program for computer and electronic devices
- Diverted approximately 8,800 tons of material from the landfill in fiscal year 2007.

#### Additional initiatives:

- Co-hosted a compact florescent light sale with CL&P and CT Energy Efficiency Fund
- Running “how to” recycling announcements on WGTV.

### Municipal Solid Waste (Garbage) Collection and Disposal

#### Progress on Town Council action items:

- Updated financial projections regarding transfer station and curbside collection.

#### Additional initiatives:

- Preparing for fall 2007 presentation to Finance Committee of possible disposal options.

### Landfill Closure and Reuse

#### Progress on Town Council action items:

- Submitted leachate management information to CT Department of Environmental Protection.

#### Additional initiatives:

- Initiated research of potential sale of carbon credits; presentation to Council September, 2007
- Researched implementing a “gas to energy” system; presentation to Council September, 2007
- Settled lawsuit with Town of Bloomfield.

The Town Council’s goals are meant to be a multi-year plan. As such, some action items can be accomplished quickly while others may require more time. Town Council and town staff will add new action items to help address the goals as other action items are completed. Some of the current action items that are in earlier stages of development include: creating a facility maintenance plan, collaborating with the Board of Education on before and after school programming, developing a master plan for EMS service, presenting plans to increase youth counseling, providing green technology incentives, presenting “environment friendly” best practices opportunities for facilities and fleet, launching a small business outreach and assistance program, promoting ways to reduce, reuse and recycle and a few actions associated with the landfill closure.