City council to discuss 2019 goals, code book updates

Along with discussion of yearly goals, a Charlevoix City Council meeting set for today, Monday, is expected to include the planning of a public hearing that's needed as part of the city's recodification process.

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. today in council chambers at city hall, 210 State St.

Officials must complete the recodification measure for the city's codes every 10 years, according to the city charter.

The pending process won't involve major changes to city laws, city manager Mark Heydlauff said, and the biggest change residents will see is a more user-friendly access to the codebook on the city's website.

"The biggest change is the reorganization and online access of city codes," Heydlauff noted. "The primary purpose of this is to review and make sure everything is up to date. Residents will not see substance of their laws changing."

Also on today's agenda is a review of the city council's goals and action steps for 2019-20. The council discussed a draft list of these items during a Jan. 21 work session.

Council members also expressed an interest in recognizing the importance of housing and year-round jobs as part of the area-wide Charlevoix agenda, Heydlauff said.

"Council is expected to review the list of goals and actions steps compiled from their recent discussions with staff," Heydlauff said. "They are expected to direct staff on any changes before they approve them."

Examples of the goals and action steps are as follows.

Under the goal of "working with our neighbors to solve area-wide challenges," action steps include:

— focusing on the creation of...

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of an environment to sustain and encourage year-round occupancy in the city's neighborhoods to welcome a growing population.

- creating more and better housing by enhancing the density of existing residential neighborhoods along with mixed-use commercial opportunities
- supporting a growing population by growing jobs and investments in the community through existing businesses, and welcoming new investment to perpetuate the vitality of the region.

Another goal, ensuring that Charlevoix is environmentally sustainable while also economically viable, includes the following action steps:

- scheduling a work session with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council regarding storm water and water improvement
- engaging in learning and planning about how to improve the energy efficiency and environmental impact of city operations, including using renewables to power facilities, reducing energy loss, and by working with knowledgeable organizations to create a sustainability plan
- developing a program for electric customers to cooperate and invest in solar and wind generation projects
- considering ordinance changes in support of the Lake Charlevoix Watershed Plan and improving storm water effluent
- improving the availability of recycling receptacles throughout the community, especially downtown
- continuing the work of the Solid Waste Ad-hoc Committee by exploring improvements and contracts to remove solid waste, including curbside recycling
- planning for non-motorized trails, bike parking, and pedestrian-friendly design in infrastructure projects where appropriate.

An additional goal is to include the senior citizen community in all public events and activities. Related action steps are:

- expanding work with the Charlevoix County Transit Authority to provide shuttles during special events to provide remote parking and ease of transit
- developing a policy requiring all festivals and special events that use public spaces to provide a statement of inclusion for senior citizens
- considering additional amenities in East Park and Bridge Park, such as shuffleboard and concrete checker and chess boards
- exploring a designation as an "Age-friendly City" from the World Health Organization

Other goals and action steps involve developing and maintaining long-term infrastructure plans, strong stewardship of public resources, promoting good governance and enhancing and showcasing the quality of life in Charlevoix.