

City Mission and Budget Priorities

In February and March of 2002 the City Council conducted a series of work sessions to review the City Mission and determine if any changes should be made. Council members looked at the current mission statement and the mission statements for several other cities and governmental agencies. In the end, the City Council developed a new City Mission, along with a Vision Statement and Citywide Goals. The City Council believed that a Vision Statement would give citizens and employees an idea of the long-term directions the Council wished to steer the City of Topeka. The Council believed it was important to communicate not only the current mission, but what the City of Topeka could be and look like in the future. The Community Goals are broad statements of direction for City Departments and employees to work towards. They also provide insight into the value system of City government. Together, these three elements provide a cornerstone from which City Departments can make their strategic plans. The new Mission, Vision, and Community Goals are stated below. The Mission, Statement and Goals were reviewed, but not revised in 2004.

Mission

To provide excellent city services so that our citizens may thrive in a safe and healthy community.
(February 19, 2002)

Vision Statement

The City of Topeka will serve as the regional center for economic development, recreation, health care, and education while providing a highly livable City for all. (February 19, 2002)

Community Goals

(March 26, 2002)

1. Develop a vigorous, strong economy and stimulate growth in the city.
2. Provide safe, stable and vibrant neighborhood environments for Topeka citizens.
3. Provide excellent cultural and recreational opportunities for the region.
4. Provide the highest quality municipal services at a reasonable cost.
5. Encourage progressive community development by both the public and private sectors.
6. Value diversity and ensure fair treatment for all.

Council Priorities

In 2000 the City Council passed an ordinance requiring itself to set budget priorities by the first Tuesday in May, and the Mayor to submit the budget based on those priorities by the first Tuesday in July. In April of 2001, the Council amended the ordinance to allow the Council until the third Tuesday in May to establish the priorities. This was done in recognition of the fact that in election years, the original deadline may not give new council members adequate time to become familiar with the business of city government.

Since 2000, the Council has followed a process of each member ranking a set of 51 separate priorities, and then aggregating the scores for an overall ranking. For the 2005 budget, the Council retained top priorities from the prior year. It also developed new priorities and combined these with priorities from the City's Comprehensive Plan. The table on the next page assigns these priorities to an appropriate goal. The column on the left designates the source of the priority, whether from 2004, new for 2005 or from an element of the Comprehensive Plan. The process produced a set of basic priorities for the Council to refer to during its review and adoption of the budget

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Budget Priorities and Community Goals

1. Develop a vigorous, strong economy and stimulate growth in the city.

2004	Business-friendly licensing and permitting environment
2004	City programs to encourage private economic development
Eco Devo	Retain and support the expansion of existing business.
Eco Devo	Attract new industries that compliment the region's economy and utilize the region's labor force
Eco Devo	Increase the region's supply of ready and available industrial and office properties for immediate occupancy
Eco Devo	Increase the number of jobs created through entrepreneurial start-ups in the region
Eco Devo	Revitalize downtown Topeka as the regions' primary economic development generator
Eco Devo	Maximize the economic impact of tourism in Topeka and Shawnee County

2. Provide safe, stable and vibrant neighborhood environments for Topeka citizens.

2004	Response of police on priority calls
2004	Prompt, effective investigation of crimes
2004	Community/neighborhood policing
2004	Providing safe, clean drinking water
2004	Effective enforcement of nuisance and unsafe structure codes
2004	Prosecuting violations of all city laws
2004	Treating sewage effectively in accordance with federal law
2004	Response of Fire Department to emergency calls
Chesney	Maintain a clean and safe living environment for all citizens

3. Provide excellent cultural and recreational opportunities for the region.

2004	Providing and maintaining parks, trails, and open spaces
Holliday Park	Preserve and restore the architectural and cultural significance of one of Topeka's earliest residential districts and establish a sense of community pride for all residents and property owners.

4. Provide the highest quality municipal services at a reasonable cost.

2004	Passing a budget that does not require growth in the mill levy rate
2004	Accountability for city monies/financial reporting
2004	Maintenance of city grounds and facilities
2004	Recruiting and retaining quality city employees
2005	Develop budgets that provide only those funds necessary to deliver services
2005	Determine whether the City can provide better services with less money through optimization
2005	Ensure that the services provided to citizens are worth the money paid
Land	Infrastructure Efficiency - Most of the population increase will be housed in existing urban areas or identified
Use/Growth	growth zones where urban infrastructure needed to serve that population can be efficiently provided without
Mgmt	creating unnecessary financial hardships on the residents or by creating environmental problems related to the lack of urban facilities in intensively developed areas.

5. Encourage progressive community development by both the public and private sectors.

2004	Land use and neighborhood planning
2004	Effective enforcement of building codes
Hist. Pres.	Safeguard the City's historic and cultural heritage as embodied and reflected in such historic resources

6. Value diversity and ensure fair treatment for all.

Elmhurst	Support affordable housing opportunities in a scattered site approach
Historic Topeka	N. Increase density of populations and quality of housing options, both market-rate and affordable, that stabilizes the housing market.
Land	Unique Metropolitan Fabric - The City will develop into a vibrant and growing metropolitan area with unique and
Use/Growth	attractive features, and serve an important and valued role in the economy and social life
Mgmt	
Neigh. Ele.	Balance Mixed-Income Neighborhood Investment Throughout the City
Tenn Town	Help develop linkages to educational/cultural/recreational assets within the community - schools, churches, library, etc. that will enable youth to enhance their academic and life skills.
Tenn Town	Welcome and support a diversity of peoples.