

MARSHALLTOWN CITY NEWS

Council Goals Set Direction for 2026-2028

Each fall, the Mayor, City Council, and department directors come together to identify the strategic priorities that will guide the City of Marshalltown over the next several years. This year's goal setting session reaffirmed our mission—to collaborate to provide a welcoming, safe, vibrant, and growing community—and renewed our commitment to the City values of Inclusion, Innovation, Stewardship, Trust, Integrity and Excellence.

For 2026–2028, four major strategies will guide our work:

1. Expand and Improve Development

Marshalltown continues to see new opportunities and reinvestment. Over the next year, the City will focus on launching a micro-grant incentive program to support business and development, while continuing to make progress on major priorities, including downtown street improvements, redevelopment of the former hospital campus, and supporting local businesses to grow and expand.

2. Enhance Marshalltown's Public Image

Council placed a strong focus on promoting first impressions, signage improvements, tree canopy restoration, and strengthening communication. Hiring a Communications Director in the first year is a priority to help better share the good work happening across the community.

3. Improve and Sustain Infrastructure, Organization, and Services

The City will continue to advance investments in streets, flood control, parks, technology tools, and organizational capacity. In the first year, this includes developing a detailed street improvement plan and levee and flood control work.

4. Partner to Advance Quality of Life

Marshalltown's partnerships—with nonprofits, schools, the business community, and volunteers—remain core to our success. Council emphasized strengthening EMS (Emergency Medical System) solutions, expanding trail development, and partnering more intentionally on youth and adult recreation.

These goals reflect where Marshalltown is headed and how we continue building on the momentum generated over the last several years. Throughout the year, residents will see these strategies reflected in project priorities, budget allocations, and ongoing community reporting. We look forward to working together to make Marshalltown even stronger in 2026–2028.

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City Council Highlights

The Marshalltown City Council convenes on the second and fourth Monday's of the month to conduct the city's business. The Council addresses important matters impacting our community. Below are some highlights from recent meetings and what's ahead.



- Council discussed the findings of a **solid waste study** conducted by Iowa State University. The study helps better understand Marshalltown's current open-market system, identifies challenges, and explore options to improve waste collection and disposal services for residents and businesses.
- Council adopted an ordinance adding attendance requirements for certain **boards and commissions**.
- An update on the **Re-Imagine Marshalltown Comprehensive Plan** initiative was presented to City Council. The comprehensive plan sets the overall direction for the City over the next 20 years.
- The Council adopted the 2026-2026 **City Council Goal Setting Report**.
- Looking ahead to November, the Council is set to focus on several important fronts, including consideration of several resolutions obligating **Urban Renewal Tax Revenue Funds** to make payments of tax increment-financed obligations, discussion on next steps related to the findings of the solid waste study, and review of the findings of an Emergency Medical Services (**EMS**) study.

What Does "Right-of-Way" Mean?

You'll often hear the City refer to the "right-of-way" when discussing sidewalks, trees, poles, signs, or utility repairs.

The right-of-way is the public space on either side of the street, typically including the sidewalk, parking strip, and areas needed for street maintenance and utilities. Even though it is next to private property, this area is public and used for things that benefit the whole community.

Knowing where the right-of-way is helps everyone understand why certain improvements — or limitations — exist in those spaces.

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The City is Hiring

The City is seeking a Civil Engineer, Police Officer, Transit Operator, Building Supervisor, and various seasonal positions. Visit <https://www.marshalltown-ia.gov/jobs.aspx> to apply.



Reimagine Marshalltown: Building Our Future Together

The City of Marshalltown is launching an important update to its Comprehensive Plan—an overall roadmap for how our community grows, invests, and evolves over the next 10-20 years. Called Reimagine Marshalltown, this initiative is designed to shape everything from housing, transportation, and infrastructure to parks, land use, economic development, and community well-being.

What is a Comprehensive Plan and Why Does it Matter?

A Comprehensive Plan sets a long-term vision and then ties that vision to goals, priorities and the City’s capital improvement agenda. It covers key areas including housing (including a dedicated Housing Study to understand future needs), infrastructure & public facilities, transportation & mobility, parks & open space, land use & development, and economic development and social/civic health.

How You Can Be Involved

Community input is at the heart of this process. The City invites residents, business owners, stakeholders and community groups to share ideas and help shape the outcome—because the plan only works if it reflects the community’s voice. Visit the comprehensive plan’s website - www.reimaginemarshalltown.com, to provide input and learn other ways you can engage in the process.

Where We Are in the Process

The planning timeline includes four phases:

- **Fall 2025** - Kick-off / Mobilize / Launch: forming the Steering Committee, community tours and listening sessions.
- **Winter 2025** - Learn / Discover / Design: gathering data, analyzing input, creating land-use and population forecasts.
- **Spring 2026** - Define & Refine: drafting the land-use plan, refining focus area concepts and planning elements.
- **Summer 2026** - Implement & Celebrate: publishing the draft plan, community open house, final review and adoption.

Your voice matters. Whether you’re thinking about where to live, how to get around, where kids will play, or how our economy diversifies, the Reimagine Marshalltown process is where we plan for it. Visit the project website or contact the Planning & Zoning Department to share your ideas and stay informed.

City Election Results

The City of Marshalltown held its municipal election on Tuesday, November 4, 2025. Several important seats were on the ballot: Mayor, two At-Large City Council positions, and Council seats for the 1st and 3rd Wards. The seats were filled as follows:

- Mayor - Mike Ladehoff
- Council at Large - Jeff Schneider and Sue Cahill
- Council Ward 1 - Marco Yepez-Gomez
- Council Ward 3 - Greg Nichols

City Offices Closed

City offices will be closed November 11 for a staff in-service day and on November 27 and 28 in observance of Thanksgiving.

Leaf Burning Reminder

Please remember that open burning in Marshalltown is only allowed for yard waste such as leaves, sticks, and vegetation — and only during the months of April–June and October–November from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Burning household garbage or other non-plant material is prohibited. Residents are encouraged to compost or use the City compost facility. For questions or concerns about burning restrictions, please contact the Fire Department at (641) 754-5751.

What We Learned: Solid Waste Study Findings

The City recently completed a Solid Waste Study to better understand Marshalltown's current open-market system, identify challenges, and explore options to improve waste collection and disposal services for residents and businesses.

Marshalltown currently has multiple private haulers operating citywide, which provides customer choice and supports local business — but also results in more trucks traveling the same neighborhoods, increased wear on streets, and inefficiencies that other communities avoid when using more consolidated models.

The study also highlighted several related areas of concern:

- Junk accumulation in yards and nuisance properties
- Road wear/cost implications tied to multiple heavy truck routes
- Limited recycling participation and inconvenience in current sorting system
- Limited yard waste and composting options with fewer pickup choices
- Higher cost barriers for some households and seniors

Despite these challenges, most Marshalltown residents said they want to keep the open-market hauling system and maintain choice in service providers — but also want the City to find ways to make the system work better.

The report suggests a set of improvements that could be implemented without changing the open market system — such as improving junk disposal programs, exploring a citywide recycling contract or free drop-off site, considering a yard waste pickup option, and increasing education and outreach on waste and recycling.

The City Council will now begin reviewing potential recommendations from the study to determine which options are feasible, cost-effective, and community supported. This work will continue into winter and through the 2026 budget development discussions.

Residents will have ongoing opportunities to provide input as recommendations are evaluated and brought forward.



Top Five Questions City Staff Get Every Fall/Winter

Every year as temperatures drop and snow season approaches, City departments start receiving many of the same questions from residents. Here are the top 10 topics we hear the most about — and the quick answers to help you be prepared:

- 1. When can I burn leaves?** Open burning is allowed for yard waste only (leaves, sticks, vegetation) during April–June and October–November from 10 a.m.–7 p.m. Burning garbage is not allowed.
- 2. When does snow parking go into effect?** Parking restrictions apply automatically anytime the City declares a snow emergency. Watch the City website, social media, and local media for announcements.
- 3. Why wasn't my street plowed first?** Priority routes — main streets, emergency routes, and high travel corridors get plowed first. Residential streets follow once priority routes are cleared and safe.
- 4. How long do I have to shovel my sidewalk?** Sidewalks must be cleared within 24 hours after snowfall ends.
- 5. When does the compost facility close for the year?** The compost facility closes after November — weather dependent. Watch the City website for specific closing date notices each year.