

News

Planning

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along with the strengths and opportunities in each area for the city.

Community Culture

When going over the culture formed in Prairie City, the community members found that threats and weaknesses include becoming a bedroom community, volunteerism, competition with Monroe and the need for more workforce for businesses to be strong points. On the other hand, strengths and opportunities lie in the new trail system

in town, the public library and public safety, the church community, bringing the prairie to the city, community events and the use of the recreation complex.

Mobility

The first strength and opportunity in Prairie City for mobility mentioned was the new bike trial, primed for use and to bring new people to the community. The group also thought adding car charging stations could set the city apart.

There were a few topics that had both positives and negatives

associated with them including the speed cameras, sidewalks and golf cart and ATV/UTV use in town. For the speed cameras, while it may bring revenue to the city, it is also creating a reputation outside of the town that it isn't so inviting. Along the same lines, having the ability to travel by golf cart or ATV/UTV in town is great for a number of citizens, but safety concerns on who is using the vehicles and if they are using them appropriately were also brought up. Sidewalks brought a

lot of concerns to the group between the connectivity of the system to the safety of those in place. Also, the quality of the roads was found to be a threat/weakness along with a lack of designated truck route and street parking.

Development

Opportunities were abundant for development in the city with the desire to grow, a healthy school district, new businesses, location to Des Moines and the new medical clinic found as strengths for Prairie City. Opportunities by way of the

addition of a hotel and more affordable housing could help the town in a variety of areas.

The biggest weakness facing the growth of Prairie City is the lack of land to expand. The group also doesn't want to grow and develop in a reactionary manor and looks to address the inappropriate building uses, for example downtown buildings being used for storage.

The meeting concluded by working on the communities identity. The group had four main topics — quality of life, Goldie's, friendly

and speed cameras — that they felt identified the city.

"It is a transparent process," Janson said. "If somebody has something to talk about, have them come to the planning and zoning meeting. We're happy to talk to anybody."

A survey will also be available for citizens and those who frequent Prairie City to take to help with the development of the comprehensive plan. In the coming days it will be found on the city's website and in paper form throughout the community.

Dance Team

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one of them and Morgan (the former coach) chose not to use it. I thought, 'good, I'm going to save that for next year,' Curry said. "After about four different novelty ideas I threw birds into the mix and I just knew that was the one. It's going to be cute, it's going to be fun, it's going to be different."

Hip hop was selected by the girls, a theme they had been pushing for the past couple of years. Dressed in their Freddy Mercury best, the team becomes Queen when on the floor.

"It's a tough year, we have a lot of hard dances," senior Isabelle Lorton said. "It's going good, we are further than we have been in the past years with the difficulty level of it. With state coming up, it's all going so fast and it can be stressful."

Senior Lily Ladehoff agreed, saying

the team is working really hard, getting up before the sun comes up to perfect the routines.

"Everybody is really putting in all of the effort they can give," Ladehoff said. "My favorite is the bird dance. The music is so fun and there is so much attitude and facials you can give, the choreography is really different."

Lorton is excited for the western themed pom as it calls back to her freshman year "Toy Story" themed routine.

"Our freshman year with did a Woody novelty, it is nostalgic to be doing another one," Lorton said.

As state gets closer, it also brings a time of reflection for the seniors who will be taking the big stage one last time for PCM.

"It is kind of sad. You are with these girls every morning for months at a time, for four years even and then you just have to say good-bye," Lorton said.



PCM Dance Team's pom routine has a country western theme and is a fast-paced dance full of tricks. Jamee A. Pierson/PCM Explorer

"It is kind of hard."

Ladehoff said she often tears up just thinking about their final show.

"Being a part of this team is something we have all just done for so long that it is normal, so when it isn't it is going to be a change," Ladehoff said.

Fan are invited to cheer on the team of seniors Ladehoff, Lorton and Savannah Disney, juniors Ryan Bennett, Avery Houser and Tiffani Koonce, sophomores Chloe Greiner, Charlotte

Landwehr, Addison Shannon and Jaylyn DeVries and freshmen Carly Steenhoek and Seriah Nolin as they leave it all on the floor at state. Hip hop kicks off the day at 2:47 p.m. with novelty at 4:52 p.m. and pom at 8:30 p.m.

Soloist will also be competing at Hy-Vee Hall earlier in the day. Disney starts PCM's squad at 1:03 p.m. with Ladehoff at 1:07 p.m., Lorton at 1:10 p.m., Landwehr at 1:14 p.m. and Greiner at 1:17 p.m.

Appointment

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who would be appointed to the role currently occupied by Dennis Parrott, who announced in early October that he would be retiring from his office on Dec. 31. Parrott's term expires in 2024.

When brought up as a discussion item at the board meeting, Jas-

per County Supervisor Brandon Talsma made it clear he would rather appoint someone to be the next auditor rather than hold a special election. The term has about two years left, he said, and it doesn't justify spending more than \$25,000 on an election.

According to Iowa Code, election expenses include but are not limited to: the printing of the ballots and election

register, publication of notices, printing of declaration of eligibility affidavits, compensation for precinct election boards, canvass materials and the preparation and installation of voting equipment.

Appointing an individual as the county auditor must be done within 40 days after the vacancy occurs, which would be approximately mid-February.

"The other thing is, too, is whoever gets appointed to that position really only has a year before the next election cycle starts again," Talsma said.

Jasper County Supervisor Doug Cupples thought about both options but ultimately leaned toward appointment. If the board of supervisors go this route and the citizens disagree with their decision,

Cuples said they have the opportunity to challenge it by a petition and call for a special election.

Iowa Code allows voters to file a petition requesting a special election within the first 14 days an appointment is made. Petitions will be considered valid if they are signed by eligible voters in Jasper County equal in number to at least 10 percent of

the votes cast in this past general election.

Which means a successful petition will require roughly 1,500-1,600 signatures. Voters need to include a signature, their address and the date on the petitions.

With supervisors deciding an appointment as the best option, the board must eventually publish a notice stating its intent to fill the vacancy.

Special Election

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"I think a special election is better. It lets the people decide. I think it should be up to the people to decide. But the supervisors have the option to appoint, and

they chose that option. So I guess we'll see who they appoint and go from there."

At the Nov. 15 meeting, the board of supervisors voted 3-0 to fill the vacancy by appointment. Appointing an individual as county auditor must be done within 40 days after the vacancy occurs. Supervisors have until mid-February.

Voters can petition for a special election within the first 14 days an appointment is made.

If a petition gets enough signatures for a special election to be scheduled, Smith said nominating conventions would have to be organized, too. Ne-armyer said the nominating convention would be similar to what the parties did for the Iowa House District 29 vacancy last year between Jon Dunwell and Steve

Mullan.

Whether it is by appointment or by special election, Smith hopes the process is treated like a job interview and that the right person is chosen for the job. With the board consisting of all Republicans, Smith questioned if they will appoint an individual of their own party or "take a more neutral tone" to the selection.

"Like look at the individual rather than the party," Smith said.

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City of Monroe Thanksgiving Service Schedule 2022

Attention: City of Monroe

There will be no change in service day for City of Monroe customers. Normal service on Wednesday, November 23, 2022.

We will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 24, 2022!

Please visit www.midwestsanitation.com, Facebook, or call 641.628.2610 for more information.

