

ORDINANCE NO.: 5264

AN ORDINANCE repealing and recreating Section 101 Article III of the Code of Ordinances of the City of La Crosse regarding the City's Comprehensive Plan.

THE COMMON COUNCIL of the City of La Crosse do ordain as follows:

SECTION I: Section 101 Article III is hereby repealed and recreated to read as follows:

ARTICLE III. - THE LA CROSSE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN<sup>1</sup>  
*State Law reference— Comprehensive plans, Wis. Stat. §§66.1001.*

**Sec. 101-56. - Authority.**

This article is enacted to carry out the purpose and intent, and exercise the authority, set out in Wis. Stat. § 66.1001, Comprehensive Planning.

**Sec. 101-57. - Purpose and intent.**

(a) It is hereby declared that the purpose and intent of the comprehensive plan is to provide a vision for the future of the community along with steps that are needed to achieve that vision.

(b) The Comprehensive Plan shall include, but not be limited to, a statement of objectives of the municipality concerning its future development, a plan for land use, a plan to meet the housing needs of present residents and of those individuals and families anticipated to reside in the municipality, a plan for movement of people and goods, a plan for community facilities and utilities, a statement of the interrelationships among the various plan components, short and long-range plan implementation strategies, a statement indicating that the existing and proposed development of the municipality is compatible with the existing and proposed development and plans in contiguous portions of neighboring municipalities and a plan for the protection of natural and historic resources.

(c) The provisions set forth in the Comprehensive Plan adopted herein are declared to be the minimum requirements necessary to accomplish the aforesaid stated intent and purpose to protect human, environmental, social and economic resources and to maintain, through orderly growth and development, the character and stability of present and future land use and development in the incorporated area of the City of La Crosse, Wisconsin, including newly annexed areas.

**Sec. 101-58. - Adoption of Comprehensive Plan.**

The Common Council of the City of La Crosse, Wisconsin, does, by enactment of this article, formally adopt the document entitled "Forward La Crosse: The City of La Crosse 2040 Comprehensive Plan," pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.1001(4)(c).

**Sec. 101-59. - Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan.**

The Comprehensive Plan shall be reviewed annually. Any changes to the plan text or maps constitute amendments to the plan and should follow a standard process. Requests for amendments may be brought forward by City staff, officials, and residents, and should be consistent with the Guiding Principles. Proposed amendments may originate in any of the following ways:

- (1) Amendments proposed as corrections of clerical or administrative errors, mapping errors, and updated data for texts, tables, and maps. Such amendments would be drafted by City staff.

- (2) Amendments proposed as a result of discussion with officials and citizens.
- (3) Amendments proposed as a result of recommendations discussed during a City planning process.
- (4) Adoption of new neighborhood, area, or other plans that demonstrate consistency with the Guiding Principles and need to be folded within the Comprehensive Plan.

When a change is proposed, it should follow this general procedure:

- (1) Recommendation by the Plan Commission to conduct a review process for the proposed amendment.
- (2) Facilitation of public hearings as required by applicable Wisconsin State Statute and/or ordinance.
- (3) For more major changes to the plan policies, a more thorough public input process should be undertaken to ensure broad support from the community.
- (4) Recommendation from the Plan Commission to the City Council.
- (5) Consideration and decision by the City Council to adopt the amended plan by ordinance.
- (6) City staff should record the amendment on a publicly accessible amendment log and post the revised PDF of the plan on the City website.
- (7) No more than two amendments shall occur in a calendar year.
- (8) Comprehensive Plan amendments shall follow the procedure that is provided in Wis. Stat. § 66.1001(4).
- (9) All amendments to the Comprehensive Plan shall be accompanied by a fee in the amount established in Appendix C.
- (10)

**Sec. 101-60. - Monitoring and evaluation requirements.**

The Comprehensive Plan should reflect the current goals, objectives, and policies of the City of La Crosse at all times. Therefore, the Comprehensive Plan should be fully reviewed by City staff annually with the following items serving as a basis for review:

- (1) New land use opportunities
- (2) Further plan detail and refinement
- (3) Market shifts
- (4) Demographic changes and/or changes in growth patterns
- (5) Unforeseen challenges
- (6) Changes to legislation

Although the planning horizon of this plan is 20 years, Wisconsin State Statute requires that the Comprehensive Plan be updated at least every 10 years to account for emerging issues or trends. Physical changes in La Crosse should be monitored on an ongoing basis. All new development should be compared to and reviewed under the lens of compatibility with the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan. Amendments to the plan based on new development or other new opportunities should not become the standard response but should only be undertaken after careful consideration of the opportunity's appropriateness and broad community support.

**Sec. 101-61. - Consistency of actions and procedures with the adopted Comprehensive Plan.**

Beginning on January 1, 2024, if the City of La Crosse as a governmental unit engages in any of the following actions, those actions shall be consistent with the adopted Comprehensive Plan:

- (1) Official mapping established or amended under Wis. Stat. § 62.23(6).

