

## CHAPTER 2: TOWN OF BYRON PLANNING GOALS AND POLICIES

### *“The Town of Byron – A Great Place to Live”*

#### **Town Planning Goals**

This plan for the Town of Byron seeks to keep the town a great place to live and, where possible, to help make it a better place. To that end, the plan has been developed to advance the following four general goals:

- ▶ Preserve and enhance the rural, small town character of the town.
- ▶ Protect and promote the health, safety, and the quality of life of all town residents.
- ▶ Encourage a viable local economy consistent with the town’s size and character.
- ▶ Provide for the economical delivery of necessary town services and facilities.

#### **Byron Planning Policies**

Consistent with the above goals, the plan is also based on the following “community planning policies” for the Town of Byron. These policies are more detailed statements of how town planning will work to advance the goals. It is expected that these policies will help guide specific planning decisions, including decisions on specific developments, on extending town facilities and services, and on the formulation of land use ordinances.

**Policy #1:** Encourage the involvement of the town’s citizens in community planning and development decision making.

**Policy #2:** Conserve the value of property by planning for and encouraging the most appropriate use of land throughout the town.

**Policy #3:** Protect current residents from conflicting land uses by appropriate zoning.

**Policy #4:** Ensure that new developments provide necessary services and facilities at developer’s expense and not overtaxing the Town’s ability to provide them by taking such actions as:

- Preparing an infrastructure plan that identifies how to most economically engineer public utilities to accommodate future growth.
- Establishing a town economic development fund that can be used to offset developer’s costs for construction of utilities, streets, etc, in highly beneficial development projects.

**Policy #5:** Encourage infill development in vacant areas in town where town services are already available by taking such actions as:

- Allowing utility tap fee discounts for infill development.
- Keeping regulations on lot splits (division of one lot into two) simple and streamlined.
- Assisting in the marketing of available in-town development sites.

**Policy #6:** Maintain the viability of the existing Main Street businesses.

**Policy #7:** Encourage additional Main Street retail and service businesses, particularly those that provide for the needs for town residents.

**Policy #8:** Promote tourism and tourism-support businesses by taking such actions as:

- Improving signage to facilitate tourist use of town parks and other town features.
- Making town parks more interesting and attractive to visitors with landscaping or the addition of historical artifacts and agricultural implements.
- Providing a Byron-specific informational flyer to tourism information outlets.
- Developing additional Main Street attractions and amenities such as street furniture and period lighting fixtures.

**Policy #9:** Encourage the reuse of unused or underused buildings and sites for beneficial economic activity.

**Policy #10:** Encourage the establishment of major commercial or industrial businesses in or next to the town.

**Policy #11:** Support regional economic development aimed at diversifying the economy and improving incomes in the northern Big Horn Basin.

**Policy #12:** Encourage landscape design and building beautification on existing and new developments.

**Policy #13:** Improve the appearance of Byron as seen from its main entry points on the highway and through town on Main Street.

**Policy #14:** Improve the appearance of residential areas by controlling public nuisances include weeds, abandoned vehicles, and dilapidated buildings and encouraging improvements such as tree planting and landscaping.

**Policy #15:** Promote the rehabilitation of existing housing units.

**Policy #16:** Encourage more variety in new housing, including single family homes and multifamily housing while improving the quality of the existing housing stock by rehabilitation and replacement of substandard housing units.

