

Livonia plans major redesign of Civic Center campus over next decade



[Shelby Tankersley](#)

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LIVONIA — In the next seven to ten years, Livonia's Civic Center campus is likely to undergo an extreme makeover.

The 27-acre campus at the corner of Five Mile and Farmington roads is one of the focal points of the city's [2021 master plan](#) and will, officials hope, eventually become a downtown.

But first, many of the city facilities like the Livonia Senior Center, Livonia City Hall, an old courthouse and the Livonia Police Department need to be torn down and moved. Livonia Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan said she plans to take steps toward moving city hall throughout the next year.

"We can begin to design something that has the look and the feel of a downtown, which is what Livonia voters expect," she said.

Redesigning the Civic Center campus

Brosnan has repeatedly said she'd like to create "downtown Livonia" without raising taxes.

City council members unanimously approved on July 15 an intent to take out a bond, similar to a loan, for \$42 million that will go toward a new city hall. Brosnan said she expects the new facility will come in under that budget, and the city plans to use roughly \$2.4 million in savings from retiree healthcare plans to pay down the bond, meaning taxes won't be impacted.

With the [continued relocation of the senior center](#) and the relocation of city hall likely beginning, Brosnan says, sometime next year, the city will begin carving out about 10 acres of developable space at Five Mile and Farmington for housing and commercial developments.

The city intends to keep city hall and the police department at Civic Center, but both are likely to be moved closer to the Civic Center Library. The main Livonia Fire Department on the campus as well as the four ancillary stations throughout the city are planned to be updated and remain where they are.

A more 'multifunctional' city hall building

Brosnan said she expects the new city hall will be smaller and more accessible than the current structure, which was built in the late 1970s. Modern security features are also expected to be a priority.

"We need to be more accessible," Brosnan said. "What we really need is space that can be changed and moved around. Things like auditoriums, for example, are very rigid in their structure. There isn't a great opportunity to host anything other than meetings like we do now. We're looking for things that are more multi-functional."

Aside from the perceived economic benefits of moving city hall to make way for a downtown, Brosnan said a new building will be more reliable for city staff. According to a capital needs assessment completed last year, city hall alone needs [nearly \\$30 million](#) worth of functional improvements or repairs made in the next nine years.

"It's more costly to keep the building hobbling along than it is to build a new one," Brosnan said.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 734-331-0659.

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