# Town of Lingle Strategic Plan Summary

## Community Priorities for 2027–2031

*Prepared for Town Council review and public posting • November 2026*

Lingle's community planning session identified a clear direction for the next five years: protect the town's small-town character, protect public safety, complete essential infrastructure improvements, strengthen local businesses, improve recreation, and encourage residents to take an active role in their community.

This summary combines the October 21, 2026 presentation, reported poster results, and community survey tallies with the Wyoming Association of Municipalities (WAM) SWOT analysis. It presents community priorities and proposed next steps for Council consideration. Project approval, funding, responsibilities, and schedules will be determined through Council review and budgeting.

## Our shared vision

> *By 2031, Lingle will be a clean, welcoming, well-maintained community with reliable services, a stronger Main Street, housing opportunities, and recreation for all ages—a place where families and businesses can grow while preserving community pride and strong local schools.*

## What we want to protect

Residents value Lingle's quiet, friendly, small-town atmosphere, safety, affordability, community pride, schools, and established businesses. Participants also want to strengthen cleanliness and property upkeep. WAM also identified the town's historic identity, highway location, public services, and experience securing outside funding as assets to build upon.

## Community-identified top priorities

The reported top priorities are listed without a numerical ranking:

- Attract one or two new businesses.
- Complete the West Sewer Project.
- Develop needed maintenance-building capacity.
- Increase participation in Town meetings.
- Pursue a new pool house and expanded pool.
- Develop a walking path along the canal.
- Establish a long-term grant policy and funding plan.

## What the survey adds

The survey reinforces infrastructure and community upkeep while giving public safety a prominent place in the plan. These are leading selections within separate questions; they are not a single overall ranking.

| Survey question | Leading recorded selections |
|---|---|
| **Infrastructure needs** | Sewer system: 11; water system: 7; streets and pavement: 5; drainage/stormwater: 4 |
| **Community projects** | Vacant property cleanup/reuse: 8; trees/landscaping: 8; parks/playgrounds/recreation: 7; youth programs/gathering spaces: 6 |
| **What comes first when resources are limited** | Public safety/emergency services: 14; essential infrastructure: 8; community appearance: 7; maintaining existing Town facilities: 6 |
| **Paying for major projects** | Grants that fit Town priorities: 10; service-specific user fees: 7; project phasing: 5; partnerships/donations: 5 |
| **Ordinance review** | Animals/livestock: 8; property maintenance/nuisances: 6; vacant/unsafe buildings: 4 |
| **Receiving Town information** | Utility-bill inserts: 13; website, Facebook, email, and local newspaper: 5 each |

Open-ended comments also raised highway speeding, safer crossings and sidewalks, weeds, cats, cemetery tree care, transparency, preservation of local history, and attracting young families. Business recruitment appeared prominently in the meeting priorities but received 2 selections in the survey's community-project question; Council should consider both sources rather than treating either as a townwide mandate.

## Five goals for the next five years

### 1. Protect public safety and maintain reliable essential services

Maintain police, fire, and emergency-service readiness, and review highway-speeding concerns and pedestrian safety with appropriate partners. Focus infrastructure work on the West Sewer Project and the facilities needed to maintain Town services. Evaluate sewer maintenance-building and Town shop needs together to clarify whether they require shared or separate facilities.

Survey responses also identify water-system maintenance, streets and pavement, street lighting, sidewalks, and accessibility. Other identified needs include North Hills drainage, alley improvements, tree removal, a cemetery fence, Town Hall remodeling, audiovisual equipment for the community center, and replacement Christmas decorations. Plan routine maintenance and future replacement alongside new construction.

### 2. Spend responsibly and plan ahead

Develop a long-term grant policy and funding plan that identifies priority projects, potential grants, sponsors, corporate donations, matching funds, and ongoing operating costs. Build financial reserves and coordinate applications with available staff capacity. Evaluate phased construction, partnerships, service-specific fees, and deferral of lower-priority projects as part of an affordable funding approach.

WAM's recommendations reinforce the need for clear revenue information, budget reconciliation, reserve planning, and long-term utility replacement planning. Outside funding opportunities should be evaluated for eligibility and affordability before commitments are made.

### 3. Strengthen Main Street, housing, and local employment

Recruit one or two new businesses while supporting expansion of existing businesses. Residents especially want occupied storefronts and customer-serving, brick-and-mortar businesses on Main Street, including a café, coffee shop/bakery, or boutique.

Explore partnerships to rehabilitate abandoned or deteriorated homes, support new housing, and connect homeowners and entrepreneurs with available low-interest financing programs. Seek opportunities for a midsized employer that could help retain younger residents and families. WAM also identified heritage tourism and visitor traffic as opportunities to support local commerce.

### 4. Improve recreation and quality of life

Prioritize maintenance and upgrades to the pool, pool house, park, and playground equipment. Include youth gathering spaces, senior accessibility, tree replacement and care, cemetery upkeep, and downtown beautification in project review. Explore the canal walking path with appropriate partners, including access, safety, and maintenance requirements.

Longer-term ideas include a covered or expanded pool, ice rink, disc golf course, gym or ball courts, and improvements to the pool and community center. Evaluate costs, public use, staffing, and ongoing maintenance before selecting projects. Support local schools and community partnerships as anchors for families.

### 5. Encourage participation, clear communication, and community upkeep

Encourage residents to attend Town meetings, volunteer, and take shared responsibility for Lingle's future. Use utility-bill inserts as a primary outreach tool, supported by the Town website, Facebook, email, local newspaper, posted notices, and public meetings. Provide clear information about Town decisions, projects, events, and community programs.

Review zoning and ordinances for clarity and consistent application, including weeds, property upkeep, vacant or unsafe buildings, animals and nuisance concerns, and downtown uses. Review snow-removal concerns raised in survey comments. Pair clear public information with consistent follow-through.

WAM also recommends documenting staff procedures, cross-training, succession planning, and protecting financial, utility-billing, and Town records so essential operations can continue through staffing changes or emergencies.

## Turning priorities into action

Council's proposed first steps are to:

1. Review the combined meeting and survey findings, confirm priorities, and adopt the plan through Council action.
2. Verify the West Sewer Project's status, engineering requirements, cost, and funding path; clarify maintenance-building and Town shop needs.

3 Develop a five-year project and funding schedule, beginning with public safety, essential services, and urgent maintenance.

4 Select practical first actions for business recruitment, recreation maintenance, communication, and ordinance review.

5 Assign a responsible lead, Town role, target date, cost estimate, and funding approach to each selected action.

6 Review progress publicly at least annually and update priorities through the budget process.

Track progress through a simple public scorecard: public-safety actions and service-readiness milestones; sewer milestones completed; maintenance-facility planning and funding milestones; new and expanded businesses; occupied Main Street storefronts; pool and park improvements; walking-path milestones; grant applications and awards; reserves; and meeting participation.

## The planning message

Lingle's future depends on caring for what the community already values while making steady, affordable improvements. Essential infrastructure, a stronger local economy, recreation, sound finances, and active community participation will guide the Town's work over the next five years.

### Council review notes

- Survey figures are the recorded tallies in the supplied summary workbook. The workbook does not establish a verified total respondent count or question-level response totals. Multiple selections were allowed for several questions; counts are selections, not percentages. Blank tally cells have not been treated as confirmed zeroes. Meeting vote totals were not supplied.
- WAM's operational recommendations supplement community input; they are not presented as resident vote results.
- WAM identified a difference between listed General Fund revenue and itemized expenditures. It is not a verified deficit and should be reconciled against the adopted budget.
- Confirm current funding-program requirements, project status, and financial information before decisions. Potential grants and partnerships are not committed funding.
- Establish project baselines and measurable targets during action planning. The community identified a goal of one or two new businesses; other numerical targets remain for Council consideration.

**Source materials:** Community poster results supplied for the October 21, 2026 planning session; Lingle Strategic Planning Community Presentation, WAM Updated; WAM, Town of Lingle, Wyoming: SWOT Analysis (September 2026); Lingle WAM SWOT Facilitator and Council Supplement; and the supplied "Lingle's Next Five Years" survey-summary workbook.