



## City Council Backs 4 Blackford County Vision and Action Plan

*By Austin Wilson, Staff Writer*

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"The mission of 4 Blackford County (4BC) is to improve the quality of life in Blackford county, to increase the pride of current residents and to entice new people and businesses to live and work here."

The mission statement for the 4BC steering committee was created by citizens of Blackford County present at various meetings, and now the planning process may be nearing its end, allowing for this statement to be practiced.

City Council members discussed the benefits the 4BC program will offer to the community and its members when they officially endorsed the Vision and Action plan, released on Nov. 21.

Mayor Dennis Whitesell presented a copy of the plan to each council member, explaining that the 4BC steering committee is seeking an endorsement from the City Council, and will most likely do the same with other government bodies in the near future, lending credence to their plan, allowing for yet more participation from the citizens of Blackford County.

4 Blackford County's goal is to receive a grant from United Way in the amount of \$50,000 for the improvement of the county. In order to receive the funds Blackford would need to match the amount, and according to Mayor Whitesell, several community organizations are ready to do their part, and have helped to identify nearly half of the \$50,000 needed.

"It would be a small price for such a large gain," said Whitesell to his fellow Council members of endorsing the plan.

Former Blackford High School teacher John Adams commented, saying that to not endorse the Vision and Action plan would condemn it to being a "paper on a shelf."

Adams has attended several 4BC meetings, participating in the creation of not only the mission statement, but the breadth of the plan itself.

He then made the motion to fully endorse the plan, which was seconded by Council member Gerald Sills, allowing the issue to be endorsed through a unanimous vote.