

7

HENDERSON HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

East side of Water Street, between Basic and Atlantic

Government

Even though Henderson was officially founded just over 50 years ago, city offices have had four different homes, from a location above a grocery store to the current beautiful complex on Water Street.

Led by the Chamber of Commerce, Henderson incorporated on April 16, 1953, marking a long-awaited hope to become an official city. When the first city council was sworn in on May 27, 1953, the ceremony took place at the Central Fire Station, which doubled as the first city hall for a brief period.

From 1955-1963, the City Hall was located on Van Wagenen St. All of the city offices were located at the municipal yard, vacating the space above Byrne's grocery store at Army and Market streets. With the City's growth, the Van Wagenen locale couldn't keep pace with Henderson's growth, so the city scouted for a new site.

In January of 1963, construction of the new city hall began at 243 Water Street. Mayor William Byrne led the groundbreaking ceremony on Water Street, across from the Townsite Elementary School. The municipal building was dedicated on September 18, 1963, with officials praising the consolidation of city services downtown.

During the next two decades, Henderson made do with the city hall at 243 Water Street, adding modular trailers to accommodate growth. In 1989, construction began on the new complex at 240 Water Street, across the street from the former city hall. In 1991, the City Council passed recommendations to expand the Henderson Convention Center and to centralize city operations at city hall.

City employees continue to work in the City Hall complex at 240 Water Street, which has undergone several expansions. The area serves the business needs of residents and functions as town square for downtown Henderson, along with the Henderson Convention Center and Henderson Events Plaza & Amphitheatre which provide space for other functions and events.

