

City Page
August 20, 2009

Public Hearing on Budget & Tax Rate Thursday Aug. 20th at 7:00 pm

The City Council will hold public hearings on the proposed budget and the proposed tax rate during the August 20th regular City Council meeting which begins at 7:00 pm and on September 10th beginning at 7:00 pm.

The following provides a summary of the proposed General Fund budget and property tax rate.

Proposed **General Fund revenues** total **\$2,978,488**, which comes from the following sources:

- Property Tax Collections of \$1,481,798 (49% of total revenue)
- Sales Tax Revenues of \$576,000 (19% of total revenue)
- Franchise Fee Revenues of \$255,000 (9% of total revenue)
- Revenue from Permits and Fees of \$200,000 (7% of total revenue)
- Revenue from fines of \$300,000 (10% of total revenue)
- Payment from Fire District of \$111,282 (4% of total revenue)
- Transfer from the 4A and 4B Funds \$22,708 (1% of total revenue), and
- Revenue from other sources of \$31,700 (1% of total revenue)

The Council has proposed a property tax rate of \$0.634331 per \$100 of valuation which is almost 2 cents less than the current property tax rate of \$0.653476 per \$100 of valuation. However, total revenues from property tax collections will increase over the previous year because of new construction, increased mineral values, and increases in existing property values.

Proposed **General Fund expenditures** for next fiscal year total **\$2,978,488**. This includes funds to maintain City services at the current level with expenditures distributed by City Department as follows:

- Police Department \$955,070 (32% of total expenditures)
- Administration \$447,789 (15% of total expenditures)
- Streets and Building Maintenance \$347,459 (12% of total expenditures)
- Fire and Emergency Medical Services \$393,910 (10% of total expenditures)
- Community Services \$85,666 (3% of total expenditures)
- Non-Departmental \$235,928 (8% of total expenditures)
- Building Inspections and Code Enforcement \$239,084 (8% of total expenditures)
- Municipal Court \$204,223 (7% of total expenditures)
- Animal Control \$147,239 (5% of total expenditures)
- Mayor & Council \$7,120 (less than 0% of total expenditures)

Proposed expenditures also include the following additional services, programs, and equipment:

1. Full time paid Fire Chief
2. Full time Code Compliance Officer
3. Implementation of a Citizens Police Academy
4. Implementation of an electronic agenda system
5. Implementation of a City newsletter to be mailed to all households in Joshua
6. Handheld radios for the patrol officers

7. A patrol vehicle
8. A skid steer and excavator for the street department
9. Shade structures for the outdoor kennels at the Animal Shelter
10. Fire hose replacement
11. SCBA masks for the firefighters

All citizens are encouraged to attend the public hearings and provide input on the proposed budget and tax rate. The City Council vote on the budget and tax rate at the September 17th City Council meeting.

New Cell Phone/School Zone Law To be Enforced

HB 55 was passed into by the Texas Legislature and becomes effective on September 1, 2009. The law prohibits the use of a wireless phones in school zones unless being operated with a hands free device. The prohibition includes both talking and text messaging. Officers will begin issuing citations for violations beginning September 1st.

Fire Safety Tips

Have an exit strategy...

Only one in four Americans has devised and practiced a plan to escape from their home during a fire. Of those Americans who do have an escape plan, only 35 percent have practiced it.

According to a 2005 study commissioned by the State Fire Marshal's Office, 82 percent of college students have "no strategy" for exiting a public venue and rarely consider how they would escape from a fire.

A 2005 State Fire Marshal Inspection of randomly selected bars and nightclubs in Texas revealed that 96 percent have blocked, locked, or poorly marked exits.

Older adults aged 65 and up are twice as likely to be killed or injured by fire compared to the population at large.

Alcohol or drug use, physical or mental disability, and literacy are all factors in fire safety risk.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

August 20, 2009	Regular City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
September 8, 2009	4A Economic Development Board	5:30 p.m.
September 8, 2009	4B Economic Development Board	7:00 p.m.
September 10, 2009	Budget & Tax Rate Public Hearing	7:00 p.m.
September 19, 2009	Community Breakfast	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.