

## BUDGET POLICIES

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The projection shall be prepared in accordance with GAAP and use assumptions that reflect the most probable set of economic conditions and planned courses of action. The projection shall use conservative estimates and, as much as possible, be supported by and reference third party analysis and information.

The importance of matching the timing of debt proceeds to expenditures and of debt servicing to revenue shall be considered less important than the ability to service the debt and minimize the net present value of cash flows. The factors to be used to determine the date of issue and the structure of debt are:

1. the future availability of cash to service the debt; and
2. minimizing the net present value of all cash flows affected by financing, including interest revenue, temporary borrowing and all long-term debt.

The City may issue debt in the fiscal year immediately subsequent to the fiscal year in which the capital asset is acquired, if the financial benefit is clearly demonstrated.

The budget shall include a plan to comply with the prescribed debt limits by December 31, 2005 and thereafter maintain the prescribed debt limits.

Adopted: September 25, 2000/Implemented November 2001

### 11. Debt Level and Capacity

Purpose: To ensure that outstanding and planned debt levels do not exceed an amount that can be supported by the existing and projected tax and revenue base.

Policy: The budget shall include an analysis of debt capacity with the following information:

1. statutory limitations;
2. evaluation of trends in the City's financial performance including availability and reliability of net revenues expected to service debt;
3. disclosure of five-year projections of measures relevant to determining debt capacity.

The budget shall include an analysis of capital improvement options using the following financing alternatives:

1. debt as required by capital improvement plans;
2. maximum allowed levels of outstanding debt and annual debt servicing; and
3. no new debt.

Adopted: September 25, 2000/Implemented November 2001

### 12. One-Time Revenues

Purpose: To limit the use of one-time revenues for ongoing expenditures.

Policy: One-time revenues and their use shall be clearly identified in the budget. One-time revenues shall include amounts exceeding \$50,000 from infrequent sale of capital assets, infrequent revenue from land development and non-recurring grants. One-time revenues may be available for more than one year, but are expected to be non-recurring.



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One-time revenues may be used only to increase fund balances, decrease debt or for non-recurring expenditures such as capital acquisitions, one-time projects, and grants. The budget shall disclose estimated future operating costs and commitments, if any, from non-recurring expenditures.

Adopted: September 25, 2000/Implemented November, 2001

### 13. Unpredictable Revenues

**Purpose:** To consider how significant variation in revenue will affect the City's financial outlook and ability to operate programs in the current and future budget periods.

**Policy:** The budget shall identify each unpredictable revenue source. Unpredictable revenue sources are those revenues with a more than normal risk of varying from budget by more than \$50,000. The collection of revenue shall be considered when determining whether revenue is unpredictable.

The budget amount for each unpredictable revenue source shall be the City's best estimate at the time of the budget. The budget shall include a range of possible revenue amounts including a conservative estimate and optimistic estimate.

For each unpredictable revenue source, the budget shall identify those aspects of the revenue source that makes the revenue unpredictable. Most importantly, the budget shall identify the expected or normal degree of volatility of the revenue source.

Council shall set out in the budget a set of tentative actions to be taken if one or more sources generate revenues substantially higher or lower than projected.

Adopted: September 25, 2000/Implemented November, 2001

### 14. Balancing the Budget

**Purpose:** To balance the budget under normal circumstances and provide for disclosure when a deviation from a balanced budget occurs.

**Policy:** The budget shall be balanced except when reasonably unforeseeable circumstances occur. Examples of unforeseeable circumstances include sudden and severed fluctuations in revenue, major emergency expenditures and significant changes in the value of assets.

The budget shall be considered balanced if:

1. fund balances are within the minimum and maximum limits prescribed in the policy on Stabilization Funds; or
2. the change in balance of each fund meets or exceeds the plan to establish minimum fund balances as prescribed in the policy on Stabilization Funds.

The budget shall disclose whether the budget is balanced. If the budget is not balanced, the budget shall disclose the reasons for not balancing the budget.

The change in balance of each fund shall be determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for local governments and the Financial Administration By-law.

Adopted: September 25, 2000/Implemented November, 2001

### 15. Revenue Diversification

**Purpose:** To ensure the City has diverse revenue sources.

**Policy:** The City shall identify existing potential sources of revenue greater than \$100,000 and consider options to enhance the diversity of revenue sources.

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The City shall examine sources of revenue to determine:

1. the sensitivity of the amount of revenue to changes in rates;
2. the fairness of the tax or fee; and
3. administrative aspects of the revenue source.

Adopted: September 25, 2000/Implemented November, 2001

### 16. Contingency Planning

Purpose: To establish a financial plan to assist the City to take timely action and aid in the overall management of emergencies and unexpected events.

Policy: The budget shall disclose the amount, sources and availability of funds that could be directed to the costs of emergencies, natural disasters or other unexpected events.

The budget shall disclose a general financial plan to restore the financial position of the City.

Adopted: September 25, 2000/Implemented November, 2001

## POLICIES AND PLANS

### 17. Program Design

Purpose: To guide program design by developing and adopting policies and plans necessary to implement Budget Goals.

Policy: Council shall provide direction on how to achieve Budget Goals by adopting City-wide policies and plans to guide the design of specific programs.

The policies and plans shall be sufficiently specific to provide adequate guidance for programs design.

The policies and plans shall consider the assessment of the community, the internal assessment, Council's Budget Goals, and the financial policies.

The policies and plans shall include service delivery issues, performance standards, time frames from achievement of goals and other guidance considered beneficial to design programs.

Adopted: September 25, 2000/Implemented November, 2001

### 18. Capital Asset Management

Purpose: To guide capital asset management by adopting policies and plans for capital asset acquisition, maintenance, replacement and retirement.

Policy: Council shall consider the Capital Assets Assessment and Council's Budget Goals when adopting policies on capital asset management.

Council shall adopt annually five- and twenty-year capital improvement plans. Council shall consider whether the planned level of capital expenditures is adequate to maintain the standards set for capital assets. Council shall not unduly defer capital expenditures.

Council shall provide adequate Capital fund revenue by including, at least:

1. All block funding, except block funding allocated to the Land Development Fund. Block funding shall not be allocated or transferred to the General Fund, the Water & Sewer Fund or the Solid Waste Management Fund;

