



City of Tigard Press Release

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Council Adopts Tigard's Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget

The City Council adopted Tigard's fiscal year 2017-2018 budget unanimously Tuesday during a public hearing.

The approved and balanced budget provides a detailed accounting summary of how the city will provide essential services and meet the community's needs. It also highlights the City Council's priorities to make the greatest positive impact in the community.

"The adopted budget tells residents how we are using the city's limited resources wisely," said Mayor John Cook. "However, our budget also reflects tough choices that the city faces of eroding day-to-day city services on our current financial path. Our General Fund supports basic city services like police, library and parks. Overall, revenues only grow at about 3.5 percent annually while expenses for general services increase at about 4 percent annually."

The total budget of \$218 million across the city's 30 funds is made up of \$137 million in appropriated expenditures that provide for basic city operations like police, library, community planning and building inspections and city administration, as well as capital projects, and debt service payments. Another \$81 million is budgeted in reserves.

The main drivers of this year's budget increase were outside of core city operations. The city is receiving significant developer contributions for future infrastructure projects, growing the city's reserves from \$53 million to \$81 million. The capital program, and the transfers that support the capital program, also are \$12 million larger than the prior fiscal year.

Citywide, operational costs are increasing only 3 percent. When savings generated by no longer buying city water from Portland are removed, the cost of city services is growing by an expected 4 percent.

The city launched an extensive public engagement campaign, including two surveys, to reach out to residents about Tigard's budgetary issues and the challenges to maintain services at their current levels. The city's staffing levels have only recently been brought back up to what they were in 2008, when Tigard's population was about 47,000; meanwhile the city's population has increased by 9 percent.

At their June 13 meeting, the council unanimously adopted a work plan for the newly created Tigard Levy and Bond Advisory Task Force, which will include 18 residents and business owners who will advise the

council on future funding options for city services and facilities. This includes exploring the advancement of voter-approved measures for city services and facilities.

The task force will discuss the local option levy question, holding five meetings monthly through October, and then study the feasibility of a facilities bond through April 2018.

Copies of the proposed budget adopted by the Council can be found on the city's website at: **www.tigard-or.gov/budget**. Approved final copies will be added to the website once they are finalized.

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