

MAYOR'S NEWLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2009

BUDGET TIME II

As I mentioned last month, city management is working hard on next year's budget. Management had their initial draft which was amended by your elected City Council, and now it is time for your input. City Council members will have several occasions to listen to your voices about how the city is spending your hard-earned tax dollars. We want to hear from Jersey Village citizens to help us make those decisions which will shape the future of the city by setting precedents about the type and quality of service you expect from the city and their employees and contractors.

I explained last month where the city revenue comes from and I want to detail the current plan for the budgeted expenditures. This is not final and can be amended until the council votes on the budget at the end of September.

We have several different accounts to allow us to track expenditures. For the most part the money is transferable between accounts, but we try to make sure the money is spent on activities that correlate to how the money is received. I have excluded some accounts – those that receive money by transfer from other funds and accounts that are insignificant. The numbers will not add correctly due to rounding and transfers, but this should indicate where your money is being spent:

General Fund	Dollars (in thousands)
Revenues	8,777
Administrative Services	455
Legal	636 (350 transferred to Capital Improvements)
Information Technology	412
Purchasing	24
Accounting Services	280
Customer Services	117
Municipal Courts	330
Police	2,532
Communications	608
Emergency Services	1,204
Public Works	191
Community Development	284
Streets	485
Building Maintenance	240
Solid Waste	347
Fleet Services	371
Parks & Recreation	706
Total	9,224
Utility Fund	
Revenues	3,048
Water & Sewer	2,453
Capital Improvements	1,246
Debt Services	136
Total	3,834

Debt Service Fund	
Revenues	2,376
Debt Service	2,345
Motel Occupancy Tax	
Revenues	95
Hot Fund Advertising	56
Golf Course Fund	
Revenues	1,421
Expenses	1,450
Red Light Camera Fund	
Revenues	1,200
Expenses	771
Crime Control Fund	
Revenues	805
Expenses	1,031
Total from all funds	17.7 million
Expenses from all funds	18.7 million

Even though this is a negative budget, the city has adequate reserves from careful spending in past years. The city has both an annual reserve for those times when income is reduced and an emergency reserve for extraordinary circumstances such as a hurricane. (Jersey Village spent almost \$1 million cleaning up after Ike.) The current economy has produced the proverbial “rainy day” that we have been saving for. We have adequate reserves to cover this budget if necessary. We are looking at every possible way to cut costs without cutting services. The budgeted income is very conservative and I suspect we will be in the black for the 2009-10 year.

If you have any comments on the budget, please give us your remarks at the budget hearing scheduled for September 14.

