



For Immediate Release:

November 27, 2016

Manager Highlights ‘Fundamentally Strong’ Finances *2017 City Budget Presented to Council for Consideration*

DELAWARE – City Council will consider a proposed 2017 budget that is projected to have enough revenue growth to support increases in certain service areas, while maintaining a fund balance that meets City Council’s target goal.

The General Fund portion of the 2017 budget proposed by City Manager Tom Homan includes revenue estimates of \$21,320,565. The fund balance is estimated to be \$3,686,212, or 17.09 percent of expenditures, meeting Council’s target goal of 17 percent.

The budget ordinance was read into the record Monday, November 27. A public hearing is scheduled for December 12, with likely adoption on December 22. The proposed budget is viewable at delawareohio.net

Homan, in his annual budget message to City Council, noted several encouraging factors that suggest the Delaware economy will continue to grow. Those include an increase in municipal income tax, which represents 65 percent of total general fund revenue; and building-related fees trending higher.

“I am pleased to report that the condition of our city finances is fundamentally strong and thanks to the support and leadership of Mayor Riggle and the City Council, it is getting stronger,” he said.

Budget proposals include:

- A Police Officer to enhance patrol opportunities and coordinate with the newly-created Delaware Community Coalition that is addressing the issues of police, race and community engagement.
- Re-establishment of a Zoning Technician, eliminated in the 2009 housing downturn, and re-establishment of a Project Engineer, to improve plan review time.
- A Speed Calming Initiative to address issues related to speeding and cut-through traffic in residential neighborhoods and on local streets.
- Thanks to good financial health, additional transfers into the Capital Improvement Fund to address road maintenance, a Comprehensive Plan Update, and other CIP improvements

(more)

FINANCES

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BUDGET MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Business attraction efforts in 2016 led to the creation of 175 new jobs, according to the City's Economic Development Department.
- About 300 new residential permits will be issued in 2016, making it the second-highest permitting year in the last decade. More than 200 of those are single-family detached units; the highest level since 2005 (258).
- Delaware's population continues to climb, and is about 38,700. This represents 11-percent growth since 2010 and more than 4,000 new citizens.
- Professional development for City staff; a proposal to partner with Ohio State University's John Glenn College of Public Affairs through their Management Advancement for the Public Service (MAPS) program.

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