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FY 2024-25 Budget Message

Submitted May 30, 2024

As we continuously navigate the ebbs and flows of life; one thing remains steadfast: the importance of financial stability. Financial stability isn't just a destination; it's a journey of resilience, planning, and wise decision-making. It's about having the resources available to weather unexpected storms and the confidence to seize opportunities when they arise. We pride ourselves in this and work to maintain it year after year, which has resulted in the successful completion of countless important and necessary projects to meet the needs of the community.

Some significant projects completed in the last year include: adding a 3rd deputy, a full time Library Director, replacing 2 Public Works trucks, designing a park and constructing a pavilion, building sand & gravel bunkers at the Public Works Facility, obtaining a grant to repair significantly damaged headstones at the Cemetery, and completion of the 2nd floor Conser House structural engineering report with a grant from SHPO. Projects carried over for completion in the upcoming year include fully expending ARPA funds on technology upgrades in the Council Chambers and an excess recirculation system (XR System) at the water plant. Other projects expected to get off the ground or be completed this next year are: improvements to N 5th St. from Hazel after being awarded a \$250k Small Cities Allotment grant; Welcome Park Phase I (earth work, landscaping & irrigation, cement paths, benches, new City sign); updating the Emergency Operations Plan utilizing FEMA grant funds through a partnership with Marion County Emergency Management, having been one of the first 5 cities to respond; developing a new park, geared toward elementary ages, through a partnership with the School District, and implementation of an in-house utility assistance program.

The 2024-25 proposed budget summary is as follows: no new funds were created; all operating fund contingencies are budgeted at 10%; the City operates on a cash basis of accounting, which Oregon Budget Law accepts; the permanent tax rate is 2.1583 on \$1,000 of assessed valuation; the City is projected to receive \$402,000 in current property tax revenue; the total proposed revenue for FY 2024-25 is \$14,156,550, which is derived from an estimated \$8.4 million in carryover, \$1,247,500 in transfers between funds, and about \$4.5 million in new revenue *expected* to be received; the total proposed expenses are \$14,156,550, of which \$367,500 are debt service payments; and staffing levels are unchanged from the prior year. The 2024-25 proposed budget is presented balanced.

By empowering ourselves and others with the knowledge, budgeting skills, and prudent financial habits that allow us to prioritize saving, planning, and investing in the future, we strengthen the foundation of the community so it will endure for generations to come. Thank you for your part in fostering a culture of financial stability and good stewardship.

Respectfully submitted,


Sarah Cook
City Manager/Recorder

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