



CityPage

City releases proposed budget for 2007-2008

The city's efforts to control stormwater run-off would be significantly increased and 10 more detectives would be added for investigating serious crimes under the \$385.3 million budget that City Manager Lee Garrity sent this week to the City Council.

The budget would enhance these and other city services, and increase the city's support for the arts, without an increase in the city property-tax rate of 48.5 cents per \$100.

Overall, the budget allocates \$273.3 million for operations and debt service, and \$112 million for capital projects. The proposed budget includes \$166.2 million for the General Fund, which is the city's primary fund and accounts for most tax-supported services.

The City Council's Finance Committee will begin reviewing the budget this week. The council is tentatively scheduled to hold a public hearing and vote on the budget on June 18. By state law, the council must adopt a budget for 2007-2008 by June 30. The budget would take effect July 1.

Addressing stormwater

To address flooding in low-lying areas of the city during heavy rains and improve water quality, the budget would add four employees to the city's Stormwater Division and calls for

\$11.9 million in capital spending for basin studies and drainage improvement projects. At least \$24 million will be needed for improvement projects over the next 10 years, Garrity said in his budget message to the City Council.

The capital-spending plan also would set aside \$500,000 a year for the city's share of drainage improvement projects on private property. Garrity also wants to increase the city's share of the project cost to 70 percent, up from 60 percent currently, and to increase the project cap per owner to \$50,000, up from \$30,000.

The city's stormwater program is financed out of stormwater fees assessed to property owners. The proposed budget calls for a new, four-tier fee structure for residential customers. Residential property owners with less than 2,000 square feet of impervious roof, driveway, sidewalk and patio areas on their property pay the same stormwater fee of \$4.25 a month. The average homeowner, with 2,000 to 4,000 square feet of impervious surface, would pay \$4.50 a month. Homeowners with 4,001 to 6,000 square feet would pay \$6.75 a month, and residents with more than 6,000 square feet would pay \$9 a month.

Rates for commercial and institutional customers would increase to \$69.25 per acre of impervious surface to ensure they contribute the same proportion (57 percent) of stormwater revenues as before, based on the total acreage of impervious surfaces in the city. Currently, businesses and institutions pay \$40.60 per impervious acre.

Improving city services

Public safety would be enhanced through the addition of 10 detectives and three fire inspectors. The additional detectives would allow the city to create a homicide cold-case unit, make more timely contact with robbery victims, conduct trend analysis of burglaries in specific areas, and increase the use of computer forensics in the fraud unit.

The three additional fire inspectors would be assigned to the city's busiest fire stations, relieving the fire fighters at those stations of their inspection duties so they can concentrate on training and emergency response.

Traffic congestion would be addressed by the addition of two traffic signal technicians and plans to install traffic signals at 37 intersections. About 90 percent of the cost would be financed by the state and private developers. Two other positions, a bicycle/pedestrian coordinator and an engineering technician, would be added and financed by the county and federal transportation grants.

Recreation would be enhanced with a proposal to keep Salem Lake open seven days a week, in response to growing use of the lake and its grounds. The proposed budget also includes money to replace the golf carts at Winston Lake Golf Course.

The budget includes money to increase the city's minimum

Proposed 2007-2008 Budget*



How to participate in the budget process

Copies of the proposed budget are available for review at public libraries and City Hall, 101 N. Main St. Suite 117. Copies of the budget will also be available at www.cityofws.org starting May 21.

- The City Council's Finance Committee will hold workshops on the budget May 29, 30 and 31, June 11 and June 12 (if needed). All workshops will start at 4 p.m. in the Council Committee Room (Room 239) on the second floor of City Hall, except on June 12, which will start at 2 p.m. These workshops are open to the public but are for the purpose of allowing council members to study the proposed budget.
- The Finance Committee will hold a public hearing on the budget at 7:30 p.m. June 7 in the Council Chamber, Room 230 on the second floor of City Hall.
- The City Council will hold a public hearing on the budget at 7:30 p.m. June 18 in the Council Chamber, Room 230 on the second floor of City Hall.

It's time to renew your yard cart sticker

City residents with yard-waste carts must purchase 2007-2008 stickers by June 30 if they want the city to continue to empty the cart with no interruption in collection.

The fee is \$50 to have the cart emptied once a week. Households are limited to three carts and each cart must have a sticker.

Residents can now order and pay for stickers online. Go to www.cityofws.org and click on the "Pay Bills" link.

Stickers may also be purchased at the revenue center in the Stuart Municipal Building, 100 E. First St.; at the Black Phillips Smith Government Center, 2301 N. Patterson Ave.; or at the City Warehouse, 1550 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. Residents may also have the sticker mailed to them by calling 747-6953 and paying with their VISA or Mastercard.

Stickers are good from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 and must be purchased to have a cart emptied for the year or any portion thereof. For more information call the city, Sanitation Division at 727-2638.



New Historical Marker

A new city historic marker was unveiled May 20 at the George H. Black House and Brickyard, at 111 Dellabrook Road in Winston-Salem. The marker honors Black's contribution to historic preservation. He was a nationally and internationally recognized brick maker who made bricks for Winston-Salem's finest houses, churches, businesses, and for restorations in Old Salem and Colonial Williamsburg.

In addition, Black is the the subject of a display this month at the main branch of the Forsyth County Public Library, at 660 W. Fifth St.



City cracking down on roadside signs

Starting June 1, the city will begin enforcing a \$50 fine for each sign that is illegally posted in the right-of-way at street intersections, along streets, and on trees, posts and utility poles in the right-of-way.

The only exceptions are directional signs for yard sales and real-estate sales or open-houses, which may be posted at noon the Friday before the event and must be removed by noon the following Monday.

Violators will be served a civil penalty notice with the assessed fines for each sign violation. For more information, call the Inspections Division at 727-2628.

Community Appearance Awards seeks nominations

The Community Appearance Commission is accepting nominations for the 2007 Community Appearance Awards.

The biennial awards honor places or projects in Winston-Salem that contribute positively on our community's appearance. Nominations may be made in these categories: Commercial, Residential, Civic, Landscape, Environmental Conservation, Historic Preservation, and Individual Achievement.

The awards are presented to those businesses, individuals, and community groups who are responsible for the projects. An entry form may be downloaded at the Planning Department's Web site at www.cityofws.org/planning. All entries must be received by June 18. The awards ceremony will be held October 16, 2007.

For more information call Lynda Schwan at 727-2087.

Help some hungry kids

The city is looking for volunteers to help bring hungry kids to summer feeding sites at local school.

Volunteers are needed to help transport children to the 21 schools that will serve as feeding sites, and to monitor the cafeterias. No cooking, serving or cleaning will be involved. This summer, officials hope to feed 2,000 school-age children a day, compared with an average of 1,690 last

summer. This is out of 24,000 students who qualify for reduced or free meals.

Mayor Allen Joines noted that some feeding sites closed early last summer for lack of children. "Our hope is that this year, individuals, churches and service organizations will help us increase participation by providing transportation and supervision for these children."

The summer feeding program will begin June 18 and end Aug. 10. This year the program will provide both breakfast and lunch. Volunteers are needed for both meals. For more details and to volunteer, go to www.cityofws.org or call the Mayor's office at 727-2058.

In their memory

A marker for a Winston-Salem native killed during the Vietnam War will be unveiled during a Memorial Day ceremony at Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

The new marker will honor Army 1st Lt. Forrest H. Hollifield, a native of Winston-Salem who was killed in Vietnam in 1970. Hollifield's family moved to Salisbury while he was a child and he was inadvertently left out of the memorial when it was created. His markers will join those 498 other Forsyth County natives who died while at war for their country.

This year's Memorial Day observance will begin at 6 p.m. Monday, May 28, in the atrium of Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum. The ceremony is sponsored by the Triad Vietnam Veterans Association in partnership with the city of Winston-Salem.



Collection Changes for Memorial Day

- Garbage: no change
 - Curbside Recycling: no change
 - Yard-waste carts: collections will be postponed a day; Monday collections will be made on Tuesday, etc.
- For more information go to www.cityofws.org or call the Sanitation Division at 727-2638.

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