



Council unanimously approves Fiscal 2010 City Budget

The Austin City Council today approved a balanced Fiscal Year 2010 budget that maintains core services under economically challenged times.

The \$2.8 billion dollar budget will take effect Oct. 1, 2009. An estimated \$30 million revenue shortfall was closed in part by eliminating 105 vacant City positions and including no pay increase for City employees.

“We’ve listened to the community and brought forward a budget that maintains core services including public safety,” City Manager Marc Ott said. “We explained to the community early on what we were facing, received unprecedented input, and with the Council, worked toward meeting those concerns.”

The Council is considering a tax rate of 42.09 cents per \$100 assessed property valuation. For single-family homeowners, the median increase in their property tax bills is estimated at \$85 per year. This means that one-half of the homes will see an increase less than this amount. The City Council will have a hearing on the tax rate at 6 p.m. Sept. 24, with approval expected Oct. 1. Council meetings scheduled for Sept. 15 and 16 are canceled with today’s budget action.

Among the budget highlights:

- No operational cuts to fire emergency response, emergency medical services, 9-1-1 dispatch, police patrols or police investigation.
- Maintains scheduled Police cadet class.
- Invests in City’s infrastructure.
- Avoids reductions to recreation center and library hours.

To fund improvements to the aging infrastructure of the Austin Water Utility, customers will see an average increase of \$3.78 in their water/wastewater monthly bills to \$67.35. Base electric and garbage rates are unchanged. Those using a 90-gallon garbage container will find an increase from \$16.50 to \$18.20 per month.

For more information on the budget, check www.cityofaustin.org/budget.

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