

City of Willcox Newsletter

January 2010

The City Budget and You

Pat McCourt, Willcox City Manager

Every year the City of Willcox adopts a budget for the next 12 months. The City's budget starts on July 1 each year and ends on June 30 of the next year (i.e. July 2009 to June 30 2010). The budget is pretty tedious work, filled with a lot of numbers. The budget is not about numbers, it is about services. The City of Willcox only exists to provide services to the residents and visitors. All Cities are established so that the people can have a higher level of service than they can have or provide without the City (i.e. most of us could not afford to have a fire truck, a group of firefighters, nor a supply of water necessary to put out our house fire). Every year the City looks at the resources (money, streets, parks, buildings, cars, trucks and other equipment, sewer lines, water lines, gas lines, trained personnel) and asks "How can we best use these to provide the services in Willcox?"

The most obvious part of the budget is the numbers, the dollars (money) that is available to provide the services. The money is what is used to pay the employees, pay the electric, water, gas, telephone, buy or fix the equipment, build the new library, and so on. Sounds just like my house (except I don't own a Library or have any employees at my house). The City gets money from different sources. The money that we each pay for Water, Sewer, Trash, and Gas services to the City are kept in four separate "Funds". Each Fund is like a separate company. The costs of operating that company are only paid from that fund and are not used to pay for other services like Police or Parks. These four "Enterprise Funds" are operated on a nonprofit basis, the income in equals the expenses of operation (including day-to-day operating expenses, and long term capital expenses, like trucks or pipes). These areas are generally okay, while the cost of operation (gasoline, electric, and supplies) does continue to increase (just like in each of our households), these are currently on a break-even keel. What are not being accounted for are the slowly deteriorating equipment and the need to replace the items in the future.

The other big part of the City Budget is the General Fund and the Streets Fund. These funds receive their income primarily from taxes. The City has no ability to raise taxes. The primary tax the City uses to pay for its Governmental activities (Police, Fire, Parks, Streets, Library, etc.) comes from local Sales Tax and State Shared Revenue (State Sales Tax, State Income Tax, and State Gas Tax). When a recession occurs, all of these sources of income are reduced. So the City tightens the belt. This is exactly what has happened for the last two years. The next year will not be better.

We are committed to reducing the cost of operations while minimizing the reduction of services. We do know that there are many tasks that need to be performed and we are committed to getting the tasks done. We will continue to work for you and with you in 2010 -2011 to provide you the very best city possible.

You Count – Be Counted!!

Pat McCourt, Willcox City Manager

The 2010 United States Census is coming up. This will affect our area for the next ten years. This affects the amount of money we receive from the State of Arizona to take care of our Parks, pay the Police and Fire Depts, and fix our roads; and it affects our representation at both the Federal and State levels. I want to be properly represented (I don't always agree with my legislatures, but I do want to have one).

The form is very brief this year. Please fill it out and return it. If you only have a Post Office Box, you may not receive any form. The City is working with the U.S. Census Bureau to have an office here in Willcox where you can go to pick up a form and fill it out. The office is located at 158 W. Maley St, (formerly PPEP Tech High School).

You Count – Be Counted

From the Office of the City Clerk...

Cristina G. Whelan, CMC

Primary Election: March 9, 2010

Polling Place: City Council Chambers, 300 W. Rex Allen Drive

Request Early Ballot: February 4, 2010

Voter Registration Closes: February 8, 2010

Eleccion Primaria: el dia 9 de Marzo, 2010

Lugar para votar: City Council Chambers, 300 W. Rex Allen Drive

Solicitud para votar temprano: el dia 4 de febrero, 2010

Fecha limite para registrarse para votar: el dia 8 de Febrero, 2010

City Council Meetings

Monday
Feb 8, 2010

&

Monday
Feb 22, 2010

7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

300 W. Rex Allen Drive