

Council Connection



Upcoming meetings:

- City Council, 5 p.m. Nov. 8
- Heritage Preservation Board, 7 p.m. Nov. 9
- Park Board, 7 p.m. Nov. 9
- HRA & City Council, 7 p.m. Nov. 16
- Art Center Board, 4:30 p.m. Nov. 18

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We'd like to hear from you ...

If you have any comments, call Communications & Marketing Director Jennifer Bennerotte at 952-833-9520. The text of this publication will be available online at www.CityofEdina.com.



A summary of the Nov. 1 Edina City Council & HRA meeting

Council considers 2011 budget

The Council continued its review of the proposed 2011 City budget at a work session prior to its regular meeting.

In June, the Council directed staff to prepare a budget based on a levy of Edina's maximum state-allowed basic levy, plus a special levy for unallotted Market Value Homestead Credit. The budget was not to include any new programs, and it was assumed that additional cuts beyond those made in 2009 and 2010 would not be necessary.

In September, the Council approved a preliminary levy representing an increase of 2.3 percent over the 2010 levy. Since then, the debt for the City Hall construction was refinanced, so the Finance Department has proposed a budget that would result in a levy increase of 1.15 percent. The City has the flexibility, though, of levying up to 2.3 percent if salary costs are increased as the result of labor contracts yet to be settled or if the Council would like to add any new or increased programs.

The Council was asked to consider allocating an additional \$40,000 for the Energy & Environment Commission, \$10,000 more for the Public Art Committee, \$10,000 to participate in a regional economic develop-

ment agency and \$2,500 more for the Edina Historical Society. Mayor Hovland asked the Council to consider increasing the City Council's budget to attend conferences and other continuing education events. Consensus was not to increase the City Council's budget. Members suggested the vacant Assistant City Manager position be left open the first quarter of 2011, resulting in a savings that could fund the requests from the Public Art Committee, Historical Society and regional economic development agency.

Staff was asked what the result of a 0 percent levy increase would mean for the City. The Finance Department reported that about \$300,000 would need to be cut from the General Fund, likely resulting in staff reductions. With less staff, the Public Works Director said residents could expect a delay in snowplowing. The Fire Chief said one ambulance would be cut from EMS service. Council members indicated their desire to proceed with the budget as planned, without additional cuts.

A public hearing on the 2011 budget will be held Dec. 7. The Council is scheduled to adopt a budget at its Dec. 21 meeting.

Council reviews five-year Capital Improvement Program

The Council reviewed the proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for 2011-2015. The CIP is a one-year budget and a five-year plan for capital projects.

Major projects planned for 2011 include the addition of a new wave simulator at the Edina Aquatic Center; renovations of Edina Liquor - Southdale; a new water treatment plant; and several parking lot, sidewalk and neighborhood street reconstructions. The total capital budget for 2011 is more than \$27 million.

The Council is expected to adopt a CIP at its Nov. 16 meeting.

Council accepts donations for art event

The Council accepted dozens of donations for the Taste of Creativity fundraiser.

As part of "Arts and Healthcare Awareness month" in Edina, the fundraiser was held Nov. 4 at the Art Center to benefit the Art Center, Public Art Committee and Fairview Auxiliary. The event included music, artists' demonstrations, food and other entertainment.