

**STUDY SESSION & PUBLIC HEARING
FY21 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET AND CIP
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
June 15, 2020
6:30 p.m.**

The Budget may be viewed on the City's website at:

<https://www.ucitymo.org/DocumentCenter/View/14838/Proposed-Budget---FY21---Website>

AGENDA

Requested by the City Manager

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At the Study Session and Public Hearing of the City Council of University City held via videoconference, on Monday, June 15, 2020, Mayor Terry Crow called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

In addition to the Mayor, the following members of Council were present:

Councilmember Stacy Clay
Councilmember Steven McMahon; *(Excused)*
Councilmember Jeffrey Hales
Councilmember Tim Cusick
Councilmember Bwayne Smotherson

Also, in attendance were City Manager, Gregory Rose and City Attorney, John F. Mulligan, Jr.

Mayor Crow congratulated Emma McMahon; daughter of Steven McMahon, who is graduating from U City High School this evening.

3. FY21 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET AND CIP PRESENTATION

Mr. Rose stated it is a pleasure to be here tonight, although his preference would have been to make this presentation under different circumstances.

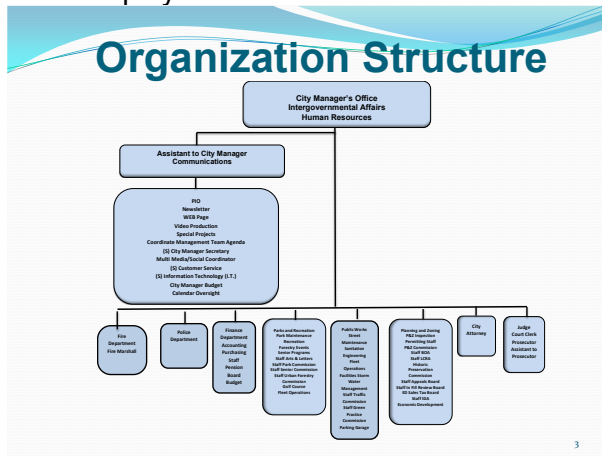
Certainly, no one could have known the impact the Corona Virus would have on the City from a financial perspective at the beginning of January; which in some respects still holds true today. However, since the Budget was developed by using a worst-case scenario allowing the City to position itself to maintain a fund balance that complied with the financial criteria established in its financial policies, the financial impact of this event will not be as significant as originally projected. Therefore, on June 22nd, he intends to introduce various amendments that if approved, will place the City in a better financial position than previously proposed.

FY 2020-2021 Proposed Annual Operating Budget

The Budget was developed based on the following Priorities:

- Economic Development
- Public Safety
- Encourage High-Quality Growth
- Prudent Fiscal Management
- Infrastructure
- Community Quality of Life Amenities

• Employees



* The Budget reflects the elimination of several positions resulting in changes to the organization's structure.

Eliminations & Reallocation of Duties:

- Economic Development - all functions to be performed by the Department of Planning & Zoning
- Fleet Operations - all functions to be performed by the Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry
- Human Resources - all functions to be performed by the City Manager's office
- Parking Garage - all functions to be performed by the Department of Public Works
- EDRST Oversight - transferred to the Department of Planning & Zoning

Additions:

- Recommendation to recommence the position of Human Resources Manager

Resident Property Tax Bill: Where does it all go?

<u>Description</u>	<u>Rate/\$100</u>	<u>% of Tax Bill</u>
State of Missouri	0.0300	0.4%
St. Louis County	0.4430	5.8%
Community College	0.1986	2.6%
Special School District	1.1077	14.6%
Metro Zoo	0.2549	3.4%
University City School District	4.4009	58.0%
City of University City	0.6100	8.0%
Library	0.3650	4.8%
Miscellaneous	0.1827	2.4%
Total	7.5928\$	100.0%

Resident Property Tax Bill

Example: House Market Value - \$200,000
Assessed Value \$38,000 (19% of Market Value)

Tax Bill = 38,000 x 7.5928 / 100 = \$2,885

Description	Amount	% of Tax Bill
State of Missouri	\$ 12	0.4%
St. Louis County	167	5.8%
Community College	75	2.6%
Special School District	421	14.6%
Metro Zoo	98	3.4%
University City School District	1,673	58.0%
City of University City	231	8.0%
Library	138	4.8%
Miscellaneous	69	2.4%
Total	\$ 2,885	100.0%

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2021 Major Budget Highlights

- Eliminates 11 Full-time positions
- Funds Frozen for 5 Positions
 - *These positions are currently funded, however, a recommendation will be made to eliminate two positions*
- Freezes Wages at Current Levels as of July 1, 2020 - Excluding Public Safety
- Combines the Departments of Planning & Development and Economic Development
- Funds the first year of FY2021-2025 Capital Improvement Program
- Uses a Portion of Reserves to Balance Budget for the General Fund
 - *The approval of all recommended amendments will enhance the proposed budget*
- Same or Reduced Property Tax Rate
- Exceeds 17% minimum fund balance for General Fund

All Funds Summary (Governmental Funds)

- Total Revenues: \$29,263,555
- Total Expenditures: \$32,245,053
- Ending Fund Balance: \$12,687,377

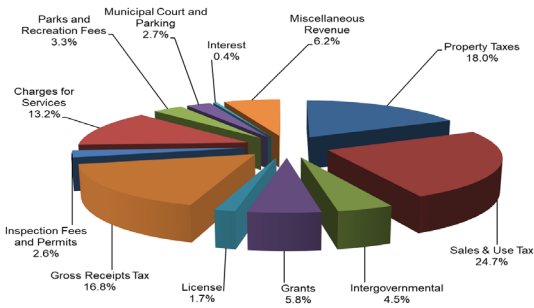
FY 2021 Budget

Revenue Sources - All Funds

	Amount	Percentage
Property Taxes	\$ 6,535,673	18.0%
Sales & Use Tax	8,983,700	24.7%
Intergovernmental	1,642,500	4.5%
Grants	2,119,300	5.8%
License	615,500	1.7%
Gross Receipts Tax	6,113,000	16.8%
Inspection Fees and Permits	927,300	2.6%
Charges for Services	4,783,500	13.2%
Parks and Recreation Fees	1,215,000	3.3%
Municipal Court and Parking	970,224	2.7%
Interest	152,645	0.4%
Miscellaneous Revenue	2,254,511	6.2%
Total Revenue	\$ 36,312,853	100.0%

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FY 2021 Budget Revenue Sources-Percentages



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**Estimated Revenue Sources*

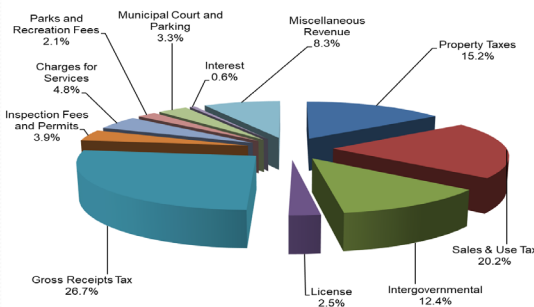
FY 2021 General Fund Revenue Sources

	Amount	Percentage
Property Taxes	\$ 3,574,700	15.2%
Sales & Use Tax	4,753,200	20.2%
Intergovernmental	2,918,300	12.4%
License	586,000	2.5%
Gross Receipts Tax	6,270,000	26.7%
Inspection Fees and Permits	927,300	3.9%
Charges for Services	1,135,000	4.8%
Parks and Recreation Fees	490,000	2.1%
Municipal Court and Parking	766,600	3.3%
Interest	135,000	0.6%
Miscellaneous Revenue	1,956,755	8.3%
Total Revenue	\$ 23,512,855	100.0%

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**The general fund is the largest City fund which contains the bulk of its operational expenditures.*

FY 2021 General Fund Revenue Sources-Percentages



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**Estimated Revenue Sources*

Previous transfers into the General Fund are reflected in the increased cost of public safety, as well as the loans provided to various funds to make them whole. Staff's recommendations are as follows:

FY 2021 General Fund Transfers In

• Public Safety Fund	\$1,338,700
• Parks & Stormwater	\$41,280
• Golf Course	\$53,220
• Parking Garage	\$53,220
• Sewer Lateral	\$57,240
• Capital Fund	<u>\$300,000</u>
Total Transfers In	\$1,843,660

- ❖ Public Safety transfer covers capital expenditures, the loan payment of 6 million dollars, as well as increased costs for salaries and benefits. *(Last year the City conducted a Benefits and Compensation Study which resulted in increased salaries and benefits.)*
- ❖ Parks & Stormwater, Golf Course, Parking Garage, and Sewer Lateral transfers, cover loans made in 2018.
- ❖ Capital Fund transfer covers some of the capital improvements needed for City Hall

FY 2021 General Fund (Transfers Out)

The budget for Fleet Operations was modified by executing a transfer out of the General and Solid Waste Funds into the Fleet Internal Service Fund. Additional funding has been included for recommended expenditures.

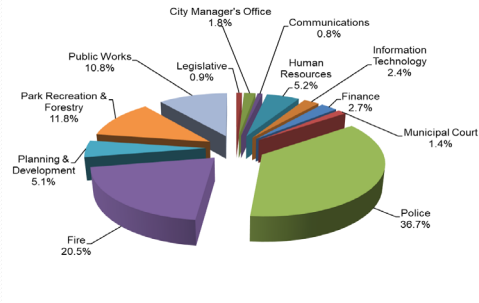
• Fleet Internal Service Fund	<u>\$1,081,331</u>
Total Transfers Out	\$1,081,331

FY 2021 General Fund Expenditures

Expenditure by Department	Amount	Percentage
Legislative	\$ 221,304	0.9%
City Manager's Office	453,397	1.8%
Communications	192,105	0.8%
Human Resources	1,308,468	5.2%
Information Technology	620,862	2.4%
Finance	674,589	2.7%
Municipal Court	363,479	1.4%
Police	9,310,177	36.7%
Fire	5,195,067	20.5%
Planning & Development	1,305,965	5.1%
Park Recreation & Forestry	2,988,026	11.8%
Public Works	2,744,203	10.8%
Total Expenditure	\$ 25,377,642	100.0%

- ❖ The 2 million dollar deficit represents a worst-case scenario. The amendments that will be presented to Council on June 22nd were designed to reduce this deficit to roughly 1.2 million dollars.

FY 2021 General Fund Expenditures-Percentages



* *Public Safety dominates all departments and represents roughly 56% of the budget.*

General Fund Summary

When compared to the expenditures, the current ending fund balance sits at about 22%. However, the anticipation is that this balance will be increased by roughly 1.2 million dollars.

- Total Revenues: \$23,512,855
- Total Expenditures: \$25,377,642
- Ending Fund Balance: \$5,489,318

Department Highlights

City Manager's Office

- Eliminates Economic Development Director Position
- Shifts Fleet Maintenance to Parks, Recreation and Forestry
- Eliminates Human Resources Director Position and Replaces it with the Position of Human Resources Manager
- Eliminates One Fleet Mechanic Position

Finance Department

- Eliminates One Accountant Position

Municipal Court

- Maintains Current Service Levels

Police Department

- Maintains Current Staffing Levels
- Funds Regular Merit Increases
- Funds Speed Reduction Trailer
- Funds \$140,000 for Police Vehicle Replacements
- Funds Speed Reduction Equipment

Fire Department

- Maintains Current Staffing Levels

- Funds Regular Merit Increases
- Funds Fire Marshall Vehicle
- Funds Drone Equipment
- Funds Lucas Chest Compression Equipment; a mechanical device that extends chest compressions

Public Works

- Eliminates Two Custodian Positions
- Eliminates One Facilities Maintenance Supervisor Position
- Eliminates Two Light Labor Positions
- Eliminates One Heavy Equipment Operator Position
- Allocates \$600,000 for Street Improvements
- Allocates \$378,000 for Curb and Sidewalk Repairs
- Funds a Dump Truck
- Funds \$400,000 for City Facility Improvements; includes City Hall
- Funds \$80,000 for Canton Street Improvements
- Absorbs Increased Landfill Costs
- Absorbs Recycling Costs
- Transfers-in oversight of Parking Garage
- Funds Replacement of a Road Tractor

Planning & Development

- Eliminates One Planner Position
 - Eliminates One Multi-Discipline Inspector
 - Provides Oversight of Recycling Projects
- ❖ Much of the work performed by the Planner and Multi-Discipline Inspector is contingent on this Department's workload during the next fiscal year. To date, multiple site plans are being proposed. However, due to the uncertainty of COVID-19's long-term impact on the development community, these positions may have to be revisited mid-year.
 - ❖ Jenny Wendt's position of Project Manager is being reassigned from Public Works to Planning & Development. Ms. Wendt will assist with economic development, the sales tax program, and maintain oversight of recycling projects.

Parks, Recreation & Forestry

- Funds Ackert Park Renovation
- Funds Heman Park Trails Repair
- Funds Heman Park Pool Improvements
- Funds Kaufman Park Playground Resurface
- Funds Kingsland Park Playground Resurface
- Funds Mooney Park Playground Resurface
- Funds Golf Course Parking Lot Improvements

Summary of Public Safety Sales Tax Fund

Total Revenues: \$1,448,500
 Total Expenditures: \$2,653,510
 Ending Fund Balance: \$4,416,920

- ❖ In response to a question regarding the amount of the Fund Balance, Mr. Rose stated that the balance reflects the 6 million dollar loan authorized by Council, minus the expenditures.

Summary of Capital Improvement Fund

Total Revenues: \$1,756,000

Total Expenditures: \$1,935,467
Ending Fund Balance: \$94,372

- ❖ As a result of this fund balance, some capital projects will be placed on hold until after the anticipated revenues have been received.

Summary of Park & Stormwater Fund

Total Revenues: \$700,000
Total Expenditures: \$713,542
Ending Fund Balance: \$337,387

- ❖ This healthy fund balance is the result of a previous loan which should allow for the repayment of all monies back to the General Fund.

Summary of EDRST Fund

Total Revenues: \$333,500
Total Expenditures: \$90,965
Ending Fund Balance: \$2,011,999

- ❖ The Fund Balance will be amended to remove 1 Million Dollars for the Small Business Assistance Program.
- ❖ Half of Clifford Cross's salary is included in the expenditures.

On The Horizon

The impacts on 2021's Annual Operating Budget and/or Capital Improvement Program:

- Budget Amendments; to be introduced on June 22nd
- Rate Study Solid Waste
 - This Study was authorized in FY 2019 and has been 80% completed. Results will be presented during a Study Session
 - The belief is that the fund balance can absorb any increased costs for solid waste and recycling, therefore, no rate increases have been proposed for FY 2021. At some point in the future, there will be a need to identify when a rate increase would be feasible.
 - The City has not been replacing its trucks at the recommended replacement rate and at some point it will become too cost-prohibitive to continue this practice.
- Rate Study Golf Course
 - U City's rates constitute one of the lowest in the region. Recommendations and modifications are anticipated upon the completion of Mr. Dunkle's comparison study.
- COVID-19 Fiscal Impacts on revenue
 - While scientists have predicted that the virus will last for two to three years, without a vaccine, the financial impacts could be long-term.
 - The budget was structured in a manner that enables the City to sustain itself for multiple years. However, the ultimate goal should be to place the City in a position where it can sustain itself regardless of how long the virus remains.

Mr. Rose then responded to the following questions received from members of Council:

Q. What is the difference between revenue sources - all funds and revenue sources - general funds? Is the dedicated EDRST tax included in all funds?

A. All funds are comprised of Enterprise Funds such as the Parking Garage, Solid Waste, and special districts like Parkview Gardens, The Loop Special Business District, and the Library. The General

Fund covers the revenue streams allocated for General Fund purposes. The Public Safety Fund which could legitimately be incorporated into the General Fund is a separate fund for the purpose of ensuring greater transparency.

Q. If the Prop P Fund is a dedicated tax with specific spending stipulations akin to EDRST, why does it have a fund balance of \$4.4 Million since it seems as though we have spent all of the funds received from the tax?

A. Council authorized a loan to the Public Safety Fund, so the bulk of the fund balance reflects that loan.

Q. Since the City has a significant number of employees, how will HR risks be managed without a Director?

A. To provide greater oversight, staff is recommending that the position of HR Director be reclassified to HR Manager. The City will continue to contract with an experienced Human Resources Director who will assist the HR Manager in those functions.

Q. Can we get an update on the Drone Program since it has been denoted as a highlighted fund for the Fire Department?

A. Mr. Rose stated while he is aware that the Drone Program has been used extensively for both the Police and Fire Departments, and has been instrumental in maintaining peaceful demonstrations, locating missing children, and pinpointing maintenance problems for the City's structures, he would ask Matt Pagano to provide a more detailed explanation.

Councilmember Clay stated he was not looking for a detailed response at tonight's meeting. But it would be informative to learn what this program has allowed these departments to do that they could not have done prior to its existence.

Mr. Rose asked Chief Pagano if he would also respond to the next question regarding why overtime has been modified.

Chief Pagano stated they have been able to use the Drones as a City-wide resource that saves time and makes them more efficient. For example, the Drone's mapping software allows the Parks Department to take measurements from their computer instead of physically visiting the site. The 3-D modeling component allows firefighters to target the layout of a building which assists in preplanning for emergencies. And the ability to obtain a night flight waiver has assisted the police in numerous search efforts.

Chief Pagano stated last year the Department exceeded their overtime budget of \$50,000. So this year they looked at a previous budget that included in-house EMS operations which they had been able to sustain and that amount was \$300,000. He stated several events impacted last year's overtime budget:

1. The need to place a third ambulance in service during the peak of the pandemic, and the requirement to perform new sanitation guidelines for all trucks.
2. When EMS was removed, staff was reduced to seven firefighters per shift, so there was a lesser amount of overtime hours. However, one of the conditions in the 1.9 million dollar grant that helped to support the City's decision to bring EMS back in-house was to uphold National Standard NFTA-17.10 which requires departments to maintain a thirteen man minimum per shift.

He stated COVID-19 and the requirement to add additional staff increased the hours of overtime, which exceeded the budgeted amount. So, they looked at the compensatory time each employee had

accrued; how that impacted their schedule and came up with an amount that was more consistent with the number of overtime hours utilized in the last eight months.

Mr. Rose stated the City is fortunate that it had the ability to staff the third ambulance since Mutual Aid was stretched so thin. And now there is a concern about whether the country will see a significant spike in cases this fall.

Chief Pagano stated currently they are only running two ambulances but they are watching call volumes and the third one will be available if needed.

Mr. Rose stated the City is still waiting to hear from the County Executive about the distribution of CARES Act funding. But if that falls through, there is still an opportunity to receive reimbursement from FEMA for public safety expenditures.

Mr. Rose stated he would refer the next question regarding the \$18,000 increase in Legislative Services to the City Clerk.

Ms. Reese stated the increase is related to needed improvements to the digital recording system on the 5th floor. She stated the City has an insufficient number of microphones and a few of those have stopped working. So, the increase reflects the best price they could get to upgrade the existing equipment.

By Mr. Rose:

Q. Will elimination of the Multi-Discipline Inspector position impact the City's ability to address problem properties?

A. The Multi-Discipline Inspector's position has a greater impact on the City's ability to schedule building inspections. It has no impact on environmental inspections. There is a second Multi-Discipline position that has been frozen and if Council agrees to eliminate the new position, his intent is to reinstate the position that has been placed on hold.

Councilmember Clay stated every indication has been that the Olive/1-170, as well as other projects, will be moving forward; albeit at a somewhat slower pace. So he would encourage staff to carefully consider these factors before eliminating the Planner's position because it plays a critical role in identifying and formulating the goals needed to complete these projects.

Mr. Rose stated at this point, it is difficult to determine the pace of any development because no one understands the full impact this virus will have on the economy. So while the budget has been structured to allow for the restoration of these positions whenever the need arises, his stance has been to look at everything from a worst-case scenario, to identify how the City can position itself to remain sustainable over a longer period. Mr. Rose stated he would definitely like to preserve all of the positions being proposed for elimination; and at the time they were recommended, no one could have anticipated the onset of this pandemic. But the worst thing a City can do is run out of money, so his primary focus is to make sure the City can provide critical services over an extended period of time.

Q. Is the amount listed under General Fund Revenue Resources for the Municipal Court an estimate?

A. Yes. *Since no one knows when the courts will reopen this was staff's best estimate of what revenue from the Municipal Court might look like.*

Councilmember Clay stated as everyone knows, prior to Ferguson municipalities established their budgets in this area based on revenue goals associated with quotas that officers were required to fulfill. So the rationale behind asking this question was to make certain that was not the practice in U City, and that the revenue of \$766,600 for the Municipal Court and Parking was only for planning purposes. Mr. Rose stated that is correct.

Q. Why is there an increase in the number of expenditures for Public Works?

A. Instead of every department purchasing their own supplies, they are now being consolidated under one-line item throughout the entire organization. The hope is that this will result in proportionate savings by reducing per-unit costs.

Councilmember Hales stated something he noticed as a key improvement is the City Manager's budget of \$453,397. In 2016, the approved budget was twice that amount, and a review of the records back to 2011, revealed similar patterns. So he is appreciative of Mr. Rose's desire to be accountable, which has clearly been demonstrated by his conscientious expenditures.

Councilmember Hales stated he is also grateful for Council and staff's efforts to bring EMS back in-house. At a time like this, he can only imagine what a good feeling it is for neighbors to know that U City is there for them when they need it most.

Councilmember Cusick questioned whether the \$600,000 allocated for street improvements represented an increase or decrease from previous years' funding? Mr. Rose stated this is a \$100,000 decrease from previous allocations based on some staffing challenges that prohibited them from utilizing all of the funds.

In the past, \$700,000 was allocated, but the average spending has been \$400,000 to \$500,000. However, at some point, they will have to drill down on how to spend that additional funding, which he thinks will require additional staff, identification of the total number of streets that need improvements, and an estimate of when those improvements should be completed.

Councilmember Cusick asked for a more detailed explanation of what the \$378,000 for curb and sidewalk repairs would be used for? Mr. Rose stated in some instances it will be used to make sure the City complies with ADA requirements, and in others, it will be used to improve curbs and streets in the areas where improvements to streets are being performed.

Councilmember Cusick questioned what the 1.9 million dollars in the Capital Improvement Fund would be used for? Mr. Rose stated the first year of this fund is considered the capital budget, and the document associated with that fund illustrates the various projects by department. Those projects include the allocation of funds for a ladder truck, a dump truck, a tree replacement program, an Ackert Park renovation project, street maintenance, and sidewalks and curbs.

Councilmember Smotherson stated in the event COVID-19 prevents entities like the EDRST and the Arts & Letters Commission from utilizing all of their funds, will they be rolled over to next year? Mr. Rose stated typically, the Finance Director works with the chair of these entities to determine their funding needs before rendering his recommendation to the Mayor and Council. But this budget process has been a little disjointed in the sense that he was unable to have those discussions. So, whether or not any funds will be rolled over will be dependent upon what the Director believes those needs are. For example, rolling over an allocation of \$20,000 for Arts and Letters would give them \$40,000, even though their needs may not be that great. But here again, the ultimate decision will be made by the Mayor and Council.

Councilmember Smotherson questioned whether the budget had been structured to bring part-time employees back to operate the City's recreational facilities?

Mr. Rose stated if you recall, staff did not have the County's operating guidelines for those facilities when the budget was constructed. But now that they have been made available, he will be presenting an amendment to Council on the twenty-second to address this issue. He stated there are still very strong concerns about the impact these re-openings might have on the community, so he has asked the Director of Parks & Recreation to develop a plan for how they can safely be brought back into operation. And to garner Council's thoughts and suggestions regarding the potential risks, Mr. Dunkle's plan will be presented to Council in the form of a Study Session.

Mayor Crow stated he thinks they all recognize the need to be fluid in the upcoming months as there will be some ebbs and flows. But what he believes has been beneficial to all, are the tough and

decisive decisions made by the City Manager. And to echo Councilmember Hales, he also believes that residents are appreciative of having EMS back in-house.

Mayor Crow informed Councilmember Smotherson that even though department heads are allowed to submit a budget request, there were times under the previous administration when the two of them, along with Ms. Carr, made numerous amendments. So, he wanted to make sure everyone understands that they have a right to make amendments to staff's recommendations. And if any member does have an amendment the only thing, he would ask is that they discuss it with the City Manager and their colleagues before placing it on the record.

Councilmember Smotherson acknowledged that there had been some pretty interesting debates over the budget during the previous administration.

Mayor Crow made the following requests and informed Mr. Rose that he could get back to him with the details at a later date:

- An update on the number of Mutual Aid calls.
- A headcount of staff, to include where the City is today and its goals for the future
- An update either from the EDRST Board or staff on how the Small Business Assistance Program is progressing, and whether there may be a need to extend the life of that program

Councilmember Hales asked Mr. Rose if he could provide an update on how often staff is tracking the City's revenue and the frequency by which Council will be provided with updates.

Mr. Rose stated revenues, as well as trends in the community and throughout the region, are tracked every month, which is why he was able to make these initial recommendations for reductions in personnel.

He stated the budgeted receipts for this month anticipated that the City's pool of sales tax was going to be down roughly 35 percent, although the actual was closer to a 15 percent reduction. For point of sales staff estimated a 50 percent reduction while the actual reduction was 35 percent. Mr. Rose stated since this was the beginning phase of the quarantine where people were stockpiling provisions, the anticipation is that once that activity levels off the actual percentages will get worse. And his assumption is that Council will see more amendments for FY21.

4. PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED FY21 BUDGET

Procedure for submitting Public Hearing Comments:

- *ALL written comments must be received **no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.***
- *Comments may be sent via email to: councilcomments@ucitymo.org, or mailed to the City Hall – 6801 Delmar Blvd. – Attention City Clerk.*
- *Such comments will be provided to City Council prior to the meeting. Comments will be made a part of the official record and made accessible to the public online following the meeting.*
- *Please note, when submitting your comments, a **name and address must be provided.***

Please also note if your comment is on an agenda or non-agenda item. If a name and address are not provided, the provided comment will not be recorded in the official record.

Mayor Crow opened the Public Hearing at 7:35 p.m. and asked that the record reflect that per the City's rules for submission of comments, Council did receive three comments from citizens, which will be made a part of this record. Mayor Crow closed the hearing at 7:36 p.m.

Councilmember Cusick moved to adjourn the session, seconded by Councilmember Hales, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Crow thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the Study Session at 7:36 p.m.

LaRette Reese
City Clerk

From: sarahjanekeefe@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 9:35 PM
To: Council Comments Shared
Subject: Comment on the FY2021 budget

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To the City Council of University City:

My name is Sarah Keefe and I've been a resident of University City for 6 years. I'm writing today to encourage you to redirect excessive funding from the University City Police Department in the proposed budget for the 2021 fiscal year.

It is discouraging to see the budget allocation for the UCPD has continuously increased at the expense of other essential public services. There is no reason for the current police operating budget to exceed 3 times the amount set aside for public works, for example. U City claims to espouse a "community policing" approach but there is no way to justify maintaining a costly armed force at the expense of all other needs of our community.

We must keep in mind that poorer communities of color are disproportionately the targets of police violence. As police budgets ratchet up ever higher and police forces become larger, excessive force by police against citizens will continue to grow and increase in visibility nationwide unless this money is directed elsewhere. Continually increasing police force personnel and resources will not reduce crime rates as officers will increasingly try to meet quotas and justify their jobs and spending. Arming them more only serves to terrorize citizens who are most vulnerable to police violence.

We must improve our wonderful city by dealing with the root causes of crime and promoting community growth. This requires those with power to shift the budget towards services and works that lift up people's lives in a positive way. These funds would be better directed towards community resources that are in need - such as the library, community center, infrastructure improvements, or housing development. Funds could also go towards preventing job and salary cuts to other departments' valued employees during this unprecedented pandemic. It is essential that we cut funding to heavily armed police who have the power to profile, harass, harm, and kill members of our community.

Please decrease funding for the police for fiscal year 2021 and redirect those funds towards building positive change in our city.

Thank you for your time.

Sarah Keefe
701 Limit Ave #1S
University City, MO

1801

June 15, 2020

To: University City Council
University City Manager

Dear University City Council and City Manager,

During the FY21 Annual Operating Budget and CIP Study Session and Public Hearing, I would like to request that discussion be on the elimination of the one Planner position budget line item.

I am in against the elimination of that staff position. My reasons are that with the elimination of the Economic Development Director and those duties being absorbed by the current Planning and Development Director, there is no staff to support the director with the planning for the Comprehensive Plan. We have major development initiatives going on and hopefully, new developments coming in FY 2021 that adequate staffing is needed. I am appalled that all of that work will be one staff person's shoulder.

We are trying to develop for the future after being stagnant for decades. Keeping the planner position will ensure that monitoring current development and future proposed developments will demonstrate due diligence of the pledge of keeping University City a destination for both business and housing growth. Even though the "buck stops" with the City Manager on any planning decisions, the City Manager should not take on the role of the eliminated Planner position. The Planning Director (and now Economic Director) needs a team member's support (eliminated Planner position) to assist in the Comprehensive Plan process and any other future planning initiatives.

I hope the City Council and the City Manager carefully take my concerns in to consideration. In my opinion, planning developments have taken too long to come to their conclusion. We need a 2-person team in the Planning & Economic Development Director and a Planner. I am okay with creative budgeting to make this happen.

Thank you,

Patricia McQueen

3rd Ward Resident, 1132 George Street

LaRette Reese

From: Dina Worzel of Componere Gallery <dmworzel@componere.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 7:43 PM
To: Council Comments Shared
Subject: Non-Agenda Operating Budget Item Comments

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Hello University City Council Members, Colleagues, and Staff,

I hope that all is well and good with you and yours. Let us hope that this COVID-19 virus will be a distant memory, and sooner versus later.

I am a new Delmar Loop employee starting in 10/19 working in a store in the heart of the Loop as well as a frequent Loop shopper and restaurant goer over my many, too many years, now 72 years of age. From my perspective and my long-term Loop going history, the following Delmar Loop negatives need to be seen, budgeted, and fixed in an effort to increase the appearance of the Loop that as a result will increase sales that will increase the University City Tax Revenue funds as well as support the property values of the U City housing stock and its STL suburb desirability.

1. The sidewalk that one must use to exit the parking lot behind Fitz that connects to the walkway to Delmar on the west side of Salt and Smoke is submerged in water whenever it rains. This "puddle" is about 19x19 with about an inch if not more of water. This "big" puddle stays for days post a rain. In this condition, the walker must walk in the water or walk on the saturated muddy ground, since this puddle covers most of the area upon exiting the parking lot behind Fitz's on the way to Delmar by the Salt and Smoke restaurant. This problem is not good for business and shows a lack of respect of folks using that entrance to the Loop.
2. The west side of the Salt and Smoke building along with that area's common use dumpsters is a ugly eye sore and shows again the lack of class by the City in welcoming visitors entering the Loop from the parking lot behind Fitz. Salt and Smoke should camouflage their cooker and all related as Fitz has done on their west side. This same "hiding" remedy needs to be done with the common use dumpsters in that area. Would you have trash cans and cooking equipment piled up in front of your home's main door walk way?
3. The Delmar Loop must build an attractive, convenient, and safe public restroom. This is a critical Loop public service need that the Loop businesses must have, sooner versus later. to stop the constant requests/demands to use their shop's/restaurant's john.
- 4.

Should you have any questions or I can assist in any way, do not hesitate to contact me. I am at your service to improve our Delmar Loop as well as the entire University City.

Thank You and Take Care,

Hal Deuser, 314-800-9642

On Jun 5, 2020, at 11:18 AM, University City Mo <abamberger@ucitymo.org> wrote: