



March 2011

University City News

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UNIVERSITY CITY

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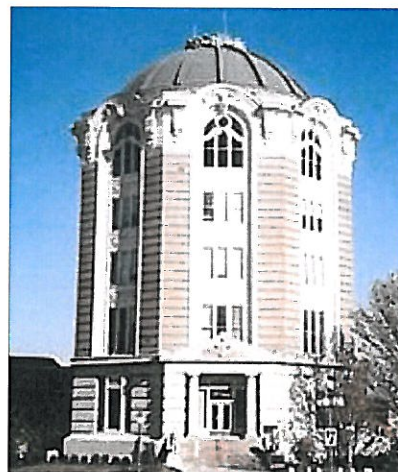
Welcome to University City News

Welcome to the inaugural edition of *University City News*. The purpose of this newsletter is to encourage communication between the City and the University City community at large.

We are also in the process of improving the City's website. The goal is to make the website more user friendly for all. Specifically, over the next couple of months, improvements will be made to the website's homepage to improve navigation throughout the site.

This initial edition of *University City News* is focused on the City's Fiscal Year 2012 Budget. The City's fiscal year runs from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. A budget calendar, listing dates from the present, is included with this newsletter.

As this is the first edition of *University City News*, it is understood that changes may be made. There may be things that you may want to see more of, and things that you may want to see less of. Either way, please do not hesitate to email bdrake@ucitymo.org regarding suggestions for the newsletter.



Boards & Commissions

The City is seeking three volunteers to serve on the University City Pension Board. The board is responsible for the management and control of all matters pertaining to the administration of the retirement funds for uniformed and non-uniformed City employees.

Nine members serve on the board, of which five are City residents. The term of office is four years. Meetings are held at least once each quarter.

An application is included with this newsletter.

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The Mayor's Communiqué

Welcome to the first edition of the *University City News!*

Much of the focus of the City Council over past six months has been on the city budget, which is discussed in detail elsewhere in this newsletter. Knowing the importance of having a full discussion on this issue, the City Manager and I set a budget schedule for Fiscal Year 2012 that started in October of 2010. (In the past, the Council started budget discussions in April and approved a budget in June.) Since last October we have had three public meetings on the budget, and five Council Study Sessions. We will have three more public meetings and additional Study Sessions prior to voting on a final budget for Fiscal Year 2012 in June of this year. The public meetings/hearing are scheduled as follows:

March 21, 2011 • 6:00 p.m. • McNair Administration Building

April 28, 2011 • 6:00 p.m. • Mt. Gideon M.B. Church

May 23, 2011 • 6:30 p.m. • Council Chamber

I encourage everyone who is interested in a long-term, healthy financial future for our community to make an effort to attend one or more of the upcoming sessions. And if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please share them with City Manager Lehman Walker (lwalker@ucitymo.org or 314-505-8534) your Council representative, or me (mayor@ucitymo.org or 314-505-8606.)

The Historical Society of University City is sponsoring a *State of the City* address in honor of the birthday of E.G. Lewis, the founder of University City. That event is scheduled for Thursday, March 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber. City Manager Walker and I will speak. Refreshments will be served.

The Mayor's Task Force on Seniors & Youth is continuing its work to determine what programming or services might benefit those groups. Please be on the lookout for the "needs" surveys they will be distributing throughout the community. The more input they receive from University City residents the better. Any questions or comments? E-mail seniorsyouth@ucitymo.org.

The Task Force on University City's Bike & Walkability is working on a master plan for biking and walking in University City, in collaboration with Trailnet. Trailnet provided a \$62,000 grant for the master plan. If you want to be involved in the work of the group, let them know at bikewalkcommittee@ucitymo.org.

And if you have interest in the future of year-round swimming in University City let me know! I've set up a Mayor's Task Force on Year-Round Aquatics. Appointments are being made to that group right now. Your input would be welcome.

Fair U City is coming to town May 29th and 30th in Heman Park. Mark your calendars now for this volunteer-driven carnival. They will have a parade, carnival rides and games, food booths and community booths. And they are doing an art contest for all the youth of our community. Prizes will be given in three separate categories: Pre-K to K, 1st to 4th grade, 5th to 7th and 8th to 12th grade. The theme for the contest is: Celebrate U City! Pictures should be no larger than 10" x 12". Paintings can be in any medium. More details to come.

Remember, City Council meetings are now regularly scheduled on the second and fourth Mondays of each month (except December) at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber. I encourage you to take time to visit one of these meetings to see your government in action.

Any questions, comments or concerns? Let me know.

Mayor Shelley Welsch

mayor@ucitymo.org

314-505-8606



The City's fiscal year runs from July 1 until June 30 of the next year. The fiscal year and therefore the budget do not run in accordance with the calendar year.

Therefore the FY 2012 budget is effective from July 1, 2011 until June 30, 2012.

FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012 BUDGET

The City is not immune to the economic woes facing the nation. As such the City has had to streamline and realign services in order to save money. The City cannot continue to spend money that it does not have. In many cases, general fund expenditures (money the City pays out) outpaces general fund revenue (money coming in). In order to bring our budget back into balance, we as a City have the following choices:

- A. Reduce expenditures
- B. Raise property taxes
- C. Impose an additional sales tax
- D. Use the reserve fund

In order to ensure that University City residents continue to receive high levels of municipal service, the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 proposed budget includes several proposals for revenue enhancement and expenditure reduction. It should be noted that the City has been able to reduce expenditures by approximately \$600,000 since August 2010. This was achieved by consolidating several administrative functions and reducing staff levels, while maintaining services for City residents. For Fiscal Year 2011-2012, the proposed budget has been reduced by \$1,100,000.

Budget Highlights

1. No reductions in front-line personnel in the Police Department or the Fire Department. Public Safety is a critical component of the high quality of life in University City.
2. Charging \$1 for evening parking on City owned lots in the University City Loop. This will generate at least \$210,000 in annual revenue and will increase security and improve the appearance of the lots, thereby enhancing the appeal of the Loop District.
3. Reducing the hours of operation of the Heman Park Community Center for use only on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday when the majority of the paid rentals occur. The Seniors Program will be transferred to Centennial Commons.
4. Not using the City's financial reserves except for the portion already allocated for the Wilson Avenue flood buyout.
5. No increase in property taxes.
6. No proposal for sales tax increases.

A Note on Fiscal Reserves

University City has approximately \$10,000,000 in the reserve fund, which is 39% of annual expenditures. The average for cities in the region is 55%. University City has had a goal of maintaining a reserve fund of 17%. The average goal for cities in the region is 35%. Reserves can be used to help balance the budget on a short term basis. However, over time, relying on the reserves will reduce the amount of revenues available each year. If reserves continue to be used to balance the budget, then at some point in the future, the City will be in a position where it does not have any reserves.

Reserves are necessary to address emergency situations and one time costs.



General Usage for the Reserve Fund

There are options for the use of reserves since the City has significant service and infrastructure requirements over the short and long term.

1. Public safety (police and fire) building renovations or construction (in the range of approximately \$1,000,000-\$3,000,000).
2. Increased street sweeping and snowplowing.
3. Flood buyouts of residential properties in flood prone areas.
4. Purchase of a new Fire Pumper (a new Fire Pumper costs approximately \$575,000).
5. Street and Sidewalk improvements.

Again, fiscal reserves shall be used for emergencies and one-time expenditures. The reserves could be considered to be similar to your personal savings account. If you constantly draw on your savings to pay for your monthly household expenses, what would you do in case of an emergency?

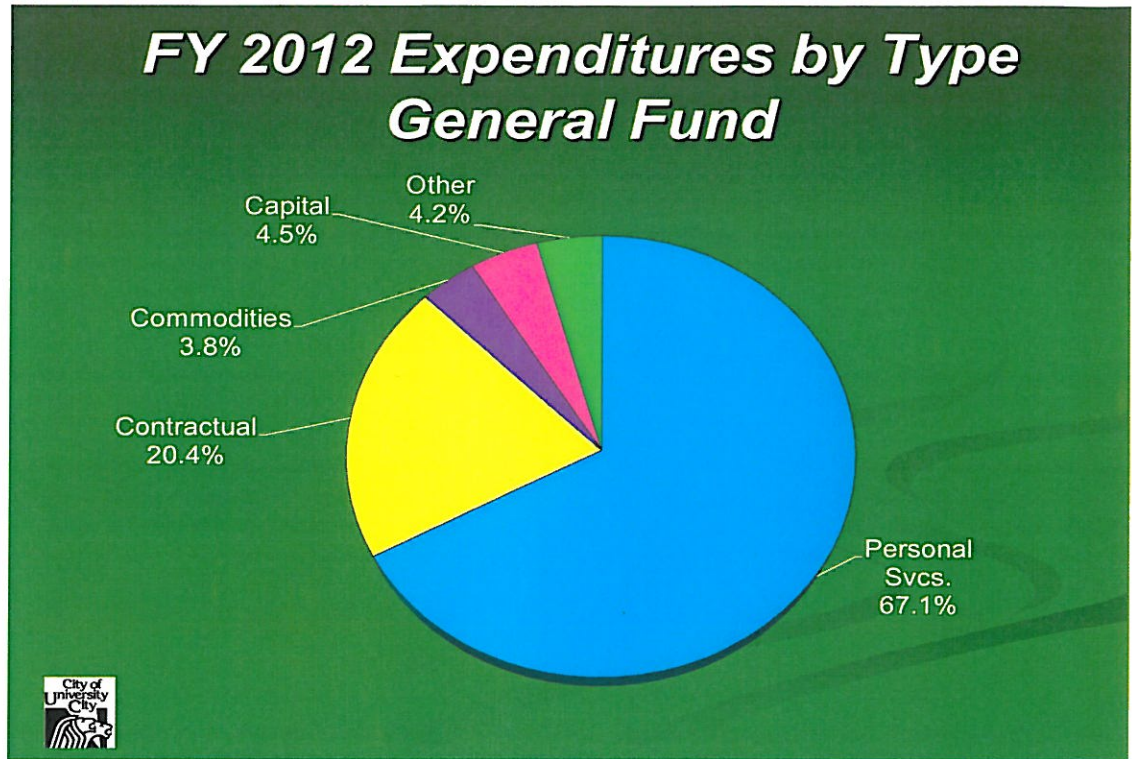
Budget Proposals to Consider

Over the next few months, several initiatives should be considered in order to balance the budget. These initiatives require further analysis prior to making a final decision. Over the next few months, the following initiatives and projects will be analyzed and evaluated by City Staff and the City Council.

1. Review of the City's pension plan.
2. Determine whether to the City should continue to provide solid waste services or instead shall outsource to a private solid waste hauler.
3. Replace or upgrade the solid waste transfer station in its present location or in a nearby municipality. Replacing or upgrading the transfer station is necessary if the City plans to continue to use the facility (estimated cost to replace the transfer station is approximately \$3,000,000 as of April 2009).
4. Proceed with further administrative reorganizations to streamline and right-size City operations.
5. Implement several of the recommendations of the City Manager's Budget Advisory Task Force.
6. Implement several of the recommendations of the report entitled "Evaluation of the Organization of the Public Works Department and the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department."
7. Institute a registration program for residential rental properties.



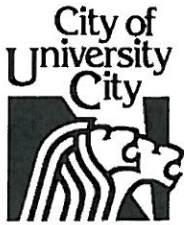
Expenditures at a Glance



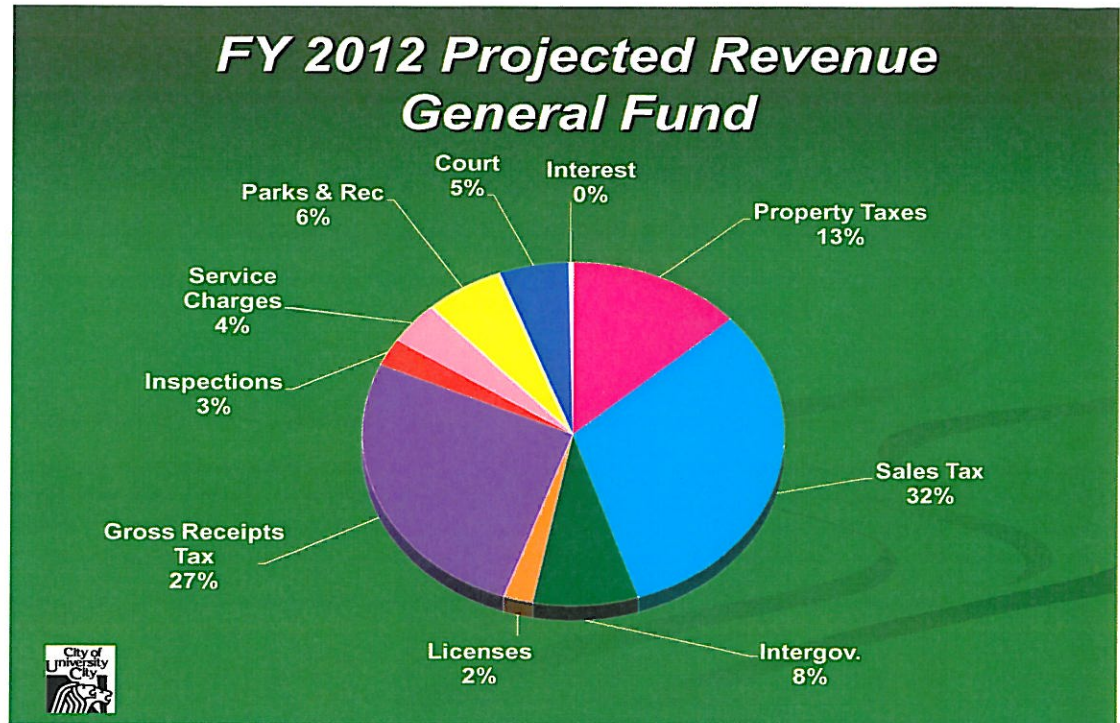
Expenditures by type for the General Fund

FY 2012 Expenditures by Type General Fund

Personal Services	\$ 17,168,003
Contractual	\$ 5,218,906
Commodities	\$ 965,543
Capital Outlay	\$ 1,146,427
Other	<u>\$ 1,081,000</u>
Total Expenditures	\$ 25,579,879



Revenues at a Glance



Revenue Projections by type for the General Fund

FY 2012 Projected Revenue General Fund

Property Taxes	\$ 3,487,400
Sales & Use Tax	\$ 8,310,000
Intergovernmental	\$ 2,106,000
Licenses	\$ 590,500
Gross Receipts	\$6,926,140
Inspections	\$674,000
Service Charges	\$1,035,000
Parks & Recreation	\$1,630,500
Municipal Court	\$1,385,300
Interest	\$99,000
Miscellaneous	<u>\$98,000</u>
Total Revenue	\$26,341,840



CITY OF UNIVERSITY CITY

APPLICATION - PROSPECTIVE APPOINTEE
CITIZEN BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1 Name in full _____

2 Address _____

3 Phone _____
Home Cell Work

4 E-Mail Address _____

5 Occupation _____

6 Business Name _____

Business Address _____

7 How long have you lived in University City? _____ Ward _____

8 Have you ever served on a University City Board or Commission _____ If so, state the
Yes / No

Board or Commission served _____

9 Are you a registered voter in University City _____ Yes _____ No

10 Comment on your professional background, specialties, training or abilities

11 List civic, social and professional organizations to which you belong

12 Which Boards/Commissions are you interested in serving on?

I understand that if I am appointed to a Board or Commission, that three unexcused absences may be the basis for my removal

Signature

Date

**Please return to: City Clerk, City of University City, 6801 Delmar Blvd, University City
MO 63120 or email to jpumm@ucitymo.org**



City of University City

6801 Delmar Blvd.
University City, MO 63130

(314)-862-6767
Relay Missouri 1-800-735-2966
www.ucitymo.org



Budget Calendar for Fiscal Year 2012 (From The Present)

DATE	ACTION	PERFORMED BY
February 28	Submit Proposed Budget to City Council	City Manager
March & April	Hold Council budget study sessions.	City Council
2 nd May Council Meeting	Hold official public hearing on FY 12 Budget.	City Council
June Council Meeting	Adopt FY 12 Budget and Capital Improvement Program	City Council
July 1	Begin Fiscal Year 2011	All
July 15	Distribute final printed Budget Document.	Finance

If you are concerned about the City's finances, please make an effort to attend one of the public budget meetings, as outlined on page #2 of this newsletter.