

City of Willcox Newsletter March 2012

Do We Ever Not Work on the Budget?

Pat McCourt, Willcox City Manager

The answer is that we **always** work on the budget and tracking the cost of services to the Public to make sure we are delivering the most services for the least amount of money. Right now the process is underway to plan for the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 (FY13).

The City always talks as though there is ONE City Budget; there is one document which contains all of the City Budgets. What is not generally known is that the City adopts twelve (12) budgets (Funds); each developed separately, with all the accounting maintained separately, with the activity within each Fund paid for separately.

The City has four (4) Enterprise Funds. These services are the Solid Waste, Water, Gas, and Sewer. Each of these services is paid for through "User Fees". They are run similar to a private business (nothing the Government does is like a private business since there are many "extra" rules in operation of a governmental entity that do not apply to private businesses). Each year the Council reviews the past year activity, current year activity and the next year activity, and based upon the necessary services, the rates are set in each area to cover the cost of operation in the next year (FY13).

The City has one (1) Highway User Fund (HURF), also commonly known as the Streets Fund. This fund is set up to take care of the City Streets; the money may only be used for the purpose of working on City Streets. The money to operate the HURF comes from a 1% City Sales Tax; State shared Gas Tax (this is based on population not local gas sales); Interest earnings (if any); and occasionally a miscellaneous revenue (like a curb cut fee).

The City has two (2) Trust Funds it maintains: the Magistrate Court Trust Fund and the Fireman's Pension Trust Fund. These are used only for the specific purpose set out in the trusts.

The City has one (1) Capital Improvement Fund: this is used to protect the money received from voter approved Bonds and assure it is only used for what the voters approved it to be used for.

The City has one (1) Debt Service Fund: this is where the City accounts for the payment to the Bond holders of Voter Approved Bonds. The Secondary City Property Tax is deposited into this Fund and is used to make the periodic payments to pay off the Voter Approved bonds.

The City has one (1) Special Revenue Grant Fund: this is when the City receives a gift or has a contract to deliver specific services and receives money only for that purpose. An example would be donations to the Skate park development. When the City provides "matching money", it is transferred in from some other Fund.

The City has one (1) Grant Fund: this is used for Grants received from other government entities (State or Federal usually) and requires strict accounting and separation from any other activity of the City. When there is "matching money", it is transferred in from some other fund.

The City has one (1) General Fund: everything not included above is in the General Fund. This Fund receives money from a broad variety of sources and has a very broad variety of services.

So when we talk about the City Budget; we actually mean the City Budgets.

Library Poem by Julia Donaldson

Tom Miner, Library Director

She wrote this for National Libraries Day in the UK:

Everyone is welcome to walk through the door.
It really doesn't matter if you're rich or poor.
There are books in boxes and books on shelves.
They're free for you to borrow, so help yourselves.

Come and meet your heroes, old and new,
From William the Conqueror to Winnie the Pooh.
You can look into the Mirror or read The Times,
Or bring along a toddler to chant some rhymes.

The librarian's a friend who loves to lend,
So see if there's a book that she can recommend.
Read that book, and if you're bitten
You can borrow all the other ones the author's written.

Are you into battles or biography?
Are you keen on gerbils or geography?
Gardening or ghosts? Sharks or science fiction?
There's something here for everyone, whatever your addiction.

There are students revising, deep in concentration,
And school kids doing projects, finding inspiration.
Over in the corner there's a table with seating,
So come along and join in the Book Club meeting.

Yes, come to the library! Browse and borrow,
And help make sure it'll still be here tomorrow.

[Julia Donaldson is the Children's Laureate at Waterstones, UK]

Spring Clean Up Time is Here!

Pat McCourt, Willcox City Manager

Spring Clean Up Time has arrived. Saturday, April 28 is the date set for the semi-annual citywide cleanup.

Starting at 7:30 AM in Railroad Park, led by the Willcox Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture Director Kathy Smith, volunteers will launch an assault on the garbage accumulated throughout the City during the winter months. There have been numerous comments made over the last two years on how the appearance of the community has improved as the accumulated garbage has been hauled away.

YOU can be a part of this action team to make Willcox a better place to live, visit and prosper. Just show up, bring a good attitude and a willingness to clean up the town.

The world is a big place and sometimes it is hard to feel we are making a difference. You can see the difference you make when you help Clean up Willcox.

Look forward to seeing you on Saturday morning, April 28, 7:30 AM, at Railroad Park!

From the Office of the City Clerk...

Cristina Garcia Whelan, CMC

City Council Meetings

Monday
Apr 2, 2012

&

Monday
Apr 16, 2012

7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers
300 W. Rex Allen Drive

The following are the results
From the Canvass of the
Primary Election
Held on March 13, 2012

Receiving Certificates of Election:
Earl B. Goolsby 174;
Elwood "Woody" Johnson 187;
And Certificate of Nomination to
William "Bill" Nigh 119

The General Election will be held on
Tuesday, May 15, 2012
Official Write-In Candidates
Nomination Papers due
April 5, 2012

Name will not appear on ballot.