

City of Willcox Newsletter March 2013

Spring Cleanup Time!

Pat McCourt, Willcox City Manager

It is that time of the year again when we do spring cleaning in the City of Willcox.

The official cleanup day for the City will be Saturday April 27th.

Plan on gathering your family and friends to help spruce up the town. There are many groups who have already selected areas to cleanup. We also have identified various “Hot Spots” which need particular attention. If you would like to participate as a group please contact either Alan Baker at the Chamber of Commerce, 384-2272, or Pat McCourt at the City, 384-4271.

This is Alan’s second rousing speech (his first was in the Fall of 2012) join us in welcoming him to his first Spring clean-up.

Additionally for those who can’t participate on April 27th. The Transfer Station in Willcox will be having a “Free Dump Day on Saturday June 1st from 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM. You can cleanup all of those items you have been storing or were too bulky to fit in the trash containers.

If you live in the City of Willcox, are elderly or disabled, and have bulky items to remove, please contact the City of Willcox Public Works at 766-4212.

Thank you for taking pride in our community.

Do We Ever ‘Not’ Work on the Budget?

Pat McCourt, Willcox City Manager

The answer is that we **always** work on the budget, and track 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, 2013 through June 30, 2014 (FY14).

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: 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. Based upon the necessary services, the rates are set in each area to cover the cost of operation in the next year (FY14). Each of these Enterprises has a “Capital Fund” in which very large and long lasting equipment and improvements to the systems are paid (the money still comes from the rate payers).

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). Contrary to popular understanding sales tax is not charged on gasoline sales. This Streets Fund also has a “Capital Fund”, as explained above.

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. The General Fund also has a “Capital Fund”.

From the Office of the City Clerk...

Virginia A. Mefford, City Clerk

City Council Meetings

Regular Meeting

Monday

Apr 1, 2013

&

Monday

Apr 15, 2013

7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers
300 W. Rex Allen Drive