

Fund: GENERAL
Department: GENERAL GOVERNMENT
Division: MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Division No.: 40000

MISSION:

The mission of the Mayor and City Council is to serve as the legislative and policy body of the City Government. The Mayor serves as the official head of the government.

SERVICES:

The Mayor and City Council Members are elected at-large for staggered four-year terms on a biennial basis. Regular meetings of the City Council are normally held twice a month on Tuesdays.

SIGNIFICANT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

GOAL:

A. Provide policy direction for the City of Carbondale that addresses both short term and long range needs of the community and the municipal government.

Objective:

1. Provide leadership and direction in long range planning issues for the City

Strategies:

- a. Identify issues that the City should be addressing to help position the community for a future of growth, strength, vitality and fiscal soundness
- b. Formulate policies that anticipate community changes and that encourage appropriate growth and development opportunities while considering fiscal restraints, impacts on the City and citizens and impacts on staffing resources

Objective:

2. Solicit advice from professional staff, advisory boards and commissions and others in formulating policy

Strategies:

- a. Require staff, under the direction of the City Manager, to provide well-developed recommendations and alternatives for initiatives and issues coming to the Council

- b. Actively solicit input from boards and commissions on issues before the City Council
- c. Encourage boards and commissions to propose issues to the City Council when Council policy or direction is needed

Objective:

3. Be involved in regional, state and national organizations and activities that can benefit the City

Strategies:

- a. Continue active participation in groups including the Southern Illinois Mayor's Association, the Illinois Municipal League and the National League of Cities to share information and to work cooperatively toward solutions to problems facing cities similar to Carbondale
- b. Take leadership roles in organizations that will promote the City and provide heightened exposure to the community
- c. Support the mission of Southern Illinois University and work together in cooperative ways to enhance town/gown relations, representing a unified partnership.

Objective:

4. Represent and lobby on behalf of the community and region for the best interests of the constituency

Strategies:

- a. The Mayor is designated as the chief spokesman for the City of Carbondale
- b. Solicit funds and propose/support/oppose legislation as needed or desired at the state and federal levels

GOAL:

B. Provide an open forum for, and encourage widespread participation in, the discussion of issues and concerns pertaining to City government

Objective:

1. Facilitate discussion of ideas and concerns

Strategies:

- a. Include "Citizen Comments and Questions" agenda item at every regular City Council meeting
- b. Provide ample opportunity for citizen comments at

- c. Refer items to advisory boards and commissions for comment and input as needed

Objective:

- 2. Ensure that membership on advisory boards and commissions reflects the diversity of the Carbondale community

Strategies:

- a. Utilize the *Carbondale Communiqué* to advertise vacancies on boards and commissions and to recruit new volunteers
- b. Encourage Council members to take an active role in recommending constituents for vacant positions on Boards and Commissions.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

Much of the Mayor and City Council's focus in Fiscal Year 2015 was on preparation and implementation of the annual budget. The City's financial situation has been impacted by the slow recovery from the recent recession, the relatively low enrollment and employee reductions at Southern Illinois University, the negative impact of internet sales on local sales tax collections, and increases in costs for some items, particularly police and fire pensions.

The financial condition of the State of Illinois has placed burdens on municipal governments throughout the region. In order to maintain a basic level of services that meets the community's expectations, the City Council, for the fourth year in a row, levied a property tax on real property. However, in response to concerns about rising property tax rates, the City Council did not increase the property tax by the full amount needed to keep up with increasing fire and police pensions. Instead the City Council directed the City administration to seek savings in the budget and the City Council considered other possible sources of revenue including an increase in the home rule sales tax, a food and beverage tax, a packaged liquor tax, and an entertainment or amusement tax.

The financial future of the City was put into further question when the Governor announced his desire to reduce payments from the State's Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) to local governments by 50%. This would result in a reduction of \$1.25 million in the City's LGDF receipts from the State of Illinois. The timing of consideration of the Governor's proposal and the State's budget are such that a decision will not be known until

after the City's budget is approved. In anticipation of reductions in LGDF funding and in order to meet the City's General Fund operating expenses, the City Council increased the Home Rule Sales Tax rate by ¼%. The increase is expected to raise \$875,000 in the 10 months of collection for FY2016.

In Fiscal Year 2016, the Mayor and Council will continue to monitor the budget to see that expenses do not exceed revenues. Major Community Improvements Program projects in Fiscal Year 2016 include construction of Downtown Bike/Pedestrian Path, construction of a new Downtown Parking Lot in the 700 block of South Illinois Avenue, reconstruction of the Sanitary Sewer in Oak Street from University Avenue to Wall Street, reconstruction of the Waterline in Mill Street from Oakland Avenue to University Avenue, continued improvements to the Crab Orchard Water lines, continued rehabilitation of the Sanitary Sewer manholes plus the annual Sidewalk Improvement Program.

Of particular concern for the City Council is the need for a Downtown Master Plan. In Fiscal Year 2015 the planning process began with work of a volunteer Downtown Master Plan Advisory Committee (DAC). The DAC devoted several months to working with citizens to develop a vision and goals for the Downtown area. Late in Fiscal Year 2015 a consultant was selected to develop a Downtown Master Plan in conjunction with the DAC and citizen involvement. It is anticipated that the Downtown Master Plan will be completed in Fiscal Year 2016.

In April 2015, voters of Carbondale will elect a new Mayor and three City Council members to fill expiring terms.

NUMBER OF ELECTED OFFICIALS:

POSITION TITLE	ACTUAL FY 2014	AUTHORIZED BUDGET FY 2015	ESTIMATED ACTUAL FY 2015	BUDGET FY 2016	\$ AMOUNT BUDGET FY 2016
Mayor	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	\$9,000
Council	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	\$25,200
TOTAL	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	\$34,200

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EXPENDITURE CLASSIFICATION	ACTUAL FY2014	AUTHORIZED BUDGET FY2015	ESTIMATED ACTUAL FY2015	BUDGET FY2016
PERSONAL SERVICES				
120 Elected Officials Salaries	33,854	34,200	34,200	34,200
130 Employee Health Ins. Benefits	7,234	13,466	13,356	14,103
131 Employee Retirement Benefits	3,524	2,616	2,616	2,616
140 Employee Work. Comp. Benefits	101	115	100	76
TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	44,713	50,397	50,272	50,995
DIRECT OPERATING CHARGES & SERVICES				
210 Publishing and Filing Fees	58	0	0	0
220 Communications-Telephone	737	720	740	740
222 Communications-Postage	49	200	110	160
240 Travel, Conferences, Training	5,089	10,950	4,625	9,700
270 Outside Printing Services	988	104	154	208
271 Other Outside Services	4,746	1,000	0	1,000
272 Office Supplies	581	625	383	575
273 Operating Supplies & Materials	983	750	624	675
280 Subscriptions and Memberships	4,690	7,025	4,917	7,015
299 Operating Equipment	962	0	0	0
TOTAL DIRECT OPER. CHRGS & SRVCS	18,883	21,374	11,553	20,073
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	63,596	71,771	61,825	71,068