

Charles K, Shaheen III

Office of The Mayor City of Marner Robins

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BUDGET MESSAGE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

Councilman Mike Brashear
Councilman Mike Davis
Councilman Mike Daley
Councilman Daron D. Lee
Councilwoman Carolyn Robbins
Councilman Paul Shealy

Per my authorized duty as Mayor, I present to you the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) Budget for the General Fund, Special Revenues Fund, Capital Project Funds and Enterprise Funds of the City of Warner Robins.

This Fiscal Year budget as presented for the General Fund is balanced.

Our projected revenues for the General Fund should be sufficient to cover our anticipated expenditures. I am not recommending an increase in the City's tax millage rate in consideration of the City's citizens continued struggle with our current economic crisis. The City's tax digest is projected to increase due to recent annexations and building construction; however, there is a real concern that the City's tax digest could be less than projected due to the continuing depressed economic state of the housing market. Our other revenue sources have not increased, and in some instances, will show a decrease from the last Fiscal Year. As presented, transfers from the Natural Gas Fund and the Water and Sewer Fund are decreased from last fiscal year transfers. Rate increases would be required in our Enterprise Funds in order to increase transfers; however, at this time I am not recommending this course of action.

Overall, salaries and benefits will decreased by two percent due to favorable operating results in the City's Group Health Fund which resulted in a decrease of \$900,000 in contribution to the Group Health Fund; decreased in contributions for retirement benefit by \$754,955 due to improved conditions in the GEMBS's pension investments; and a modest increased (\$50,000) in worker compensation contributions. Per requests from our Public Safety Departments, we are requesting a net increase of three personnel in the Police Department and eleven personnel in the Fire Department. I am recommending that two full time vacant positions in the City Development Department and one vacant position in the Police Department be frozen. In our operations and maintenance budget for the General Fund, we are projecting a three percent increase which is due mainly to the increased cost of governmental operations. In our capital budget for the General Fund, an increase of forty two percent is projected due to capital requests that cannot be funded by the 2012 SPLOST receipts. We were able to create a balanced budget while being able to give the employees a 3% pay adjustment (COLA). In total, the General Fund budget for FY14 essentially the same as the adopted budget of FY13.

The Special Revenue Funds and Capital Project Funds are in stable condition. However, we do not expect Hotel/Motel Tax and Motor Vehicle Rental Tax receipts to increase over amounts collected in FY 2013. The City's 2001 and 2006 SPLOST projects are progressing as planned and we expect all current projects to be completed in a timely manner. The City's 2012 SPLOST began

receiving funds in December 2012 and through May 2013 collections are less than projections by 6%. I suggest that we proceed cautiously in prioritizing future projects related to the 2012 SPLOST.

The City's Enterprise Funds are presented for your consideration; although there is not a legal requirement for adopting a balanced budget for these funds, we set a budget plan for these funds for managerial control purposes. Our Enterprise Funds are in stable condition; however, rate increases will require consideration in future budgets. Infrastructure improvements to the City's Waste Water Treatment Plant are progressing as planned.

Your servant to the Citizens of Warner Robins,

The Honorable Mayor Charles K. Shaheen, III