

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Duvall Adopts First Biennial Budget

New focus on deferred maintenance and planning for a sustainable future

December 11, 2018

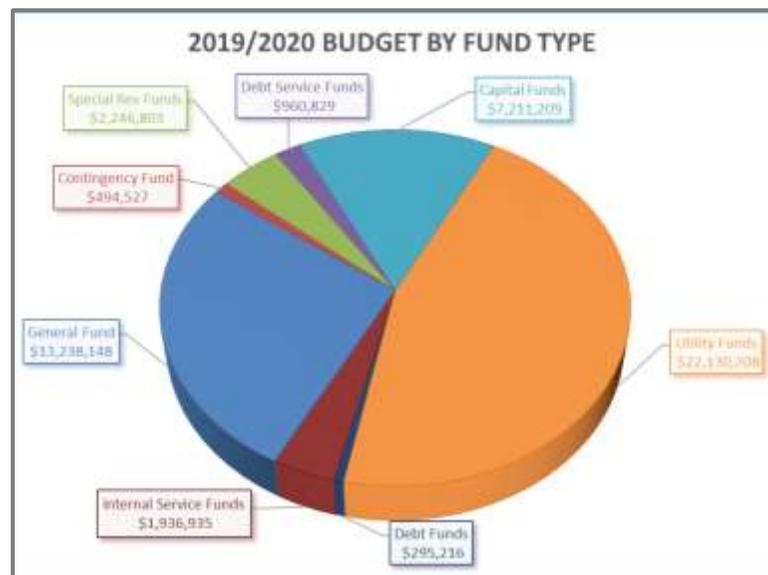
DUVALL, Wash. – At the Council meeting on December 11th, Mayor Amy Ockerlander presented the City Council with the final version of Duvall’s first biennial, or two-year, budget. After some final discussion of the changes, the budget document was unanimously adopted by the City Council who had spent more than two-months reviewing and suggesting modifications since the Mayor’s initial budget release to the public on October 2nd.

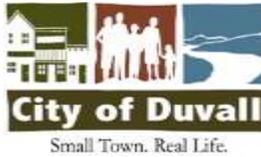
“I am pleased with the outcome of our first biennial budget. This document is a big step forward to achieve a level of sustainability that we haven’t seen before and puts us on the right track to maintain service levels and a strong infrastructure,” said Mayor Amy Ockerlander, “This budget is a patchwork quilt of all our work and I thank council and staff for their commitment to being good stewards of our resources and making challenging decisions this year.”

The budget is balanced while maintaining the 17% operating reserves in the General Fund, continues utility reserve increases in accordance with current policy, and makes the largest transfer to the City’s Contingency Fund in over a decade.

These reserves and rainy day funds help the city through tough financial times and is just one of many keys to future sustainability.

Through discussions with staff, the Mayor identified deferred maintenance as top priorities to right-side. Funding was provided for replacement and essential maintenance of outdated vehicles, capital equipment, IT infrastructure, and City facilities. One notable equipment purchase in this biennium will be a new dump truck with snow-plowing capabilities which will replace some of the outdated equipment currently used by Public Works.





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In addition, the budget funds significant capital projects including an update to the Comprehensive Water System Plan, infrastructure improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Batten Road Reconstruction, Kennedy Drive water line replacement and Tolt 2 water line replacement.

In 2019, the Mayor and council will be updating the City's financial policies, conduct a staff workload analysis and develop a Governmental Facilities Plan. These combined efforts will help the city plan for a more sustainable present – and future, ensuring proper staffing to provide the level of service our community expects while funding maintenance and new infrastructure.

Discussions around the budget benefitted from unprecedented transparency in the process with five special budget meetings and hearings held, over 30 hours of public discussion, and videos of each presentation or discussion posted on the City's YouTube channel. Countless hours were spent by staff prepared the documents and engaging with Council and City Administration to ensure a balanced budget.

END

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Budget Overview and Departmental Presentations

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLM4cuOy_QMMtnaaBuCU1GEAnw2x1qga5g

2019/2020 Proposed Budget

<http://www.duvallwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5291/Final-Proposed-Budget-12112018>

Finance Department Budget webpage

<http://www.duvallwa.gov/356/Budget>