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Mayor's Corner OCTOBER 2021

As I write this, the September Council meeting has just happened, and I wanted to share the water billing update given during that meeting. As you are aware, we have been having

issues with our automatic meter reading system. There have been a disproportionate number of them that were not transmitting the water usage data. The city has been working diligently to rectify this issue. Unfortunately, the replacement nodes were delayed getting to us from the company because of supply-chain issues. Otherwise, the replacement project would have been completed by now.

However, there is some good news now. Mid-October should complete the replacement of inoperable nodes. As a result, there should not be any additional estimating of water bills. I want to thank our Water department for all they have done to make this process as smooth as possible.

Additionally, I want to ask you, the city resident, to please reach out to the water billing department if you have a question about your bill. The ladies who work in water billing will be more than happy to help you resolve your question if you call. However, you may have to be a little patient as they try to determine how they can best assist you.

Finally, I want to wish you Happy Halloween and be safe as you go to the various activities associated with Halloween, including trick or treating, on October 31st.

Mayor,

CAllen E. Scott





MEETINGS

The Bryant Parks Committee meets on the FIRST Monday of each month at 6:00 PM The Bryant Planning Commissioner meets on the SECOND Monday of each month at 6:00 PM The Bryant Water and Wastewater Committee meets on th SECOND Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM. The Bryant City Council meets on the LAST Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM. Regularly scheduled meetings are normally held at the Boswell Municipal Complex located at 210 SW 3rd Street unless otherwise indicated online. To receive notifications of meeting agendas please go to www.cityofbryant.com and sign up for NOTIFY ME. To view the meetings online follow the city's Youtube page.

Upcoming Budget Workshops:

Tuesday, October 19th at 6:00 PM -- Public Safety (Police, Fire, Animal, and Courts) Tuesday, October 26th at 5:30 PM -- Admin (Finance, Mayor, City Clerk, HR, Planning/Code) Tuesday, November 2nd at 6:00 PM -- Public Works (Street, Stormwater, Water, WW, and Engineering).



The City of Bryant will celebrate Halloween on its official date, Sunday, October 31st, 2021 as we have in the past. We realize that many neighborhood groups, churches, and civic organizations plan months in advance for special events around this holiday and encourage our residents to get out and enjoy the festivals (and more) that will be happening around this fun weekend



Your city budget is not just an accounting document. It is a management and planning tool for your community.



Because the City is limited by the amount of resources available, the Budget helps your city staff and officials in determining what projects or objectives have the HIGHEST priority and will produce the greatest positive impact on our city.



City budgets are generally composed of an operating budget, showing expenditures, and a capital budget, which shows the financial plans for long-term capital improvements, facilities, and equipment.

Did you know YOUR CITY'S BUDGET SETS THE COMMUNITY'S PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR?



General Fund which is supported by local sales tax and revenues generated by city processes. This fund is responsible for many of the items Bryant residents consider a quality of life benefit. Street Fund:

Funds that are highlighted during th

budget process

is fund is set by Arkansas state law to account for oney to be spent on roads. This money can NOT be ed for any projects not pertaining to Streets.

Water/Wastewater: This fund is made up of several different revenue streams and is used to account for items related to Wastewater (sewer) activities for the residents of Bryant. These revenues are created by your utility bill charges and must pay not only for the daily upkeep of our water and wastewater system but also in the upgrades and repairs needed for aging infrastructure and needs placed on it by the rapid growth the city of Bryant.

Director's Chair

September starts the budgeting season for the City for the following year, 2022. Many citizens do not realize this is such a lengthy process. There are several workshops scheduled in the upcoming weeks, and Bryant residents have the opportunity to attend and be involved.

Why is it important that our citizens be engaged during this process? That is easy to explain! This city budget is more than just an accounting document. It actually sets the projects and priorities that the city staff will be working on for the upcoming year.

At the City of Bryant, there are three main funds reviewed for the budget each year. The Street Fund derives its revenue from State set taxes that must be spent only on roads and road-related care. The Water/Wastewater Fund derives most of its revenues from Utility bills and consequently, these funds must be spent on improving and maintaining those systems associated with water distribution and sewer collection and treatment. Lastly, the General Fund is the main fund which houses items, not in one of the two earlier funds. Items like Fire, Police, Community Development, Animal Control, Courts, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Engineering, and Parks. So basically most of the items that our residents consider quality of life benefits for living here.

A bit of good news from the finance department. Each year we submit our annual budget for consideration to the Government Finance Officers Association and I am proud to say we have received notice that the City of Bryant has won the Distinguished Budgeting Award for 2021. The city has actually been awarded this honor each year since 2018. I have to give a huge KUDOS to my team for their hard work.

As the Finance Director, I welcome sitting down with any interested citizen to go over the budget, monthly reports to Council or any of the Annual Audited Reports. These items are available on the City's website for review. City Finances are very interesting and the citizens have a right to know and understand where their local tax dollars are being spent.

My email is *jblack@cityofbryant.com* and I encourage any questions on the city finances. Please reach out.

Sincerely, *Toy CAnne Black*

CPA, City of Bryant's Finance Director

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