



CITY OF MERIDIAN

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MERIDIAN BUDGET HEARING SET FOR AUGUST 30 – PUBLIC INVITED TO WEIGH IN ON CITY’S PROPOSAL

MERIDIAN – The public hearing for the Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) budget is set for Tuesday, August 30 at 6pm. City of Meridian elected officials welcome the public’s feedback on the proposed budget of \$119.9 million which begins on October 1, 2016.

“It’s important for our community to be part of the budget process. That is why we live streamed our workshops in June and July, so those interested could follow the discussions. We want to be completely transparent in how we are putting tax dollars to use. That transparency and openness is one of the many reasons residents tell me they love living in Meridian,” said Mayor Tammy de Weerd, City of Meridian.

The proposed FY17 budget for the General Fund is \$53.2 million. This includes a projected \$9.9 million carried forward from the current budget year for completion projects currently under construction. The General Fund, comprised primarily of property tax revenue, is the account which pays for Police, Fire, Parks and the administrative functions of the City. The FY17 budget includes a 2% increase in the allowable property tax, primarily focused on public safety needs, and will be used to continue to provide the service level our residents expect now and in the future. This includes supporting the City’s Public Safety Fund for future capital projects in the Police and Fire Departments.

The FY17 Budget contains a number of enhancements and carry-forward projects designed to maintain the current service level demands of one of the fastest growing cities in America. Enhancements include:

- 11 employees in the Police Department, with 4 Patrol Officers and a new School Resource Officer for Victory Middle School which will open in August of 2016;
- 5 employees in the Fire Department with 3 new Firefighters to assist with reducing overtime costs;
- Funding for the purchase, staffing and operations for the new indoor recreation space in Meridian called Homecourt;
- Building of three new neighborhood parks using growth impact fees: Reta Huskey Park, an 8.5 acre park in the Bellano Creek Subdivision near Ustick and Ten Mile; William Watson Park, a 7.5 acre park in the Bainbridge Subdivision near Ten Mile between



McMillian and Chinden; and Hillsdale Park – the future 10 acre park near the new Elementary school and future YMCA in South Meridian near Amity and Cloverdale Roads;

- Design funds for the planned 77 acre regional park in South Meridian;
- Administrative personnel such as a dedicated website developer.

The proposed FY17 budget for the Enterprise Fund is \$66.7 million, including a projected \$17.1 million carried forward from the current budget year for completion of ongoing projects. The Enterprise Fund, which is funded by water and sewer assessment fees and user rates, is the account used to fund the City's water and wastewater operations and maintenance as well as the infrastructure. Enhancements in the FY17 Budget include:

- Required increased capacity improvements to the Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) to meet service-level demands and prepare for upcoming EPA regulatory requirements;
- Required upgrades of systems to meet EPA requirements for the City's NPDES permit;
- A new headworks and influent pumping facility that includes a building to control odor at the WRRF (sewer treatment plant);
- An update to the WRRF facility plan;
- Water and sewer line replacement and extensions;
- Drilling, pumping facility reconstruction and water quality treatments for several wells.

Members of the public are welcome to view the budget proposal prior to the public hearing. To view the summary and notice, [click here](#). A full budget proposal can be viewed in the Meridian City Clerk's Office at City Hall – 33 E. Broadway Ave., Meridian, Idaho 83642.

Following the public hearing on Tuesday, August 30, the council will formally vote on the FY17 budget. The meeting (like all other city council meetings), will be LIVE streamed, which can be accessed [here](#), or via our City's website www.meridiancity.org.

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The City of Meridian is located in the heart of the Treasure Valley in southwest Idaho. Founded in 1893 and incorporated as a city in 1903, Meridian is one of Idaho's largest and fastest growing communities. 24/7 Wall Street named Meridian the *Number One Place to Live in America*. America's Promise Alliance/ING recognized the city as one of the nation's *100 Best Communities for Young People*. For more information, visit www.meridiancity.org.