

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

A resolution regarding 2015 Budget Priorities.

WHEREAS, the City Council should adopt budget priorities to help guide the City Administration in developing and presenting the FY 2015 budget; and

WHEREAS, as Spokane emerges from the recession with a growing economy, the City Council considers FY 2015 a year to make smart investments in infrastructure and public safety that will improve community safety, connectivity and livability; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that, as the economic recovery continues, we must prioritize our budgeting and maintain essential services, such as police and fire, while investing strategically in economic & community development opportunities that will grow our local economy & future tax base; and

WHEREAS, the City Council would like to prioritize funding in these areas (see details in attached document):

- to improve community safety;
- to support sustainable, targeted growth and economic opportunity;
- to maintain and improve the City's infrastructure;
- to improve the health, quality and character of our community; and

WHEREAS, the City Council supports sustainable budgeting principles such as not using one-time dollars for on-going expenses, as adopted by Council in 2011 in Resolution No. 2011-0030; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Spokane City Council asks the City Administration to prepare a budget which recognizes revenue growth and urges the City Administration to prudently develop next year's budget with the following conditions:

- To the extent authorized by law, include a 1% property tax increase to support city capital needs;
- Make no more cuts to positions unless such cuts can be clearly tied to improved service delivery to the citizens;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council requests the City Administration to review the attached statement of budget priorities and implement these items, and make other budget adjustments as necessary to increase level and quality of service, promote efficiency, and improve performance of city operations and service delivery.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of February, 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant City Attorney

## **City of Spokane 2015 Budget Priorities**

### **1. Public Safety – Improving community safety**

- Follow-up and fund Fire Task Team recommendations
- Continue to fund alternative response vehicles
- Support and ensure funding for implementation of precincts as part of community-oriented policing
- Fund Fire Dept. front line staff at 2012 levels
- Begin implementation and funding of Criminal Justice Commission recommendations
- Sustain COPS program funding at 2014 level.
- Work with partner agencies/jurisdictions to reduce & respond more effectively to domestic violence, including co-location of city/county prosecutors and advocates

### **2. Jobs and Economic Growth – Supporting sustainable, targeted growth and economic opportunity**

- Provide ongoing financial and administrative support for the U District & Northeast PDAs
- Approve additional development incentives for Downtown Spokane and other targeted growth areas
- Fund additional positions in planning, either entry level planners or funding for project staff as needed to implement updated comprehensive plan policies
- Fund Integrated projects in East Sprague Targeted Investment Pilot area
- Fund update of Bicycle Master Plan and completion of Ped Master Plan

### **3. Budget – Promoting fiscal health and budget accountability**

- Fund replacement/training overlap when long time employees leave in all departments
- Fund recommended changes (8.25%) to SERS Pension System
- Work with administration to identify performance measures that link to priority-based budget

### **4. Infrastructure Maintaining and improving public infrastructure in an affordable and integrated fashion**

- Fund the 1% for Arts with all CSO projects
- Fund CSO implementation with goal of meeting 2017 permit deadline
- Ensure that Utilities compensates Streets for use of right-of-way at minimum of \$2.5M
- Develop and fund a plan to run Waste to Energy Facility as a city run operation

- Include funding for signage & monuments honoring Spokane Tribe in Spokane River stormwater/CSO projects.

#### **5. Quality of Life – Engaging citizens and improving the health, quality and character of our community**

- Maintain funding for the Arts at 2014 levels
- Increased funding for Code Enforcement and/or Building Dept. to improve City's response to neighborhood blight, substandard buildings, vacant properties and foreclosures.
- Continuing to address Downtown Spokane livability through targeted developer incentives, public safety policies, and infrastructure improvements
- Fund Human Services in an increasing amount of \$50,000 per year (end goal of 1% of GF)
- Funding for main floor City Hall display honoring Spokane Tribe homeland
- Increased funding to maintain basic capital needs at Community Centers