

THE PROCESS, PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AMENDING THE BUDGET

The City's fiscal year is the calendar year and its budget cycle is an annual one. By Illinois State Statutes, the Council must pass a budget prior to the end of the first quarter of the proposed budget year. During the first quarter of the proposed budget year, if the Council has not yet adopted a new budget, departments operate under the prior year's budget. Typically, the process begins sometime in March/April and ends at some point before the beginning of the budget year.

THE 2014 PROCESS

The 2014 process began early in 2013 due to projected General Fund deficit. One Saturday hearing was held in September, one in October and one in November to achieve budget approval. The schedule of events is shown in the Budget Timeline on the following page.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

It is the City's policy to keep citizens informed during the budget process and to seek public input. In addition to holding public hearings, the City also makes available, before and after adoption, other summary and detail information. The City's efforts are assisted by extensive media coverage (daily newspaper, four television stations and a number of radio stations).

AMENDING THE BUDGET

The State of Illinois provides two avenues for budget (Appropriation Ordinance) amendment.

The City Council, at any time after the first half of each fiscal year, by a two-thirds vote of all members, may make transfers within any department of funds appropriated for one corporate purpose to another.

During any part of the fiscal year, the Council may adopt a supplemental Appropriation Ordinance in an amount not in excess of the aggregate of any additional revenue available to the City, or estimated to be received, subsequent to the adoption of the Appropriation Ordinance for that fiscal year. Such a supplemental Appropriation Ordinance shall affect only revenue that was not available for appropriation when the annual Appropriation Ordinance was adopted.