



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Tuesday, March 17, 2020**

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Janet Wilwerding  
Communications Specialist  
O: 515.727.7781  
C: 515.414.0662  
jwilwerding@cityofjohnston.com

## **JOHNSTON CITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES FY 2021 BUDGET**

**JOHNSTON, Iowa** – The Johnston City Council unanimously approved the City’s budget for the Fiscal Year 2021 on Monday, March 16, 2020. The budget adopted will facilitate growth while ensuring priorities are met. The new budget will go into effect on July 1, 2020.

The \$60.5 million budget reduces the property tax rate from \$11.65 to **\$10.63** per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value. This \$1.02 reduction is because of the Local Option Sales and Services tax vote that passed on August 6, 2019. The ballot stated at least 50 percent of the revenue from Local Option Sales and Services Tax would reduce the City’s portion of property taxes. The **City is using 65 percent** of the Local Option Sales Tax to lower your property taxes.

“City leaders and staff worked very hard on this year’s budget,” said City Administrator Jim Sanders. “City leaders prioritized projects based upon the needs and goals created for our community. It is important to note that we have five new tax-supported staff positions, including a police officer, firefighter, deputy fire marshal (shared with the City of Grimes), Parks Maintenance Worker and Communications Specialist. We also have two new staff positions funded through other revenue sources, including the Public Works Maintenance Worker and Water/Sewer Maintenance Worker. Each of these positions is extremely important to ensure our City keeps up with its growth, runs efficiently and residents are getting the services you are paying for.”

### **Highlights of the FY 2021 Capital Improvement Plan include the following projects:**

#### **Road and Trail Projects**

- Continuation of public improvements east of Merle Hay Road including completion of improvements along NW 54th Court and NW 60th Avenue east of NW 54th Court and NW 61st Avenue
- Complete design, and right-of-way acquisition for the continuation of NW Beaver Drive overlay and pedestrian trail (Merle Hay Road to NW 66th Avenue)
- Intersection improvements at Merle Hay Road and NW 62nd Avenue to prepare for the Town Center. Includes trail/sidewalk connection on the southside of NW 62nd Avenue from Lawson Elementary to Four Pines Street
- Begin reconstruction of NW 54th Avenue from NW 86th Street to NW 100th Street (joint project with City of Urbandale)
- Complete trail from Northglenn Drive to NW 62nd Avenue
- Construct recreational trail along Pioneer Parkway
- Continue planning for a recreational trail along NW 86th Street

- Continue implementation of Lew Clarkson Master Plan additions
- Begin Northglenn Trail Reconstruction between Morningside Drive and NW 66th Place

#### **Service Enhancements**

- Begin trail realignment in Beaver Creek Natural Resource Area
- Improvements to NW Beaver Drive booster station

#### **Recreational Improvements**

- Installation of canoe/kayak access from Beaver Creek into Terra Park/Lew Clarkson Park
- Replacement of Dewey Park restroom
- Construction of shelter at Greenwood Hills Park
- Construct a playground and shelter at Johnston Commons

#### **Water Quality Improvements**

- Construction of stormwater improvements in Orchard Meadows off of Ridgecrest Drive
- Construction of stormwater improvements to the Northglenn drainage way
- Construction of stormwater improvements along Crescent Chase drainage way between NW 86th Street and NW 94th Street
- Construction of improvements west of Hyperion Point Drive and north of NW Beaver Drive

For each dollar paid on property taxes, the City receives approximately \$0.28. There are eight other entities collecting revenue from property taxes paid by Johnston residents, including:

- Johnston Community School District – 44%
- City of Johnston – 28%
- Polk County – 18%
- Other 10% – (Broadlawns Medical Center, DART, DMACC, Polk County Accessor, Polk County Ag Extension and the State of Iowa)

More information about the City's FY 2021 budget can be found on the City of Johnston's website, [www.cityofjohnston.com/budget](http://www.cityofjohnston.com/budget).

###