



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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JOHNSTON CITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES FY 2022 BUDGET

JOHNSTON, Iowa – The Johnston City Council unanimously approved the City's budget for the Fiscal Year 2022 on Monday, Mar. 15, 2021. The budget was developed to deliver quality services while being fiscally conservative. The new budget will go into effect on July 1, 2021.

The \$113 million budget, along with the Local Option Sales and Services Tax (LOSST), keeps the tax rate at **\$10.63** per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value. The LOSST reduced the tax rate by \$1.34; without this revenue, the tax rate would have been \$11.97 per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value.

"The fiscal year 2022 budget allows us to move forward with critical projects within our community while being fiscally responsible," said Assistant City Administrator/Finance Teresa Rotschafer. "The Local Option Sales and Services Tax was critical to keep our tax rate the same this year. The COVID-19 pandemic certainly created challenges for all of us, but our elected leaders were conservative with this budget, and it is one our community can be proud of."

The City Council takes the commitment to public safety seriously. In the 2020 community survey, 84.8 percent of respondents said they are satisfied with Johnston Police Department's ongoing efforts to proactively detect and deter crime while building trust in the community. And overall, 93.6 percent of respondents said they feel safe in the city. "Providing for the safety of our residents and visitors is our number one priority, and it was certainly an important aspect of our strategic planning for this year's budget," said Mayor Paula Dierenfeld. "We will be creating a new professional Community Affairs Coordinator position in the police department to focus on community outreach, mental health and human services advocacy, and explore new crisis intervention and multidisciplinary problem-solving models. We will also hire an additional sworn police officer that will assist in developing an Office of Professional Standards and Training within the police department. The commitment to serve and protect while providing transparency to the public is something our police department is recognized for and takes great pride in."

The community survey also revealed the City should focus on traffic flow and quality of recreation programs and facilities. The Capital Improvement Plan reflects projects relating to street and park improvements.

Highlights of the FY 2022 Capital Improvement Plan include the following projects:

Park Improvements

- IGNIT park improvements

- Johnston Drive trail will provide a connection to the interurban trail with Merle Hay Road
- Lew Clarkson Park improvements
- Dewey Park playground and restroom improvements
- Crosshaven Park shelter
- Dog park along Johnston Drive with connection to the interurban trail

Street Improvements

- NW Beaver Drive Overlay and Recreation Trail (3rd and final phase)
- Second and final phase of the reconstruction of NW 54th Avenue from NW 97th Street to NW 86th Street
- Implementation of the sidewalk repair, replacement and construction program
- Beginning the design for the NW 100th Street reconstruction from NW 54th Avenue to NW 62nd Avenue

Sanitary Sewer Improvements

- Master plan for the gravity sanitary sewer system
- NW Area sanitary sewer extension

Stormwater Improvements

- Harbor Oaks Drive Channel Improvements
- The Harbour #2: Longboat Court/ Tenacity Lane Channel Improvements

Water Improvements

- Repainting the NW 100th Street water tower
- Repainting NW Beaver Drive standpipe
- Extension of the NW Beaver Drive fiber network
- NW area water service extension (*pending litigation*)

For each dollar paid on property taxes, the City receives approximately \$0.27. There are eight other entities collecting revenue from property taxes paid by Johnston residents, including:

- Johnston Community School District – 44%
- City of Johnston – 27%
- Polk County – 18%
- Other 11% – (Broadlawns Medical Center, DART, DMACC, Polk County Accessor, Polk County Ag Extension and the State of Iowa)

More information about the City's FY 2022 budget can be found on the City of Johnston's website, www.cityofjohnston.com/budget.

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