

August 12, 2021

International Youth Day

## Community Update

By Tami Scott, Administrative Services Director

The City Finance Department prepares a biennial budget for Council adoption every two years. The budget, simply put, is a policy document. The budget must reflect and support Council policies and is the primary tool for the Council to accomplish their goals. The biennial budget was developed with a primary focus to accomplish City Council goals established in January 2021. Departments reviewed their past accomplishments and developed objectives focusing on achieving these overarching Council goals:

- Public Safety
- Housing and Homeless
- Finance and General Government
- Economic Development and Events
- Planning, Streets and Infrastructure
- Code Enforcement
- Parks and Recreation

As projected revenues are finite, the policy decisions are how to best utilize those finite resources to meet the needs of the community. The budget must be built from attainable revenue projections, while at the same time identifying fair and accurate expenditures. In developing a budget, the primary component is to determine the costs associated with operating the City. Since we are a service organization (and we don't make widgets), the primary expense is our labor (the people serving the residents and businesses of Cathedral City). In addition, there are operating components (such as materials, supplies) necessary to get the job done. The City has seven primary operating departments, in addition to Elected Officials, as follows: City Council, City Management, Administrative Services, Police, Fire, Engineering/Public Works, and Planning & Building Services.

The past year has proven to be challenging in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The City of Cathedral City quickly took measures to mitigate possible negative economic effects by making significant reductions to City staffing and department operating budgets. Despite losses in tax revenues in certain areas, the City of Cathedral City was able to navigate through the pandemic without any major pitfalls. A major factor supporting the City during the past year has been a large increase in development activity. There continues to be increases in property values along with an increase in single family dwelling development, which will translate into increased revenues in the

### CITY OF CATHEDRAL CITY California

Adopted Budget  
Fiscal Years 2021/2022 and 2022/2023



future. The City will continue to tread cautiously as any future effects of COVID-19 on the economy are still unknown.

### ***Biennial Budget, The Process***

The budget process is an ongoing year-round, living document whereby monthly, quarterly and mid-year reviews of revenues and expenditures are completed to determine and assess any changes that may be needed. Most recently, the formal biennial budget preparation began in December 2020, for the next two-year cycle, FY 2021/2022 and FY 2022/2023, with City staff preparing department/division line-item detail worksheets for dissemination and Departmental review/feedback.

In January, the Finance Division then distributed the budget calendar, instructions, forms, and budget worksheets to each department. Individual departments were then directly responsible for reviewing the draft operating budgets and proposing any adjustments.

In February, the department narratives, consisting of department goals, objectives (in meeting department and Council goals) and accomplishments were submitted to the departments for their update and feedback. In addition, a draft Capital Improvement Program (CIP) 5 Year Plan was prepared. In refining the CIP, existing and new projects were identified, along with their scope, funding/expense needs, and associated timelines.

In the March through May timeframe, department heads, in conjunction with the City Manager, reviewed and addressed departmental needs and their ability to deliver an acceptable level of services to the community, while at the same time preparing a budget that incorporates the achievement of Council's adopted goals. Weaved into this process, City Council had 16 weekly public meetings to review the budget workbook, ask questions, and evaluate priorities. In developing the biennial budget document, the City Manager and staff used their best efforts to identify and estimate financial resources available to the community.

For the final budget consideration, staff then incorporated City Council discussion, guidance, and direction. Most significantly, these recommendations included restorations of services, continued costs for expected responses to the COVID-19 emergency and reservation of funds for outstanding liabilities. Specifically, the City Council directed certain service restorations, including staggered restoration of staffing across all departments. These restorations are focused on how to provide resources economically and effectively to the community while observing the continued limitations the current COVID-19 pandemic imposes.

Overall, the City's General Fund projects \$54.862 million in revenues and \$58.648 million in expenses, for FY 2021/2022 leaving a deficit of \$3.786 million. For FY 2022/2023, the City's General Fund projects \$54.823 million in revenues and \$59.955 in expenditures leaving a deficit of \$5.132 million. It is anticipated, through the Federal COVID19 American Rescue Plan program, the City will be able to recapture a significant amount of financial resources to offset the identified deficits.

Through this adopted budget, the City has prioritized essential services and continues to pare back and monitor discretionary services. However, the budget ensures the City continues to proactively pay for long term liabilities, continue capital investments in our most critical infrastructure, provide resources for the City to successfully adapt from 'shelter in place' to future service delivery models, and establish funding to ensure those service delivery transitions.

## Vaccine & COVID-19 Info

Get the latest on Coronavirus Disease 2019



## Business Support

Cathedral City Economic Development



## NEWS

### Cathedral City Issues New Emergency Order to Help Prevent COVID-19 from Spreading

The City Council of Cathedral City directed the City's Emergency Services Director to issue a new Emergency Order to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Effective immediately, the Emergency Order mandates the following within the city limits for the health and safety of our residents and visitors: Masks must be worn indoors regardless of vaccination status in public ... [Read more.](#)

NEW COVID-19  
HEALTH PROTOCOLS  
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY  
IN CATHEDRAL CITY

New Emergency Order



### Fire Department Gets Water Tender Apparatus for Undeveloped Areas

Thanks to a generous donation from the Palm Springs Fire Department, the Cathedral City Fire Department has received an invaluable fire apparatus when confronted with fires in undeveloped parts of the city. On Wednesday, the City Council approved the donation of a 1999 Pierce Water Tender truck that will hold up to 3,000 gallons of water for fire suppression. The ... [Read more.](#)

## CCGBA Is Looking for the Next “Royal Highness of Cat City”

The Cathedral City Gay Business Association is conducting the Cat City Drag Race where one contestant will win the title of “Royal Highness of Cat City” and win some amazing prizes, such as: \$500 cash Tiara Sash Schwinn bicycles for two Photo and announcement on the Festival Lawn Billboard for one month Up to 10 contestants will compete for the ... [Read more.](#)



## “Dinner with Patsi” Raising Funds for the Cathedral City Senior Center

Patsi is looking to raise some “green” for the Cathedral City Senior Center during the monthly “Dinner with Patsi” charity benefit. Prior to Wednesday, August 18, call Tortillas Mexican Restaurant at (760) 324-8070 and order your meal choice, then on August 18th, go to Tortillas Mexican Restaurant to dine-in or pick-up your dinner(s) curbside between 5 pm and 8 pm. ... [Read more.](#)

## Governor Recall Special Election on September 14, 2021

On September 14, 2021, the Governor Recall Election will be held. Pursuant to Senate Bill 152, all registered voters will be mailed a vote-by-mail ballot and approximately 145 polling places will be operated in Riverside County for in-person voting. The recall ballot will ask two questions: 1) Do you want to recall Governor Newsom? and 2) If the governor is ... [Read more.](#)



Governor Recall Election  
September 14, 2021

[Voter Information](#)

## EVENTS

Dinner with Patsi Fundraiser for





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## First Fridays Art Walk on Perez Road

Looking for an opportunity to walk and view some amazing art at the same time? Then come wearing your face mask and social distance at the First Fridays Art Walk on Perez Road from 5 pm to 8 pm. The nine art galleries are located at 68845 & 68895 Perez Road in the “H” and “I” buildings...[Read more.](#)



## Cat City Drag Race

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## Halloween Spooktacular

Cathedral City’s Halloween Spooktacular features trick or treating with over 40,000 pieces of candy! Join friends, neighbors, and family for a Spooktacular time including activities such as Halloween costume contests (two bikes given away each hour), police and fire exhibitions, music, and family games. Presented by Crockett Law Group and sponsored by the City of Cathedral City, ... [Read more.](#)



## 7th Annual Cathedral City Hot Air Balloon Festival and Food Truck Fiesta

Get the cameras ready for the festival that offers the best selfies. Agua Caliente Casinos present the 7th Annual Cathedral City Hot Air Balloon Festival and Food Truck Fiesta on November 19-21, 2021 featuring nearly 30 hot air balloons, balloon rides, two balloon glows, and three morning balloon launches seen throughout the Coachella Valley. Attendees will capture the beauty of ... [Read more.](#)



For Questions or Comments, Contact Chris Parman, Communications and Events Manager  
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