



RESERVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the City Charter requires that each year in February, City Council provides the City Manager by resolution the budget priorities for the next fiscal year,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with the City Charter, the following direction is hereby given:

THAT the City Manager present Council with a balanced revenue and expenditure plan for the 2004-2005 fiscal year budget that uses the following goals and action strategies developed by City Council as principals to meet the basic needs and services now being provided to the community:

Goal One Continue to pursue a variety of strategies to strengthen the financial capacity of the City

Highest Priority

1. Continue to implement the Water Street Project and anticipate and establish priorities for redevelopment projects such as:

Motor Wheel property	Lowell Street Exemplar property
Crown Paper plant	Superior Coatings
Kresge Block	Smith Furniture property
DPW/Farm Bureau Property	City Landfill
Gateway Area	Renaissance Building
DTE Building	West Cross Street area
Downtown and Depot Town Business Districts	Rail Initiative

2. Appoint a Blue Ribbon Committee to examine city finances and services and to make recommendations to the Mayor and Council and to the community with respect to both service reductions or changes and revenue increases to address the city's budget challenges.

Priority When Resources Permit

3. Develop and implement systematic efforts to communicate the needs of the City to, and secure the support of, state and county officials, including such things as:
 - a. Nominate city residents and encourage the appointment of city residents to positions on county boards and commissions

- b. Systematically communicate and share information with state legislators as well county commissioners from the area, inviting them to meetings periodically to discuss issues and sharing the city’s action plan and needs
 - c. Participate with others through the MML and other organizations in statewide education and advocacy efforts on behalf of core cities and older urban areas
- 4. Aggressively pursue all relevant grant efforts to support development initiatives and maintain city funding to support and strengthen redevelopment efforts
- 5. Move aggressively seek appropriate investment in the city, consistent with the vision that has been expressed in the Master Plan, while insuring that development standards are met
- 6. Continue to
 - a. insure that development expectations are clear and concise;
 - b. offer streamlined review and permitting processes; and
 - c. communicate access and service to prospective and current businesses
- 7. Develop strategies for minimizing the loss of property from the tax roll, including providing information to the public on the consequences of such action and requiring potential buyers to consider the fiscal impact on the city of the loss of tax base

Goal Two Continue to foster an environment in City government where communication and information is shared and services are provided in an efficient, cost-effective, friendly and timely manner

Highest Priority

Continue to implement the plan for strengthening the City’s Web Page as an additional vehicle for communication and information sharing; commit the staff and other resources needed to implement the plan and maintain the Page

- 1. Emphasize in Council and staff communications with residents and others a “culture” of openness, a commitment by the City to information sharing and educating residents about the problems and challenges faced and the strategies to be employed to address them, and a “culture” of “community services” in relationships between the City and residents, neighborhood organizations, and others
- 2. Utilize a variety of means to improve media coverage of community issues and to insure that residents are provided sufficient information to understand and address policy issues

Priority When Resources Permit

- 3. Assemble a “Technology Task Force” to develop a long-range plan for using technology to improve the delivery of city services.

4. Pursue technology improvements to equip City personnel to provide services in the most cost effective fashion possible and insure support for, and maintenance of, that technology infrastructure over time.
5. Develop a set of service standards within each department to guide the delivery of services.
6. Continue to address employee fear and uncertainty about budget problems and potential budget reduction strategies.
7. Consider providing greater flexibility in schedule options and leave policy and improving the salary and benefit package, including a tuition reimbursement program, to improve retention of employees

Goal Three Strengthen neighborhood leadership and organizations and open lines of communications between neighborhood leaders and elected officials and city employees.

Highest Priority

1. Work collaboratively with EMU through the COPC program to
 - a. support leadership development for neighborhood leaders,
 - b. facilitate or subsidize neighborhood communication (e.g., newsletters),
 - c. establish new neighborhood organizations, “group” building, as appropriate,
 - d. include the business community in the context of neighborhood development and participation in decision processes
 - e. engage the community in a broad strategic planning process to identify critical issues facing the community and strategies for addressing them.

Priority When Resources Permit

2. Engage neighborhood organizations and city Boards and Commissions systematically as networks for information sharing, disseminating service information and securing feedback as a means of demonstrating the value of organizing
3. Host periodic workshops at the neighborhood level as vehicles for discussing specific issues and generating ideas for resolving problems

Goal Four Continue to pursue a variety of strategies for improving the physical condition of neighborhoods and increasing the rate of home ownership in the community

Highest Priority

1. Continue a systematic program to enforce standards, coordinating the efforts of the Building Official, the Police and Fire Departments, the Planning and Development Department, the City Attorney’s office and others to improve the physical appearance and condition of neighborhoods across the city

2. Update the master plan and the zoning ordinance over the next two years and consciously and systematically engage residents in the process
 - a. Consider reducing the extent of the community shown for multi-family uses
 - b. Promote homeownership and explore all the tools (e.g., limit the number of unrelated adults, nuisance charges) for encouraging homeownership
 - c. Explore the use of overlay districts, architectural controls, and historic districts as means for improving neighborhoods

4. Develop and communicate a citywide policy statement on standards and procedures for implementing traffic calming measures in residential neighborhoods.

Priority When Resources Permit

4. Systematically study and identify impediments to home ownership and develop a plan for addressing those impediments over the next two to five years

Wherever possible develop partnerships with other governmental units and with other entities to implement strategies to improve the condition of neighborhoods.

Goal Five Continue to address the broad range of infrastructure needs across the City

Highest Priority

1. Continue to implement the street improvement project and project involving the downtown parking lots.

2. Establish priorities for maintenance, rehabilitation and construction for city buildings and public parking lots

3. Continue to work with Washtenaw Area Transportation Study and YCUA among others on infrastructure improvements

Priority When Resources Permit

4. Identify funding sources to finance highest priority infrastructure investments.

5. Schedule infrastructure improvements or construction over the next three to five years, including replacement of existing and new improvements to the technology infrastructure

Goal Six Continue to strengthen working relationships with the University to address mutual problems and strengthen the community

Highest Priority

1. Continue to utilize student and faculty resources to address community needs and challenges through internships, class projects, independent studies, volunteer programs, etc
2. Continue regular periodic meetings between University and city officials to improve communication and joint problem-solving and to explore new ways to work together to address emerging issues.

Priority When Resources Permit

3. Include both EMU and City representatives in long range planning efforts conducted by both the University and the City to ensure that the needs/challenges/opportunities of both entities are taken into consideration
4. Monitor the University's implementation of its master plan for the boundary areas where the campus meets the community – especially in those areas where the adjacent land is a residential neighborhood
5. Partner with University officials to pursue and secure resources to implement the goals of the Cross Street study
6. Pursue joint advocacy efforts with University officials to secure mutually beneficial state appropriations and state policies
7. Continue and expand efforts to examine other university communities for examples of town/gown partnerships that have been used successfully to address common issues and challenges
8. Recognize and acknowledge the success of the University when appropriate.