



RESOLVED 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 shall present City Council with a balanced Resource Allocation Plan for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 using the following organizational values, goals and action strategies:

### **Organizational Values**

Three fundamental values underlie our work together on behalf of citizens of and visitors to the city of Ypsilanti.

#### ***1. Open, transparent and accessible decision-making***

We are committed to openness and transparency in our decision-making, doing whatever we can to insure that information is available to the public in a timely fashion and in a manner that is easily understood, and providing opportunities for public engagement and participation in decision-making.

#### ***2. Fiscal solvency and sustainability***

We are committed to insuring the long-term financial stability of the city. Our budget decisions must reflect a balance between short and long term considerations, and we will work to reduce the costs of city services to the extent we can while maintaining effective city services and a sound infrastructure.

#### ***3. Customer Friendly Service***

We are committed to providing services to residents and visitors in a customer friendly fashion, insuring that service processes are effective and understandable, being responsive to requests for service to the extent we can consistent with procedures and resources, and insuring that people recognize the limits of our ability to respond.

## **Goals and Action Strategies for Fiscal Year 2007-2008**

The following goals will guide our work together during the coming fiscal year.

### **Goal One: Aggressively pursue a variety of strategies to improve the City's financial position**

#### ***Action Strategies***

##### Financial Management

1. Place a City income tax proposal on the August or November 2007. ~~ballot so voters may express their preference for this revenue increase or expenditure decreases.~~
2. Develop Solvency Plans to identify additional expenditure decreases in case state and/or local revenue is further reduced.
3. Maintain the City's bond rating to keep the cost of borrowing low.
4. Maintain a General Fund balance of at least 10% as a buffer against financial emergencies.

##### Economic Development

5. Complete Water Street site preparation work using existing grant and loan funds.
6. Engage the development community to help City officials identify potential developers for the Water Street Project.
7. Pursue all relevant grant and incentive programs to support economic development initiatives across the City.
8. Maintain City funding to support and strengthen economic development and redevelopment efforts.

##### Service Costs and Improvements

9. Work with employee unions to manage rising personnel costs.
10. Revise the City's educational assistance policy and make resources available for professional development.
11. Examine alternative service delivery options including a regional bid for solid waste disposal and the formation of fire and police authorities with neighboring municipalities.
12. Increase communication with employees to decrease fear and uncertainty about their future with the City.

##### Leadership for Change

13. Promote intergovernmental cooperation by participating in associations and organizations with neighboring municipalities.
14. Promote positive change at the state level by working with other local officials to communicate the challenges facing local governments and recommending solutions.

15. Promote cooperation with Eastern Michigan University by participating in quarterly City-University task force meetings.

**Goal Two: Foster an environment where communication and information is shared and services are provided in an efficient, cost-effective, friendly and timely manner**

***Action Strategies***

1. Provide information to the community about the financial challenges facing the City, and other municipalities across the state, and share the steps taken to date to address these challenges.
2. Provide information to the community about the cost of City services in order to help community members understand the relationship between revenues and services.
3. Update the community on the progress of and seek community input on the Water Street Project.
4. Provide more information and services via the City's website by allocating more resources to website development.
5. Engage neighborhood associations, boards, and commissions to disseminate information and gather feedback on critical issues.
6. Charge the Human Relations Commission with engaging the community in a broad discussion regarding race relations.
7. Provide City staff with customer service training opportunities.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Robb

SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Gawlas

YES: 7 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: Carried