

To our Citizens and Interested Parties
A message from our City Manager regarding our Budget

Thanks again for showing an interest in our Budget.

I would draw your attention to a few items that may be of interest to you in the future to give you time to investigate and influence the budget. September 23rd is the second reading and the very last look for the budget and we rarely change it at that point unless we have a very good reason.

We start the budget process in February, set the maximum millage rate by August 4th every year, and have workshops in August to refine the budget. The process ends with a public hearing and first/second reading in September.

All of our agendas (for all meetings, not just budget) are online and you can find them by going to www.port-orange.org and clicking on the Agendas and Minutes radio button toward the top of the page. Then choose the meeting you want. We also post the agenda in city hall and provide a summary every Tuesday there is a council meeting on WSBB AM 1230/FM 106.9.

Due to the different guidelines and responsibilities Governments have in Finance practices, we conduct Financial Operations in accordance with the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB), following the Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP). It has confused even some of the City CPAs occasionally.

We want our citizens informed so they can accurately guide our elected officials and staff on what they want for the city, after all-it is YOUR money. To make the understanding of our Finance practices easier AND to inform and educate, we have a few programs that may help you along the way.

1. Council meetings. They are the first and third Tuesday of the month for the most part. There is a link on the website I mentioned above that will direct you to a YOUTUBE page to watch. You can come in person as well. Lastly, there is an analog feed on Spectrum Channel 498.
2. Port Orange Citizen Academy. It starts every September and goes through November, ending before Thanksgiving. Each Monday evening you get about 1.5 – 2-hour brief from each department. You learn a plethora of things you may not be aware of, like what jurisdiction is responsible for what streets and roads; where your sewer water goes (and doesn't go); where our parks are; and what our Attorney does. It is a great opportunity for citizens to learn how government works.
3. Family Days festivals: We usually have multiple displays and informative areas to learn more about the city.
4. Port Orange City Hall Facebook page. It has a wealth of information
5. City Manager Weekly report. That is also on the website and keeps people abreast of what has happened and what will be happening.
6. Coffee with the City Manager. This has been suspended due to COVID, but once we are safe to meet, I will meet quarterly with folks and answer their questions.
7. Port Orange POGCAST podcast. You can find it on iTunes, Spotify, and a link is also on our website. We just started that, and I think we are shooting for twice or three times a month.

Below is a link to the Sept 23rd agenda, which has the visual depiction of our budget. If you go to the detailed slides (as labeled in the agenda), you will see how all departments (called cost centers) are broken down by expense category.

<https://portorangefl.civicclerk.com/Web/Player.aspx?id=1362&key=-1&mod=-1&mk=-1&nov=0>

I know this is a lot of information, but I like to spend time with people who are willing to be engaged with their local government.

All the best, Jake