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NEWS RELEASE
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Tuesday evening, The Raytown Board of Aldermen approved the budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year beginning November 1, 2017.

The budget is fully balanced, with one-time resources allocated to support one-time expenditures. The result is a budget that affords each Department to operate as efficiently as possible in lieu of numerous financial constraints currently facing the City.

While Raytown continues to be an exceptional location for family and business interests, we continue to battle the impacts of the Raytown Live Tax Increment Financing plan that essentially prohibits the City from accessing much of the tax revenue generated at the location. An unanticipated recession and consequential changes to the entire retail industry simply limited the anticipated positive impact of the plan.

Of additional concern is the City's historic lack of maintaining a tax base that reflects inflation and cost escalation over the course of the previous four decades. While other taxing jurisdictions have incrementally and progressively increased tax levies, the City of Raytown has not. As such, the City has been functioning at an operational disadvantage. In short, 2018 must be a time to establish a feasible strategy to determine a means to increase revenue to the City.

The total Police Department budget for FY2017-18 is \$5,790,499 from the General, Capital and Public Safety Sales Tax Funds. This is a \$2,754,590 reduction from the previous budget year and includes a reduction of not only equipment and operational items, but also roughly twenty-two full-time positions including **twelve sworn officers and ten civilians**. As the Department continues its' reorganization, these estimations may vary.

A strong case for additional revenues can be made as we will absolutely need to bolster several Departments of the City including, but not limited to, Police and Public Works. Our residential and corporate citizens desire and deserve exceptional Police services and a reliable infrastructure. In fact, as our infrastructure is aging, it will be the single largest expense for the City to manage throughout the foreseeable future.

Our strongest desire is to maintain our taxpayers' best interest as the top priority. The adopted budget focuses on projects and programs that benefit our residents while also adhering to the financial constraints of our revenue. We continue to assist qualified senior citizens through the circuit breaker program and all residents through our bulk trash clean-up coupons which were utilized by hundreds of residents this year. We also continue to encourage our residents to participate in the storm water

mitigation program; reimbursing the cost to install a sump pump, removal of rain water connection to sanitary sewer and prevention of basement flooding.

Our residents also continue to benefit from one of the best snow removal programs in this region during winter weather operations. Our qualified residents can also take advantage obtaining/installing car seats at no cost through our City's participation in grant programs. Such services are offered by our certified EMS staff at no cost to residents.

To protect the City's financial condition while achieving the goals outlined in the approved budget, a conservative and cautious approach was taken in projecting revenues and budgeting expenditures. The FY2017-2018 Budget will fund the personnel and basic operating costs to assure each Department continue to function and provide essential services to the citizens.

In summary, the proposed budget totals \$30,758,046 for all funds. The budget for the general fund, the City's primary operating fund, is \$10,850,268.

The FY2017-2018 Annual Budget was approved by the Board of Aldermen with the confidence that this document will assist citizens in evaluating approved budgetary and service levels. It is also intended to assist the Governing Body in setting policy and establishing an overview of operations and City Staff in accomplishing stated goals and objectives within the present financial constraints.

The creation and adoption of the budget was arduous and agonizing as the Governing Body was challenged with the realities of the City's revenue as it conflicted with the City's operational costs. The final and approved budget adheres to a statutory requirement of presenting a balanced budget while also providing a plan of work for the City to truly live within its means.

Respectfully,

Raytown Board of Aldermen