

# Citizen Financial Review Task Force (CFRTF) 2014 Recommendations Update

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# CFRTF – Recommendations Update

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## **Recommendations** - CFRTF issued report including 15 recommendations

1. No major cuts in staffing or programs.
  - No major programs cut.
  - Staffing has increased by a total of nine positions since 2014 (SROs, Engineers, Parks Maintenance)
2. No additional tax dollars should be pursued for general operating expenses (should be reviewed during follow-up review).
  - No additional property or income tax increases for operating expense since 2014.
3. Continued focus on privatization of public services, expanding shared services, or fundamentally reengineering how specific services are delivered.
  - Privatization examples – solid waste services, road striping, street sweeping, swim lessons
  - Shared service examples – infrastructure projects with Marble Cliff, community fiber project with UA schools and library, consolidation of dispatching services
  - Reengineering services – parks comprehensive study, leaf collection



# CFRTF – Recommendations Update (cont.)

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## 4. Consider the following options:

### a. Consolidate dispatching operations.

- Police and fire dispatching services transferred to the Northwest Regional Emergency Communications Center (NRECC) – 2017

### b. Explore opportunities for the Fire Division to contract for services with surrounding communities.

- Department remains open to potential opportunities.
- Continued contract for services with Perry Township.

### c. Raise the employee share of the cost of benefits to be more closely aligned with the private sector.

- Employee share has been tied to labor agreements for several years, limiting the amount of increase.

### d. Examine opportunities for further costs savings by contracting for legal services.

- Review by a Council hired third party consultant is currently taking place.



# CFRTF – Recommendations Update (cont.)

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5. Ten-year CIP should be implemented and funded. Projects enjoyed by all residents should be assigned high priority, while those benefiting fewer residents should be given normal priority.
  - Ten-year Capital Improvement Plan (and related funding) is updated annually.
  - Top priorities continue to be City infrastructure (roads, utility lines, community park projects).
6. Capital improvement program should be managed in such a way as not to “fall behind” in the future.
  - CIP has been at least at least \$6 million greater than the 2014 CIP every year since prior task force.
7. Fees charged for programs should cover costs (i.e. recreational programs, development services, court services, and emergency medical transportation). Those programs that are deemed as contributing to quality of life and fulfilling community objectives, thus overriding the goal of full cost recovery, should be clearly stated.
  - Continually being evaluated.
8. Utility charges should cover both operating and capital improvement costs.
  - Continue to allocate capital expenditures to utility funds as funds are available.
  - Council authorized 5% increase to water and sewer surcharges effective January 2019.



# CFRTF – Recommendations Update (cont.)

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9. Every effort should be made to collect all income taxes currently due.
  - City continues to work with RITA and internally on collection of delinquent taxes.
  - Position authorized in 2019 budget to assist with this area.
10. Be open to new avenues of revenue to support City operations.
  - Continuing to evaluate new opportunities, including additional fees and grants.
11. Consider placing an 0.5% income tax increase before the voters of the November 2014 ballot.
  - Issue 23 was approved by the voters increasing income tax from 2% to 2.5%.
12. Adopt policy which clearly shows revenues generated by the increased income tax will be used primarily for capital improvements.
  - Included in ballot language.
  - Additional .5% to be for capital improvements/infrastructure and debt service related to such expenditures.
  - 72% of all income tax allocated to operations, 28% to capital improvements.



# CFRTF – Recommendations Update (cont.)

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13. Do not reduce credit for income taxes paid to other communities.
  - Income tax credit remains 100% of tax paid to other communities up to 2.5%.
14. Consider replacing the current .5 mill bond levy set to expire in 2017/2020 with a levy for additional capital needs.
  - This is an item the current Task Force will review.
15. Review of the City's financial position every three years to determine the effectiveness of the action taken and to initiate new actions as necessary.



# DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

