

# City maps out budget strategy for the year

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budget by the first regular meeting in June.

The 11.74 millage rate includes a 10.76 rate for operation and a .98 rate for debt service. The rate is levied on the basis of each \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Michigan law requires that property assessments represent 50 percent of current market value, and that properties be assessed equitably.

The city has experienced an approximate 3 percent growth in State Equalized Value (SEV) of property, Deadman said, totaling \$162,190,200 in comparison to \$157,261,200 for 1984-85.

"It's been kind of modest increases in the assessments."

The 1985-86 budget includes \$61,000 for the Federal Revenue Sharing Program, used for salary expenses in the Department of Public Safety. President Ronald Reagan has proposed that the program be ended on Oct. 1, 1985.

"I'M CONVINCED there's going to be a reduction in Federal Revenue Sharing," Deadman said. "The question is what year it will be in."

"We use it for police-fire salaries, that's the area we designated the money to be spent for at this time." Any cuts required, however, would not have to be made in that area.

In any case, it amounts to about \$61,000 for the city. If we were to lose that, we would go to the fund balance for that year. At the same time, we'll begin making some adjustments," such

as attempting to raise additional revenue from other sources.

"The council will have to consider that question when the federal government makes its decision on Federal Revenue Sharing," Deadman said.

Expenses for the operation and maintenance of city services are projected to increase by approximately 4.1 percent.

"It's a continuation of the existing level of services," the city manager said of the 1985-86 budget.

In the area of capital improvements and equipment, expenses are projected to increase by 41.5 percent.

The increase is the result of delays in construction programs which were funded last year, Deadman said.

"The reason for that mostly is the carry-over. It's an unusual year in which we carry over that much."

THE BUDGET INCLUDES expenses for improvements of Shiawassee Park. That's the biggest construction program, outside of roads, that we'll have this year," Deadman said. "It's been approved, and we're ready to go."

That project was delayed as a result of time needed to process the city's grant application, which has since been approved at the state and federal levels.

Construction costs for the Shiawassee Park project are estimated to be \$105,000, with an additional \$35,000 for an improved lighting system for the

baseball diamond.

"So you're looking at \$140,000 total," Deadman said. "Of that, the federal government's going to pay \$52,000."

Improvements planned include reconstruction of the park's baseball fields. City administrators hope to have completed the improvements in time for the 1986 baseball season.

"We're going to try not to interrupt, at least the organized ball," Deadman said.

Other improvements planned for Shiawassee Park include a jog-walk exercise track, a picnic shelter and improved parking facilities.

"We're going to try to improve on the parking situation along Shiawassee," Deadman said. Improvements would be intended to alleviate congestion problems created by those parking along Power Road.

A \$15,700 sum is included in the

budget for replacement of the dispatch tape-recording system for the Department of Public Safety.

"It's one of the larger ones, other than the trucks and the tractors," he said.

"The equipment that's doing that now is about 14 years old and it's experiencing about 10-percent down time, which is too much," Deadman said. "So it's being replaced."

THE NEW system will be particularly helpful in emergencies, he said.

"During emergency situations, time seems to go very quickly for persons who are waiting for emergency services." Having the new system will allow city employees to keep track of response time.

The 1985-86 budget also covers expenditures for a planning consultant to help in a study of the Central Business

District.

"That program has begun and it'll carry over into the next budget year," Deadman said. Approximately \$12,700 is included in the budget's Community Development projects, to cover the consulting studies for the Central Business District.

The budget also includes the city's costs to pave Manning, Mayfield and Cloverdale streets, and money for intersection repairs in the Belaire and Chatham Hills subdivisions.

Funding is also provided for several water and sewer repair projects, including rebuilding of sewer manholes and catch basins.

"We're going to keep that up. It'll be an ongoing program, I suspect, from now on."

The repairs are useful, he said, in that they reduce residential flooding and damage to roads.

"It saves the road in the area where the catch basin and manholes are located. There are a lot of benefits."

The budget proposes no increases in city personnel.

The budget also includes the salary schedule for city employees. The salary increases will generally take effect on Jan. 1, 1986, Deadman said, and represent an approximate 4 percent increase over the previous year.

The following salaries were approved:

- City clerk, \$28,105
  - City treasurer, \$36,705
  - City assessor, \$20.50 per hour
  - Public safety director, \$42,200
  - Public services director, \$40,100
- Members of the Farmington City Council receive \$900 a year. The city manager's new contract has not yet been approved; his current salary is \$53,600.

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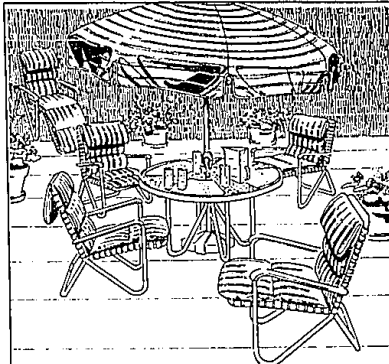
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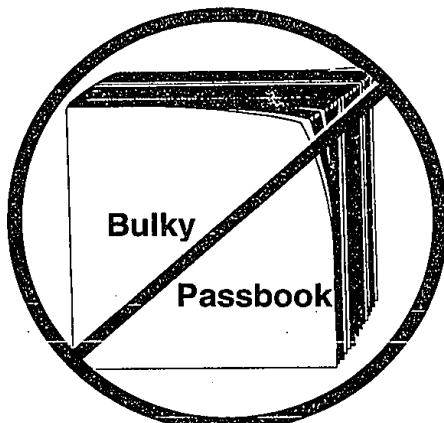
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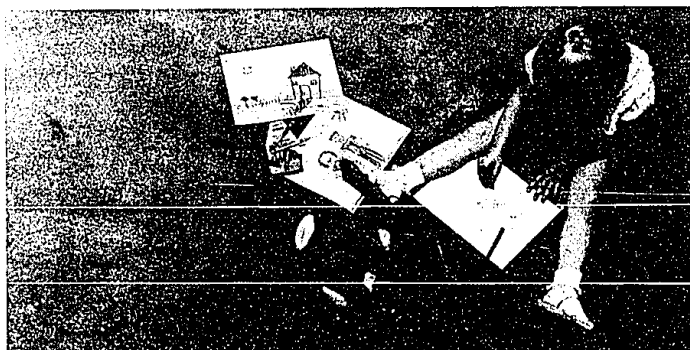
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