

July 2016

Birthstone: Ruby
Flower: Lily or Larkspur

Pathfinder



CITY OF SANTA MARIA EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



Word has it ...

From your City Manager

Rick Haydon

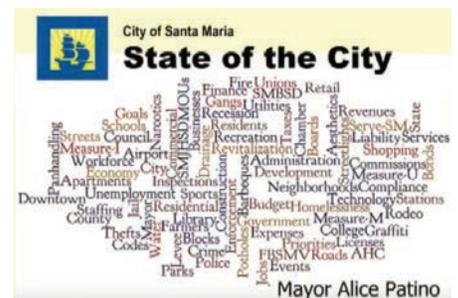


The City recently adopted its 2016-18 budget and it is [posted](#) on our City website for everyone to read. However, having said that, it is a 310-page document packed with narratives, charts and goals - and there's a lot of information to read. As an alternative to reading it, I invite employees to view a couple of videos that discuss the budget and the City's financial situation. A big part of leadership is communication and it's my duty to communicate our financial position, not only to the City Council, but to you as employees.

The first three videos were produced by the Santa Maria Times as part of their new video news segments called "Santa Maria Sit Down" videos. The last video is a much longer discussion on the State of the City, a presentation that Mayor Patino and I gave back in June as part of a Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce Luncheon. You may click the photos to the right to view the videos.

Over the past eight years, the City's General Fund has faced multi-million dollar budget deficits and has had to rely on one-time reserves to present a balanced budget for Council's consideration. Overall, while the recently adopted 2016-18 budget can be categorized largely as a status quo budget, it should be noted that we are having to rely on one-time reserves and expenditure savings to balance our budget. And, while we do have a lot of high profile commercial and residential development projects in play, we anticipate using revenue received from these developments to help partially off-set escalating CalPERS increases.

Bottom line, we currently have a structural budget deficit and anticipate an even larger one going forward if we don't take corrective action to start reducing our expenditures. So I ask all City employees to start analyzing ways in which we can continue to provide City services in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible and to communicate your thoughts to your supervisors on how we can streamline current operations. By working together, we will come up with creative solutions to our financial challenges - we've done it before, and we'll do it again, that's the Santa Maria way.



Rick