

Introduced by: Councilmember Dyballa

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

**RESOLUTION 2023-15  
ESTABLISHING POLICY OBJECTIVES  
ASSOCIATED WITH THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET**

WHEREAS, the City Council has adopted Ordinance 2023-8, approving and adopting a Fiscal Year 2024 Budget for July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City is recovering from the fiscal and other impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has received reports and presentations in the past few months on a 10-year financial forecast, the City's fiscal health, and an organizational assessment; and

WHEREAS, the City Council and City management team desire to work closely throughout the months before the next budget season, to develop and consider policy options and additional revenue sources related to long-term fiscal health of the City, and

WHEREAS, this City Council has identified establishing a long-term fiscal sustainability strategy for the City as a priority goal in the Council's 2023-4 Council priorities; and

WHEREAS, as part of the City Council's review of the proposed FY24 budget, and discussion of 2023-4 priorities, specific policy and revenue options have been identified that may have the potential to improve the city's long-term fiscal health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council will review revenues, expenditures, reserves and economic projections throughout the fiscal year. Additionally, the City Manager alongside the Finance Director will publicly present Council with quarterly fiscal reports on expenditures and revenues. The second quarterly fiscal report shall include a summary of City fees, revenues to date associated with each fee, and staff recommendations regarding fee modifications; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Council will work with the City Manager and designated staff within the next eight months to conduct an initial review of City policy concerning the replacement of City vehicles, equipment and facility repairs, relative to municipal best practices, specifically:

- the criteria for vehicle replacement policy;
- the criteria for road maintenance policy; and
- the assumptions behind the Equipment Replacement Reserve that affect how frequently equipment is replaced; and
- policy options for a Facility Maintenance Reserve policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Council will work with the City Manager and designated staff in the next eight months to consider the feasibility of potential additional revenue sources, including, specifically:

- increase in the stormwater fee;
- railroad and utility tax increase;
- a vacant property tax; and
- a longer-term approach to considering a separate commercial property tax rate and/or changes in the non-inventory components of the commercial personal property tax.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council, working closely with the City Manager and staff, will create a Council subcommittee that will identify, consider and recommend options to the full Council in the following areas:

- relevant budgetary best practices of Maryland municipal structures for inclusion in City budgetary preparations;
- extension of the City's budgetary timetable; and
- expanded fiscal and programmatic data collection and analysis to support the Council's budget deliberations.

Adopted this 24th day of May, 2023.

Attest:

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Jessie Carpenter, CMC  
City Clerk