



**Contact: Trenton Albers**  
**Communications Manager**  
**(402) 597-2031**  
**talbers@papillion.org**

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Mayor Releases 2016-2017 City of Papillion Budget**

PAPILLION, Nebraska, July 29, 2016 – The City of Papillion’s property tax levy (.4519) remains unchanged in the proposed 2016-2017 budget, released today by Mayor David Black. The budget will be introduced at the Aug. 2 City Council meeting.

The City of Papillion’s proposed total budget is \$65,760,001 with a general fund of \$24,480,015. The budget’s growth over past years comes as a result of an estimated 3.7 percent growth in property valuations, an anticipated 4 percent growth in taxable sales, and a half-cent increase in sales tax dedicated to parks and recreation improvements, which was approved by voters in the May 2016 primary election.

Roads and infrastructure improvements will be a key focus of this year’s budget — a sign of the city’s continued growth. Altogether, the City has budgeted \$9.4 million in new road construction for the upcoming year, compared to \$4.6 million in previous years.

“Using our residents’ tax dollars responsibly and efficiently is at the heart of our budget planning process, and I’m proud that our city is able to offer residents high quality services at a property tax rate that continues to be the lowest in the metro area,” said Mayor David Black. “We are also excited to lay the groundwork for a new community center this year — a project that will positively impact Papillion’s quality of life for years to come.”

Significant changes in the budget include the fire department budget and health care costs. Federal grant funding has expired for 12 firefighters hired three years ago to accommodate an expansion to the fire department. The City is also contractual obligated to hire three additional firefighters during the upcoming year. Because of the additional costs, the fire department budget will increase by 9 percent to \$9,143,710. Health care costs for the City are anticipated to jump 27.5 percent. The City is currently considering alternatives to reduce that potential cost increase.

The City of Papillion’s voter approved half-cent sales tax for parks and recreation will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2017. The City projects it to generate between \$1.5 million and \$1.7 million during the upcoming fiscal year. The initial projects tied to the additional sales tax revenue include Lincoln Road improvements (\$4 million) as part of the new community center and City Park infrastructure; as well as capital improvements at Papio Bay Aquatic Center which includes a modern filtration system (\$250,000).

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