

# Seat Pleasant News

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APRIL 2016

## City Proposed Budget Update FY 2017

From Mayor Eugene Grant

As many of you know, the last three years my involvement in city business was severely limited by a rouge group on the City Council. However, there appears to be some reversal and the council has been including me in recent weeks on some of the city's business. On Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> I presented my proposed budget for the City of Seat Pleasant for Fiscal Year 2017. The budget plots the course of the City for the coming year. Seat Pleasant will be celebrating its 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on May 7, 2016. Given, the challenging economic times we are in, this proposed budget takes great pains to provide our City residents with the services they expect and deserve from a, "City of Excellence". For us, the budget is intended to serve as a guide for our City operations for the next fiscal year, in accordance to the priorities that we have identified for the organization. While our budget is lean, it is not all gloom and doom, as we have been able to make strategic increases in areas that will help the City move forward, while watching the overall growth in our budget.

Given the problems we are facing in our current national economic recovery, it has had a severe impact on our City budget. Property Tax revenues, which compose the largest part of our current budget at 32%, generate approximately 16.4 % less than in Fiscal Year 2012. In order for us to spend within our means we had to make reductions in our operations in order to balance the current budget. Despite the reductions in Fiscal Year 2013, there is no increase in the City's tax rate for the 2017 budget. My proposed budget represents keeping the city spending within the Fiscal Year 2017 projected revenue by giving all the Departments a targeted budget. Additionally, the Proposed Fiscal Year 2017 budget aims to address the following strategic priorities agreed upon by the Council:

### Key Strategic Priorities

1. *Manage City resources in an open, transparent and fiscally sound manner.*
2. *Enhance our public safety to reduce crime and improve the perception of the community.*
3. *Improve educational outcomes by partnering with local schools.*
4. *Increase focus on economic development to attract and retain quality businesses and community organizations.*
5. *Remain a sustainable City of Excellence and promote Seat Pleasant as a safe and green community.*
6. *Strengthen and improve community programs that will educate our residents.*

### CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT

#### MAYOR

Eugene W. Grant

#### COUNCIL PRESIDENT

##### WARD I

Elenora Simms

##### WARD II COUNCILMEMBER

Aretha A. Stephenson

##### WARD III COUNCILMEMBER

Reveral L. Yeargin

##### WARD IV COUNCILMEMBER

Gerald R. Raynor, Sr.

##### WARD V COUNCILMEMBER

OPEN

##### AT-LARGE COUNCILMEMBER

OPEN

##### AT-LARGE COUNCILMEMBER

Kelly Porter

##### ACTING CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Robert L. Ashton

##### TREASURER

Robert L. Ashton

##### CHIEF OF POLICE

Christopher Cotillo

##### DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Johnny Thompson

##### CITY CLERK

Dashaun N. Lanham

##### COMMUNITY SERVICES

Tiffani Darby

The Fiscal Year 2017 expenditure budget is \$3,662,588 an increase of \$142,754 compared to Fiscal Year 2016 of \$3,519,834. This represents a modest 4% increase in the City’s General Fund Budget.

In keeping with Strategic Goals cited above, the 2017 Proposed Budget also stresses building up the city’s reserve back to where it was at the end of the Fiscal Year 2013. At that time the city’s reserve was \$3.4 million dollars and the city was pursuing a course of action of leveraging the city reserves to obtain more resources from Federal, State and Government and private partnerships. Unfortunately, the City Council raided our reserve and significantly spent down on those reserves seriously impacting our rating negatively.

To further elucidate my point, had the city applied for a credit rating in Fiscal Year 2013 its rating would have been given an awesome credit rating of a double A under my direct leadership. This reflects the second highest rating a municipal can obtain.

Just to share with you a little history from fiscal year 2014 to the present. In Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 the city used \$1,388,480 of its reserve primarily for the following items.

- To acquire the Gaskins Property (which should have been covered by a loan)
- To demolish the Feggans Center (which could have been covered by investors)
- To purchase and construct a new Police Center (which we should have never done)

If we were to attempt to obtain a credit rating after Fiscal Year 2015 we probably would obtain a credit rating of Double B an unfortunate down grading of two notches from a Double A noted above. Because the City Council removed me from active involvement and leadership of our government that you elected me to do; a down grading in our credit rating will result in the following negative consequences detrimental to the residents of the city.

- Increases our interest cost for borrowing purposes
- Hampers our ability to leverage our reserve to obtain Federal, State and County Grant.
- A reliance on the city using it our resources such as raising taxes.

In summary, my Proposed 2017 Budget reflects reversing the trend of using the city reserve in a prudent way, leveraging the city resources, building up the city rainy day funds and encouraging the use of private public partnerships. Hopefully, the City Council will support my budget and get our city **back on track** with fiscal responsibility, actual constituent services and competitive advantages gaining a return on our investment for our future posterity.

**KIDS ZONE**

**SEAT PLEASANT DAY**

**FOOD TRUCKS**

Parade starts at 11  
Field events start at 12

**YOUTH BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT @ 12 PM**

**PARADE APPEARANCES**

PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY OFFICIALS  
LARGO SENIOR HIGH BAND  
FAIRMONT HEIGHTS COLOR GUARD

**HEALTH VENDORS**

P.G COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.  
COLGATE VAN  
LIONS CLUB VISION SCREENING  
THE FIT SOLUTION  
HEALING BRANCHES WOMEN’S HEALTH

**PERFORMANCES BY**

VOICES OF HOPE CHOIR  
BRIAN CUNNINGHAM PROJECT  
DUTCH CAPITAL  
THE FIX BAND

## **CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT Notice to Fill Vacancy- Councilmember-At-Large & Ward V**



In accordance with the City of Seat Pleasant City Charter  
**Section C-302. Qualifications of Councilpersons**

Councilpersons shall have resided in the City for at least one year immediately preceding their election and shall have been qualified registered voters of the City for one (1) year. Councilpersons shall maintain a permanent residence in the City during their term of office. The minimum age for City Councilpersons shall be twenty-one years of age.

The City of Seat Pleasant City Council has a vacancy for Ward II Councilperson. Any resident of Ward II that meets the above criteria and desires to be a candidate for Councilmember shall submit their resume and registered voter petitions, which shall include the names and signatures of at least 20 registered voters in the City of Seat Pleasant to the Office of Clerk by **5:00PM ON Monday, May 2, 2016 NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Please contact Office of City Clerk to receive Candidate Petition directly at City Hall

6301 Addison Road

Seat Pleasant, MD 20743

301-336-2600

## { Mayors Review }



In February Mayor **Eugene W. Grant** was honored among 14 others with the Black History Hero Award at the Maryland Live! Casino coordinated by the Maryland Washington Minority Companies Association (MWMCA). Grant was selected as an honoree for his numerous accomplishments as a leader in the state of Maryland. Attending the celebration were Seat Pleasant Councilmember's **Reveral Yeargin**, Ward III and **Kelly Porter**, At-Large member.

Mayor **Eugene W. Grant** poses with the honorable Secretary **Broderick Johnson** an Assistant to the President and Cabinet Secretary. He is also Chair of the *My Brother's Keeper* Task Force. Mayor Grant had an opportunity to speak with Secretary Johnson during a private reception at the White House following a briefing on the two year anniversary of My Brothers Keeper.



Mayor **Eugene W. Grant** visited the White House again to support the 2<sup>nd</sup> year anniversary of President Obama's *My Brother's Keeper* Initiative. Leaders from around the country were on hand to listen to a briefing on the status of the President's Initiative. Grant is working with a group to expand the Presidents initiative in Prince George's County, Maryland.

## { City News }



Left to Right:  
 Tenisha Smith assistant to the National Director;  
 Renee Carter **PTSCP** facilitator and Denise Woods,  
**PTSCP** National Director.

The *Prime Time Sister Circle Program* is an evidence-based intervention designed to help improve the lifestyle of African American women between 40-75 years of age in the areas of stress management nutrition, fitness, and prioritizing their own health. The goals of the organization are to increase knowledge and improve attitudes and behaviors in the designated areas: and empower African American women to take charge of their health to help reduce their emotional and physical health disparities. Residents within Seat Pleasant not only took part of the 12 week classes, they also built strong positive relationships with their participating neighbors. There were great achievements made by the participants of the program. Many of the women lost weight, reduced their blood pressure and sugar levels. The City would like to thank the Prince Georges County Dept. of Health and The Community Services Foundation for assisting with the implementing the program in Seat Pleasant.

**OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK**  
**The City Council actions in the months of March:**

***Notice to fill Vacancy-Council member***

**The City of Seat Pleasant City Council has a vacant Council seat**

**Any qualified resident of the City of Seat Pleasant who desires to be a candidate for Councilmember must submit a letter of interest to fill vacancy. The letter of interest shall be accompanied with candidates resume and the Candidate Nomination Petition by Monday, May 2 , 2016 before 5:00p.m.**

All submissions for consideration **MUST** be filed in the **office of the City Clerk**, Seat Pleasant City Hall, 6301 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

**MONTHLY MEETINGS**

The City Council meetings for the following days in the months of **April, May and June 2016:**

**Monday, April 4, 2016**

Regular Work Session

Time: 6:00p.m.

**Monday, April 11, 2016**

Public Session

Time: 7:00p.m.

**Monday, May 2, 2016**

Regular Work Session

Time: 6:00p.m.

**Monday, May 9, 2016**

Public Session

Time: 7:00p.m.

**Monday, June 6, 2016**

Regular Work Session

Time: 6:00p.m.

**Monday, June 13, 2016**

Public Session

Time: 7:00p.m.

The meetings will be held at:

***Seat Pleasant City Hall***  
Council Chambers  
6301 Addison Road  
Seat Pleasant, MD 20743-2125



Honorable Elenora Simms,  
Council President

## **COUNCIL PRESIDENT CORNER** **The City Council actions in the months of March:**

### **FY2016-2017 BUDGET HEARING**

Please join the Seat Pleasant City Council for the upcoming **Budget Hearing**. We value your input and would welcome you to come and provide your recommendations. If you are unable to attend, please contact your Ward representative or one of the At-Large Councilmember's to give them your input for the budget.

The budget hearing dates are listed below:

**Monday, April 11, 2016 at 6:00p.m.**

**Saturday, April 16, 2016 at 10:00a.m.**

### ***Feggans Center Redevelopment Charrette***

#### **What is a Charrette?**

A charrette is an intensive planning session where citizens, designers and others collaborate on a vision for development. It provides a forum for ideas and offers the unique advantage of giving immediate feedback to the designers. More importantly, it allows everyone who participates to be a mutual author of the plan.

Through brainstorming and design activity, many goals are accomplished during the charrette. First, everyone who has a stake in the project develops a vested interest in the ultimate vision. Second, the design team works together to produce a set of finished documents that address all aspects of design. Third, since the input of all the players is gathered at one event, it is possible to avoid the prolonged discussions that typically delay conventional planning projects. Finally, the finished result is produced more efficiently and cost-effectively because the process is collaborative.

Charrettes are organized to encourage the participation of all. That includes everyone who is interested in the making of a development: the developer, business interests, government officials, interested residents, and activists.

Ultimately, the purpose of the charrette is to give all the participants enough information to make good decisions during the planning process.

Please join the Seat Pleasant City Council for the Charrette on the Feggans Center Redevelopment on the following dates:

**Monday, April 11, 2016 at 7:00p.m.**

The Charrette will be held at the Seat Pleasant City Hall.

## The elected officials meeting attendance for the month of March:

Mayor & Councilmember	Public	Work Session	Special	Closed
Eugene Grant	P	A	N	N/A
Johnie Higgs, Sr.	P	E	N	N
Kelly Porter	A	P	N	N
Elenora Simms, Ward I	P	P	N	N
Aretha Stephenson, Ward II	A	E	N	N
Reveral Yeargin, Ward III	A	P	N	N
Gerald Raynor, Sr., Ward IV	L	A	N	N
Eugene Kennedy, Ward V	A	P	N	N

P-Present

C-Cancelled

N-None

A-Absent

E-Excused

L-Late

U-Unexcused



**THE CITY OF  
SEAT PLEASANT**

6301 Addison Road  
Seat Pleasant, MD 20743

*Your business tag line here.*

Seat Pleasant  
*"A City of Excellence"*  
6301 Addison Road  
Seat Pleasant, Maryland, 20743



**PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID**

**IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

<b>SEAT PLEASANT POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>301-499-8700</b>
<b>PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY NON-EMERGENCY</b>	<b>301-352-1200</b>
<b>SEAT PLEASANT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>301-336-2331</b>
<b>BATES TRASH</b>	<b>301-773-2069</b>
<b>CITY HALL/CALL-A-BUS</b>	<b>301-336-2600</b>
<b>METRO ACCESS</b>	<b>301-562-5360</b>
<b>PEPCO/OUTAGES &amp; WIRES</b>	<b>202-833-7500/ 877-737-2662</b>
<b>PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY DEPT. OF AGING</b>	<b>301-265-8450</b>
<b>PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICES</b>	<b>301-909-7025</b>
<b>PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ELECTION BOARD</b>	<b>301-341-7300</b>
<b>PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY THE BUS</b>	<b>301-883-5600</b>
<b>WASHINGTON GAS/EMERGENCY</b>	<b>703-750-1000/ 703-750-1400</b>
<b>WSSC/EMERGENCY</b>	<b>301-206-9772/ 301-206-4002</b>
<b>SEAT PLEASANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</b>	<b>301-925-2330</b>
<b>CARMODY HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</b>	<b>301-808-8180</b>
<b>G. JAMES GHOLSON MIDDLE SCHOOL</b>	<b>301-883-8390</b>