



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WA**

**AB 4363
October 6, 2008
Regular Business**

2009-2010 BIENNIAL BUDGET PRESENTATION	Proposed Council Action: Receive Biennial Budget. No action required.
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DEPARTMENT OF	City Manager (Rich Conrad)
COUNCIL LIAISON	n/a
EXHIBITS	1. Biennial Budget (handed out at Council meeting)
APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER	

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$

SUMMARY

Under Washington State law and City of Mercer Island practice, the City Manager delivers a balanced budget to the City Council every two years for review and approval. This action begins the formal budget review process that culminates with Council approval of budget ordinances setting 2009-2010 revenue and expenditure levels as well as accompanying ordinances fixing property taxes and utility rates.

Monday night, the City Manager and Finance Director will present the budget, largely staying at a broad overview level. Budget themes and broad principles will be discussed as will projected revenues and expenditures in the City's primary Funds. Subsequent Council meetings will involve more detailed discussions of specific departmental expenditures and programs. At a "post-mortem" of the previous biennial budget process, Council members asked staff to focus on major changes to the base budget and avoid time-consuming explanations of basic services. The Council also asked that staff reduce the number of budget presentations prior to adoption. To do accomplish that, the Finance Director has instituted a "service package" approach that should maximize the Council's limited review time.

As a first step, Monday night's meeting is intended to be an orientation to the budget document, its major issues and the budget review schedule. Detail questions about the budget are expected at future budget review sessions.

RECOMMENDATION

City Manager & Finance Director

MOVE TO: Receive Budget. No action required.