

CHAPTER 7

FISCAL MANAGEMENT

7.01 Purpose
7.02 Finance Officer
7.03 Cash Control
7.04 Fund Control
7.05 Operating Budget Preparation

7.06 Budget Amendments
7.07 Accounting
7.08 Financial Reports
7.09 Dishonored Negotiable Instruments

7.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to establish policies and provide for rules and regulations governing the management of the financial affairs of the City.

7.02 FINANCE OFFICER. The Clerk is the finance and accounting officer of the City and is responsible for the administration of the provisions of this chapter.

7.03 CASH CONTROL. To assure the proper accounting and safe custody of moneys the following shall apply:

1. Deposit of Funds. All moneys or fees collected for any purpose by any City officer shall be deposited through the office of the finance officer. If any said fees are due to an officer, they shall be paid to the officer by check drawn by the finance officer and approved by the Council only upon such officer's making adequate reports relating thereto as required by law, ordinance, or Council directive.

2. Deposits and Investments. All moneys belonging to the City shall be promptly deposited in depositories selected by the Council in amounts not exceeding the authorized depository limitation established by the Council or invested in accordance with the City's written investment policy and State law, including joint investments as authorized by Section 384.21 of the *Code of Iowa*.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.21, 12B.10, 12C.1)

3. Petty Cash Fund. The finance officer shall be custodian of a petty cash fund for the payment of small claims for minor purchases, collect-on-delivery transportation charges, and small fees customarily paid at the time of rendering a service, for which payments the finance officer shall obtain some form of receipt or bill acknowledged as paid by the vendor or agent. At such time as the petty cash fund is approaching depletion, the finance officer shall draw a check for replenishment in the amount of the accumulated expenditures and said check and supporting detail shall be submitted to the Council as a claim in the usual manner for claims and charged to the proper funds and accounts. It shall not be used for salary payments or other personal services or personal expenses.

7.04 FUND CONTROL. There shall be established and maintained separate and distinct funds in accordance with the following:

1. Revenues. All moneys received by the City shall be credited to the proper fund as required by law, ordinance, or resolution.

2. Expenditures. No disbursement shall be made from a fund unless such disbursement is authorized by law, ordinance, or resolution, was properly budgeted, and supported by a claim approved by the Council.

3. Emergency Fund. No transfer may be made from any fund to the Emergency Fund.
(545 IAC 2.5[2])
4. Debt Service Fund. Except where specifically prohibited by State law, moneys may be transferred from any other City fund to the Debt Service Fund to meet payments of principal and interest. Such transfers must be authorized by the original budget or a budget amendment.
(545 IAC 2.5[3])
5. Capital Improvements Reserve Fund. Except where specifically prohibited by State law, moneys may be transferred from any City fund to the Capital Improvements Reserve Fund. Such transfers must be authorized by the original budget or a budget amendment.
(545 IAC 2.5[4])
6. Utility and Enterprise Funds. A surplus in a Utility or Enterprise Fund may be transferred to any other City fund, except the Emergency Fund, by resolution of the Council. A surplus may exist only after all required transfers have been made to any restricted accounts in accordance with the terms and provisions of any revenue bonds or loan agreements relating to the Utility or Enterprise Fund. A surplus is defined as the cash balance in the operating account or the unrestricted net position calculated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, after adding back the net pension and other postemployment benefits, liabilities, and the related deferred inflows of resources and deducting the related deferred outflows of resources, in excess of:
 - A. The amount of the expenses of disbursements for operating and maintaining the utility or enterprise for the preceding three months; and
 - B. The amount necessary to make all required transfers to restricted accounts for the succeeding three months.
(545 IAC 2.5[5])
7. Balancing of Funds. Fund accounts shall be reconciled at the close of each month and a report thereof submitted to the Council.

7.05 OPERATING BUDGET PREPARATION. The annual operating budget of the City shall be prepared in accordance with the following:

1. Proposal Prepared. The finance officer is responsible for preparation of the annual budget detail, for review by the Mayor and Council and adoption by the Council in accordance with directives of the Mayor and Council.
2. Boards and Commissions. All boards, commissions, and other administrative agencies of the City that are authorized to prepare and administer budgets must submit their budget proposals to the finance officer for inclusion in the proposed City budget at such time and in such form as required by the Council.
3. Submission to Council. The finance officer shall submit the completed budget proposal to the Council each year at such time as directed by the Council.
4. Resolution Establishing Maximum Property Tax Dollars. The Council shall adopt a resolution establishing the total maximum property tax dollars that may be certified for levy that includes taxes for City government purposes under *Code of Iowa* Section 384.1, for the City's trust and agency fund under *Code of Iowa* Section 384.6, Subsection 1, for the City's emergency fund under *Code of Iowa* Section 384.8, and for the levies authorized under *Code of Iowa* Section 384.12, Subsections 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, and 21, but excluding additions approved at election under *Code of Iowa* Section 384.12, Subsection 19.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.15A)

A. The Council shall set a time and place for a public hearing on the resolution before the date for adoption of the resolution and shall publish notice of the hearing not less than 10 nor more than 20 days prior to the hearing in a newspaper published at least once weekly and having general circulation in the City.

B. If the City has an internet site, the notice shall also be posted and clearly identified on the City's internet site for public viewing beginning on the date of the newspaper publication or public posting, as applicable. Additionally, if the City maintains a social media account on one or more social media applications, the public hearing notice or an electronic link to the public hearing notice shall be posted on each such account on the same day as the publication of the notice. All of the following shall be included in the notice:

(1) The sum of the current fiscal year's actual property taxes certified for levy under the levies specified in this subsection and the current fiscal year's combined property tax levy rate for such amount that is applicable to taxable property in the City other than property used and assessed for agricultural or horticultural purposes.

(2) The effective tax rate calculated using the sum of the current fiscal year's actual property taxes certified for levy under the levies specified in this subsection, applicable to taxable property in the City other than property used and assessed for agricultural or horticultural purposes.

(3) The sum of the proposed maximum property tax dollars that may be certified for levy for the budget year under the levies specified in this subsection and the proposed combined property tax levy rate for such amount applicable to taxable property in the City other than property used and assessed for agricultural or horticultural purposes.

(4) If the proposed maximum property tax dollars specified under Subparagraph (3) exceed the current fiscal year's actual property tax dollars certified for levy specified in Subparagraph (1), a statement of the major reasons for the increase.

Proof of publication shall be filed with and preserved by the County Auditor. The Department of Management shall prescribe the form for the public hearing notice for cities and the form for the resolution to be adopted by the Council under Paragraph C of this subsection.

C. At the public hearing, the Council shall receive oral or written objections from any resident or property owner of the City. After all objections have been received and considered, the Council may decrease, but not increase, the proposed maximum property tax dollar amount for inclusion in the resolution and shall adopt the resolution and file the resolution with the County Auditor as required under *Code of Iowa* Section 384.16, Subsection 3.

D. If the sum of the maximum property tax dollars for the budget year specified in the resolution under the levies specified in this subsection exceeds 102 percent of the sum of the current fiscal year's actual property taxes certified for levy under the levies specified in this subsection, the Council shall be required to adopt the resolution by a two-thirds majority of the membership of the Council.

E. If the City has an internet site, in addition to filing the resolution with the Auditor under *Code of Iowa* Section 384.16, Subsection 3, the adopted resolution shall be posted

and clearly identified on the City's internet site for public viewing within 10 days of approval by the Council. The posted resolution for a budget year shall continue to be accessible for public viewing on the internet site along with resolutions posted for all subsequent budget years.

5. Council Review. The Council shall review the proposed budget and may make any adjustments it deems appropriate in the budget before accepting such proposal for publication, hearing, and final adoption.

6. Notice of Hearing. Following, and not until adoption of the resolution required under Subsection 4 of this section, the Council shall set a time and place for public hearing on the budget to be held before March 31 and shall publish notice of the hearing not less than 10 nor more than 20 days before the hearing. A summary of the proposed budget and a description of the procedure for protesting the City budget under Section 384.19 of the *Code of Iowa*, in the form prescribed by the Director of the Department of Management, shall be included in the notice. Proof of publication of the notice under this subsection and a copy of the resolution adopted under Subsection 4 of this section must be filed with the County Auditor.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.16[3])

7. Copies of Budget on File. Not less than 20 days before the date that the budget must be certified to the County Auditor and not less than 10 days before the public hearing, the Clerk shall make available a sufficient number of copies of the detailed budget to meet the requests of taxpayers and organizations, and have them available for distribution at the offices of the Mayor and Clerk and at the City library.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.16[2])

8. Adoption and Certification. After the hearing, the Council shall adopt, by resolution, a budget for at least the next fiscal year and the Clerk shall certify the necessary tax levy for the next fiscal year to the County Auditor and the County Board of Supervisors. The tax levy certified may be less than, but not more than, the amount estimated in the proposed budget submitted at the final hearing or the applicable amount specified in the resolution adopted under Subsection 4 of this section. Two copies each of the detailed budget as adopted and of the tax certificate must be transmitted to the County Auditor.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.16[5])

7.06 BUDGET AMENDMENTS. A City budget finally adopted for the following fiscal year becomes effective July 1 and constitutes the City appropriation for each program and purpose specified therein until amended as provided by this section.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.18)

1. Program Increase. Any increase in the amount appropriated to a program must be prepared, adopted, and subject to protest in the same manner as the original budget.

(545 IAC 2.2)

2. Program Transfer. Any transfer of appropriation from one program to another must be prepared, adopted, and subject to protest in the same manner as the original budget.

(545 IAC 2.3)

3. Activity Transfer. Any transfer of appropriation from one activity to another activity within a program must be approved by resolution of the Council.

(545 IAC 2.4)

4. Administrative Transfers. The finance officer shall have the authority to adjust, by transfer or otherwise, the appropriations allocated within a specific activity without prior Council approval.

(545 IAC 2.4)

7.07 ACCOUNTING. The accounting records of the City shall consist of not less than the following:

1. Books of Original Entry. There shall be established and maintained books of original entry to provide a chronological record of cash received and disbursed.
2. General Ledger. There shall be established and maintained a general ledger controlling all cash transactions, budgetary accounts and for recording unappropriated surpluses.
3. Checks. Two signatures are required on all City checks. Checks shall be prenumbered and signed by any two of the following: the Clerk, Mayor, or Mayor Pro Tem, following Council approval, except as provided by Subsection 5 hereof.
4. Budget Accounts. There shall be established such individual accounts to record receipts by source and expenditures by program and activity as will provide adequate information and control for budgeting purposes as planned and approved by the Council. Each individual account shall be maintained within its proper fund and so kept that receipts can be immediately and directly compared with revenue estimates and expenditures can be related to the authorizing appropriation. No expenditure shall be posted except to the appropriation for the function and purpose for which the expense was incurred.
5. Immediate Payment Authorized. The Council may by resolution authorize the Clerk to issue checks for immediate payment of amounts due, which if not paid promptly would result in loss of discount, penalty for late payment or additional interest cost. Any such payments made shall be reported to the Council for review and approval with and in the same manner as other claims at the next meeting following such payment. The resolution authorizing immediate payment shall specify the type of payment so authorized and may include (but is not limited to) payment of utility bills, contractual obligations, payroll, and bond principal and interest.
6. Utilities. The finance officer shall perform and be responsible for accounting functions of the municipally owned utilities.

7.08 FINANCIAL REPORTS. The finance officer shall prepare and file the following financial reports:

1. Monthly Reports. There shall be submitted to the Council each month a report showing the activity and status of each fund, program, sub-program, and activity for the preceding month.
2. Annual Report. Not later than December 1 of each year there shall be published an annual report containing a summary for the preceding fiscal year of all collections and receipts, all accounts due the City, and all expenditures, the current public debt of the City, and the legal debt limit of the City for the current fiscal year. A copy of the annual report must be filed with the Auditor of State not later than December 1 of each year.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.22)

7.09 DISHONORED NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS. Upon notification by the City's financial institution that a deposited check is being returned to the City as dishonored, the Clerk shall notify the customer that the check has been dishonored and that a service charge has been assessed to the party issuing the check equal to the maximum allowed by Section 554.3512(1) of the *Code of Iowa*. The notice shall state the time period within which the check and service charge must be honored or service shall be discontinued.