

THE OUTLOOK

official news + views from the City of Spring Hill, Kansas | September 2016

The City of Spring Hill has worked to maintain a nearly level mill levy for many years. The 2017 budget keeps the tax rate at the same level as 2016's.

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

City Council approves 2017 budget

Next year's financial plan features steady mill levy, consistent services, and new challenges

The annual city budget process is an opportunity to match a financial plan to the Governing Body's goals and community's needs. The City of Spring Hill's 2017 budget, approved 4-0 by the City Council at its August 25 meeting, achieves this balance without raising the tax rate through the City's mill levy.

While many Kansas city and county agencies have increased their mill levies for 2017 to combat the impending property tax lid, Spring Hill's governing body has elected to keep a level mill levy for the coming year.

"Over the course of the Legislature's passage of the property tax lid, we've seen communities around us raise their mill levy for the sole purpose of trying to counter the property tax lid," Mayor

Steven Ellis said during the Aug. 25 Council meeting. "We felt like that was contrary to the spirit of the law. We didn't feel like that was a good business model for the City of Spring Hill."

Spring Hill City property taxes account for about 18% of the total tax bill for Johnson County and 25% of the total tax bill for Miami County (see charts on page 4). Staff took care to see that these tax levels be maintained without sacrificing the level of service and types of services expected by residents.

The 2017 budget accomplishes level budget appropriations for agency requests such as the Chamber of Commerce, Spring Hill Cemetery board, utility

assistance fund, United Community Services and Johnson County Fire District #2 for contracted fire services.

The budget also provides for level support of current services provided by the City of Spring Hill. It supports only minimally increased dollars toward capital and

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contact us

City Hall

401 N. Madison | P.O. Box 424
Spring Hill, KS 66083
Phone: (913) 592-3664
Community Development: (913) 592-3657
Municipal Court: (913) 592-3624
Utility Billing: (913) 592-3626

Police Department

418 E. Nichols
Spring Hill, KS 66083
Phone: (913) 592-2700

Public Works

502 E. Nichols
Spring Hill, KS 66083
Phone: (913) 592-3317
After-hours emergencies: (913) 247-3521

Online

www.springhillks.gov

[f /springhillks](https://www.facebook.com/springhillks)
[@springhillks](https://twitter.com/springhillks)

Governing Body

Mayor Steven M. Ellis
steven.ellis@springhillks.gov
Council President Chris Leaton
chris.leaton@springhillks.gov
Clint Gillis, Jr.
clint.gillis@springhillks.gov
Floyd Koder
floyd.koder@springhillks.gov
Andrea Hughes
andrea.hughes@springhillks.gov
Scott Snavelly
scott.snavelly@springhillks.gov



Welcome to the new springhillks.gov!

The City of Spring Hill released a redesigned website in early August that we hope will help you connect and do business with your local government more efficiently.

Staff worked with our current web vendor, CivicPlus, to create an attractive modern design and improve the usability of the site. The new design was paired with upgrades to the site that will provide residents with valuable tools to interact with the City.

The new Request Tracker tool allows your reports of potholes, stray animals, code violations, and other requests to be handled more efficiently and keeps you updated as

progress is made on your report. Other new enhancements include a notification system for trash days and large item pick-up, as well as a new way to search for city facilities.

We've also reorganized the website to help you get to the pages you need more quickly. New sections like a guide for new residents and a separate menu for businesses keep all the information you're looking for in one convenient place.

Be sure to check out the new website and explore the new ways in which it can help you learn more about and engage in City services!

Meet our bicycle patrol officer John Mundy! Officer Mundy has been a police officer for seven years and a certified bike patrol officer for five years. The bike patrol unit was recently implemented in Spring Hill as a new way to connect with residents and better serve the community. "Having a bike patrol unit gives our department an advantage on increased interaction with our citizens and a new style of patrol for the City," Officer Mundy said. The bicycle was donated by Al and Pam Knaebel. The City thanks Mr. and Mrs. Knaebel for their generous contribution to our public safety programs!



September 2016 City Calendar

01

Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

05 Labor Day

City offices closed in observance of the holiday.

08

Large item trash day: Miami County

08

City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

10

Holiday trash day



17 Fall Festival

Be sure to watch for City boards, staff, and elected officials during the 61st Annual Spring Hill Fall Festival! At 10 a.m., line up along Webster Street to catch candy from the Governing Body as elected officials and staff participate in the parade. Then, stop by City Park to check out the Green Board and Spring Hill Arts Council's recycled material sculpture contest until 1 p.m. If you're interested in participating, more info is available at the bottom of this page. Visit www.springhillfallfestival.org for more on the event.

19

Green Board meeting, 7 p.m.

22

City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

25 City Equipment Auction

The City of Spring Hill is planning an auction of City equipment, vehicles, and miscellaneous items for Sunday, September 25 from 12:30 to 4 p.m. The auction will take place in the west parking lot behind the Spring Hill Civic Center, 401 N. Madison. Additional details will be released on our website.

28

Large item trash day: Johnson Co.

Open Gym

As fall-like temperatures approach, so does the start of Open Gym! Later this month, we plan to reopen the Civic Center gymnasium a couple of nights each week for residents to enjoy free recreational fun. Since the opening of the unairconditioned gym is dependent on the arrival of consistently cooler weather, watch our website and social media pages for the 2016-2017 schedule.

Recycled Item Sculpture Contest

The Green Board and Spring Hill Arts Council will host a recycled material contest at City Park during the Fall Festival's vendor fair. Participants must be able to transport their sculpture to and from City Park. Check-in will take place between 9 a.m. and noon. The event will be split into three age groups: children up to 12 years old, 13 to 19-year-olds, and ages 20 and up. Visitors can stop by and vote on their favorite sculpture until 1 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to the winner of each age group at 1:30 p.m. To register for the event, visit www.springhillfallfestival.org. Click on "Sculpture Contest" to access the online registration form.



City's 2017 budget avoids tax increases

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community improvement projects, public safety and equipment to provide city services.

The City of Spring Hill has a proven history of making the most out of tight budgets, Mayor Ellis said after the budget's approval. Over the last eleven years, he added, the City has maintained a nearly level mill levy without laying off employees while weathering an economic recession.

"During that period of time, we did not run back to the taxpayers and ask for increases to meet our basic needs," Mayor Ellis said. "We tightened the belt, and we found new and innovative ways of doing things to drive the cost out of our model."

Over the next year, the Governing Body and administration will be faced with the challenges of funding community improvement projects such as the Civic Center enhancements, repairs to the Spring Hill dam, road and bridge improvements, road intersection safety, parks features and trail additions. This feat will be addressed by continued focus on efficiencies, maximizing revenue, focus on development, leveraging grant dollars and establishing fund balance targets.

Details about the 2017 budget can be found on the city's website at springhillks.gov. Further questions can be directed to the Finance Director at (913) 592-3664.



Future Veterans Lane

Major projects see weather delays

In last month's issue of The Outlook, we highlighted some important upcoming public improvements. Since that time, wet weather has shifted the project schedule.

- The sidewalk and crosswalk connecting Estates of Wolf Creek to Spring Hill High School along Ridgeview Road is completed and helping students get to school safely.
- Work on the Webster Street acceleration lane and Veterans Lane has begun. These schedules are adjusting to contend with weather delays.
- Repairs to the subgrade on Victory Road were completed in August, and Miami County crews chip and sealed the road for the first time August 30. A second chip and seal will be applied after the first has had enough time to settle.

To view up-to-date information on road closings related with these projects, follow us on Facebook and Twitter or visit our website.

Where do my property taxes go?

City taxes account for less than a quarter of your property tax bill. The graph below shows how much Spring Hill residents paid proportionally in property taxes for 2016.

