

CITY OF CRYSTAL

FREQUENTLY ASKED BUDGET QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS – 2017

1. What is the city’s proposed property tax levy for 2017?

Fund	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Adopted	2017 Levy Preliminary	\$ Change	% Change
General Fund	\$8,238,974	\$8,262,652	\$8,015,940	\$8,657,000	\$641,060	8.00
Pool Bonds Debt Service	208,991	208,849	210,600	212,000	1,400	0.66
County Rd. 81 Debt Serv.	561,698	566,245	-	-	-	-
Capital Improvement Funds	-	-	1,119,160	1,141,620	22,460	2.01
Total General and Debt Service	\$9,009,663	\$9,037,746	\$9,345,700	\$10,010,620	\$664,934	7.11
EDA	208,206	237,577	246,200	277,200	31,000	12.59
Total Tax Levy	\$9,217,869	\$9,275,323	\$9,591,900	\$10,287,820	\$695,920	7.26

2. How will this affect my property taxes for 2017?

In addition to the change in the city’s tax levy, other factors, such as a change in the assessed value of your property and changes in the amount of taxes levied by the county and school district, may cause your 2017 property tax to be higher or lower than your 2016 property tax. The total tax levy increase is 7.26%, close to the 6.2% average for all Minnesota cities. For an informative video on how property values and taxes are set and collected to support local government services in Hennepin County and the City of Crystal, visit <https://youtu.be/MH9gbJgnEms>.

3. What is the city’s proposed budget for 2017?

The proposed budget for the general fund for 2017 is \$8,657,000. This is an increase of \$641,060 or 8% from the 2016 adopted budget of \$8,015,940. The increase is due to several factors including:

- A wage adjustment allowance for all employees.
- The assumption that all staff positions will be filled in 2017 (some positions were vacant in 2016.)
- Public Safety funds for full staffing of police and aerial fire truck lease payments.
- Other costs include technology and software licenses, property and liability insurance, maintenance costs and a few long-term efficiencies.

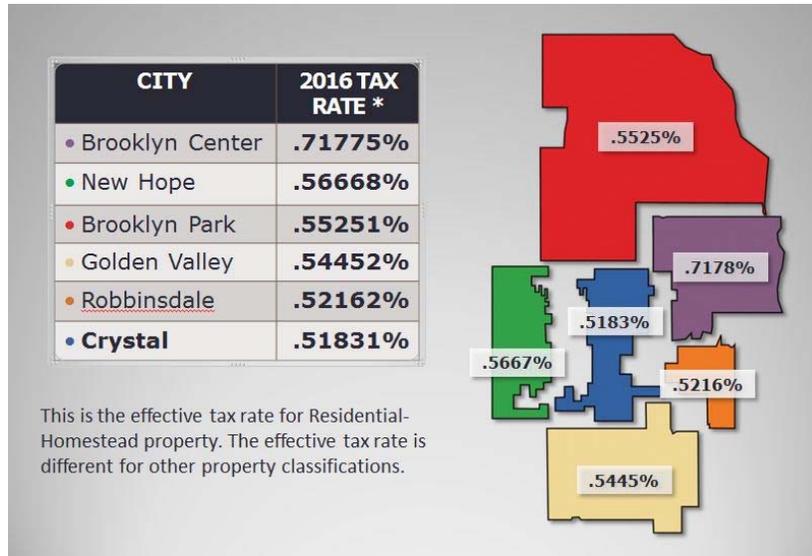
4. How much does the city spend per citizen per year?

If the proposed 2017 General Fund Budget (\$12,476,887) is divided by the population of Crystal (estimated at 22,943 in 2015), the city will spend \$556.11 per person per year, or \$1.53 per day.

5. What does the city spend the budget on?

SERVICE	PERCENTAGE
Public Safety: Police and Fire	48.1%
Community Development	4.2%
General Administration	18%
Public Works (street, park and building maintenance)	18%
Recreation	11.1%

6. How does Crystal's tax rate compare with other surrounding cities?



7. When will I find out what my 2017 tax bill will be?

Proposed Property Tax Statements showing the estimated taxes for every property were computed by Hennepin County based upon the preliminary tax levies passed by the city, county and school district and mailed in mid-November. Tax statements with the final tax bill for 2017 will be mailed out by Hennepin County in March 2017.

8. How can I communicate my feelings to the City Council?

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