

Responsible Budgeting

Understanding the money the City spends, and how it affects you, is the first step toward a City government that works for residents.

Where Things Stand

For years, Maywood Park has spent more than it brings in, drawing down its reserves. This year the City raised spending by \$91,698 (15%), and it plans to start the July 2027 fiscal year with a zero balance. That is a risk because half of the City's income comes from property taxes, which arrive later in the year.

The Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission (TSCC) raised serious concerns about our current budget. It recommended that the City adopt a five-year financial forecast based on actual spending, goals, and revenue.

[Read the report here](#)

The budget is also hard for residents to find and understand. When residents ask councilors where the money goes, they often don't get an answer. Councilors don't manage day-to-day tasks, but in a city this small, each one should know where your dollars are going and why.

The government's job should be to make your life better, and this starts with understanding the money they spend and how it affects you.

My Proposals

Proposal	In one line
Five-year financial forecast	Make the TSCC recommendation a priority and draft a plan grounded in community values.
Standing grant committee	Actively pursue grant funding instead of leaving money on the table.
A real look at efficiency	Find where the City can do more with what it has, starting with \$9,000+ in dues and subscriptions.
Budgets created with your voice	Free training, infographics, monthly statements, and a community vote on projects.
Eliminate unnecessary fees	Drop The Commons reservation fee and the chicken fees and keep the money in residents' pockets.

1. Five-Year Financial Forecast

The council should make the TSCC's recommendation a priority. Too many councilors don't know where the City's money goes, when, or why, and there is no plan for the future. The councilors and treasurer should work with the TSCC and residents to draft a five-year financial plan grounded in our community's values, one that treats every dollar as important.

2. Standing Grant Committee

I would create a standing grant committee to actively pursue grant funding for the City. Right now, money that could help pay for projects and services goes unclaimed because no one is responsible for finding it. A dedicated committee could track opportunities at the state, county, and federal levels, apply for them consistently, and bring in outside dollars so that less of the burden falls on Maywood residents and our shrinking reserves.

3. A Real Look at Efficiency

The City currently spends over \$9,000 on dues and subscriptions. Many of these offer duplicating services. This isn't the only area of inefficiency. From landscaping to City repairs, we need to be finding where the City can do more with what it already has.

4. Budgets Created with Your Voice

Each year the City budget is created without input from you. The budget should reflect the priorities and values of those paying the bills: the residents.

- Make the budget process understandable and accessible, with free training and infographics on the website.
- Provide easy-to-read financial statements every month, with graphs included in our monthly financial documents.
- Hold a City event where you, the taxpayer, are asked what you would like funded and are able to vote on next year's projects.

[Watch a video describing the process](#)

5. Eliminate Unnecessary Fees

The City currently collects fees from residents to use the public park for an event or to keep chickens. The funds gathered from these fees are nominal and do not affect the budget, but they personally affect yours. On top of that, these fees are not allocated to any area. It is money that should stay in your pocket.

As city councilor, I would advocate for eliminating these unnecessary fees, keeping money where it has the biggest impact.