

Other interesting line items from the 2008 proposed budget

- \$46,800 **Car Allowance** for City Manager & Staff
- Plus another \$84,000 for **Travel and Conferences**
- \$130,000 **Communications** (full time communications director plus expenses)
- Plus another \$144,000 also labeled **Communications** for telephone and postage
- \$124,000 for **Consultants**
- Plus another \$580,000 for **Professional Services**
- \$129,000 labeled **Miscellaneous**

We don't mean to nit pick, but somebody should. When was the last time you heard a Council Member seriously challenge discretionary spending?

With budget numbers like these, ending the year below budget doesn't merit the "A" that Council Members gave themselves on their "Report Card."

We need a City Council that will set a challenging budget, and hold the City Manager accountable for meeting it.

The Citizens for Accountable Government

Our Mission is to promote and support local government that is fiscally responsible, that is willing to manage growth for the benefit of current residents rather than at their expense, that is committed to the protection of our natural resources like lakes, wetlands and forests, and that is willing to be held accountable by citizens and voters.

We encourage you to join us in making changes by supporting our mission, and voting for citizens who will represent your interests instead of Special Interests.

www.citizensforaccountablegovernment.org

or

www.c-a-g.org

This publication was prepared and paid for by Citizens for Accountable Government.

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Note: Facts used in this brochure were taken from the City's proposed budget for 2008, City finance statements, and the Prior Lake American. We have diligently attempted to be accurate but cannot guarantee the accuracy of the sources used.

Attention Citizens of **PRIOR LAKE**

In 2002, our Mayor and Council changed the color of the cover on the Comprehensive Plan from blue to gold.

*-and then called it a VISION -
They made some other changes too.*

Fact: City tax levy increases that used to average less than 2% per year now average 10% per year.

Fact: Spending for general operations has increased by almost 60% since 2002, in addition to large capital expenditures.

Fact: Water/Sewer bills are inflated to pay for another project, approved by the Council without voter approval (\$26.50/10,000 gallons vs compared to Shakopee at \$16.50.)

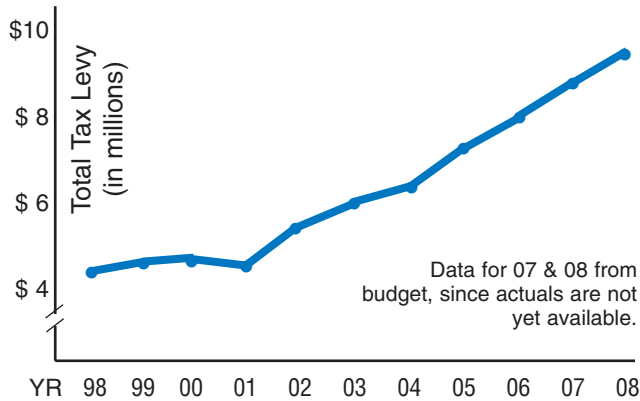
Fact: Annual spending increases exceed the sum of growth and inflation. Taxpayers are being asked to subsidize City promoted growth (City Financial Report shows 2.2% average annual population growth from 2004 to 2006.)

**Voters also can make changes
VOTE ON NOVEMBER 6**

You can visit us at www.c-a-g.org

The proposed tax for 2008 is the 5th increase in 6 years

The City's Total Tax Levy is climbing faster than the sum of inflation and population growth combined.



City records show excessive revenue vs budget each year. They also show a pattern of transferring surplus from the General Fund to other funds.

With City Hall collecting windfall tax revenue from hundreds of new expensive homes, shouldn't individual taxes go down instead of up?

– And –

Shouldn't City Hall stop pocketing surplus for funding pet projects?

We need a City Council that doesn't believe annual tax increases should be a way of life.

A favorite line from City Hall is that large tax & spending increases since 2002 are investments in our community.

Comparison of some line item expenses from the 2002 & 2008 budgets might suggest otherwise.

- Mayor and Council: **86% increase**
- City Manager: **54% increase** plus an extra \$130,000 for communications
- Overhead
 - General Government: **49% increase**
 - Other General Government: **77% increase**
- Accounting: **49% increase**
- City Attorney: **40% increase**

This data was taken from the City Council's 2008 General Fund Budget prior to a subsequent budget reduction of 1.5 %.

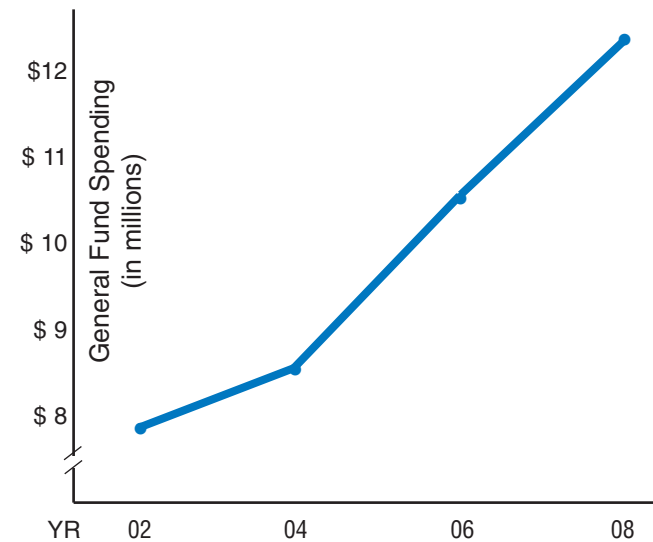
During Council deliberations on the 2008 budget, the City's Director of Finance said that "The Council is just going to have to learn the word NO." Thank you, Mr. Teschner. We agree.

American business is being forced to reduce costs and overhead to remain competitive. City Government ought to be held accountable to do the same.

We need a Council that believes taxpayer dollars are for serving residents, not for serving Government.

Proposed spending for 2008 is 17% higher than last year.

General Fund spending has increased almost 60% since City Hall announced in 2002 that it would be guided by a new VISION.



Spending has become a habit at City Hall. Too many tax dollars are being spent on image rather than substance.

The cost of the new City Hall speaks for itself. The extra quarter million for new furniture adds the exclamation point!

We need a City Council and City Manager who practice restraint when spending our money.