Council Passes Budget, Tax Bills Will Go Down for Homeowner

On Tuesday, June 26, 2012, Charleston County Council gave final approval to its budget for fiscal year 2013 (July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013).

The $428.2 million operating budget, presented by County Administrator Kurt Taylor, is the result of County staff preparation beginning in the fall of 2011, followed by two months of County Council meetings where members reviewed the proposed budget, department-by-department, to make adjustments and find ways to meet the county’s financial needs.

For each $100,000 of appraised value (per the County Assessor), the homeowner should see a net reduction of $4.80 on County property taxes including the Local Option Sales Tax credit.

“Staff and council worked hard on behalf of the citizens of the county to overcome financial challenges and ensure a balanced budget in the upcoming year,” said Charleston County Council Chairman Teddie E. Pryor, Sr. “In working toward a balanced budget, Council had to consider several critical items including rising fuel, retirement and workers’ compensation costs.”

Also included in the 2012-2013 fiscal year budget:
- Funds for Consolidated 911 Dispatch to prepare for the opening of the new Dispatch Center in FY 2013 and full consolidation in FY 2014
- Additional staff for EMS in order to reduce overtime
- Funds to replace Public Works Department equipment
- Capital funds for Environmental Management to continue expanding the recycling program

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