



Charleston County News Release

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Council Takes Early Look at Next Year's Budget: "Maintain Fiscal Integrity...Proceed with Caution!"

Creative ways proposed to ensure balanced budget next year

During its Finance Committee meeting on Thursday, Nov. 4, [Charleston County Council](#) will have an early discussion on some cost-saving measures in order to plan for the County's next budget cycle: Fiscal Year 2012 (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012).

"We anticipate that making early efforts will help us work through financial challenges and ensure a balanced budget in the upcoming year," said [Charleston County Council Chairman Teddie E. Pryor, Sr.](#)

County staff presented financial information during a budget workshop for Council on Thursday, Oct. 21 in order to begin early planning for next year's budget.

"As a result of the information we heard in our work session, Council gave the nod for some of staff's cost-saving ideas to be placed on our Nov. 4 meeting agenda for discussion," Pryor said.

One of the cost-savings measures the Administrator's staff is examining that will be on Council's Nov. 4 agenda is a second phase of voluntary retirement incentives for County employees.

"If Council approves the proposed program, which has been expanded from the previous year's offer, it will increase the number of employees eligible to participate in the program, and save us money in the long-run," Pryor said. "The goal is to incorporate savings into the Fiscal Year 2012 budget and see cost savings in future years by reducing the County's workforce without introducing layoffs, mandatory furloughs, or other personnel-related cost reductions."

In addition to Council's Nov. 4 review of some specific items like the voluntary retirement incentive program, it is also the regular time of year when staff begins working on the County's next fiscal year budget.

According to staff, Charleston County is beginning to see some evidence pointing toward improvements in the local economy.

"While this is positive news for the County, we must continue moving forward using the same level of fiscal responsibility that has allowed the County to weather the difficult times during this recession," [Charleston County Administrator Allen O'Neal](#) stated in a memo to department heads prior to the meetings. "As a result, the theme for the development of the Fiscal Year 2012 budget is to "maintain fiscal integrity...proceed with caution."

Staff's overall goal is to have County Council approve a balanced Fiscal Year 2012 budget prior to June 30, 2011.

Visit the Charleston County Web site at www.charlestoncounty.org for news, services and up-to-date information relating to Charleston County Government.

Remember that anyone who cannot attend the Council meeting can watch it from the comfort of their own home on TV and/or on the Internet as follows:

- Both committee and regular meetings are taped and aired at a later date on Comcast's education and government channel 60. Each meeting is taped and shown at 7 p.m. on the Friday after the meeting on Comcast's channel 60.
- The public can also watch all Charleston County Council committee and regular meetings live on the Internet through the County's Web site at www.charlestoncounty.org. Past Council meetings can be viewed through an online archive at www.charlestoncounty.org. Because a third party vendor (U-Stream) is used to stream live, the public should anticipate that there could be technical issues with viewing the meetings live online.
- For anyone who does not have a computer or if there are technical issues with the online version, the [Clerk of Council's Office](#) at (843) 958-4031 will maintain a DVD collection of past meetings.