



City of Hudson, Ohio

Staff Report With Text

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Title: Presentation of software recently acquired by the Finance Department, including the following programs: OpenGov, Balancing Act and Taxpayer Receipt.
Executive Summary: This presentation will demonstrate the capabilities of the new software programs. These programs promote the concept of financial transparency, as well as public education and participation.

Sponsors:

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Presentation of software recently acquired by the Finance Department, including the following programs: OpenGov, Balancing Act and Taxpayer Receipt.

Executive Summary: This presentation will demonstrate the capabilities of the new software programs. These programs promote the concept of financial transparency, as well as public education and participation.

Legislative History

None.

Purpose & Explanation

The purpose of the presentation is to demonstrate to Council the capabilities of the new programs. The following is a general description of each.

OpenGov - the program allows the public to access revenue and expense data and understand the sources of their tax dollars and how they are being spent. Within OpenGov there is a feature called Open Checkbook which shows City expenditures and allows citizens to see transaction details, compare vendors and view payment history.

Balancing Act - this program allows citizens to engage with City leaders by providing an easy to use platform to view the City Budget and provide feedback. Not only is this an educational tool for the public, it provides a vehicle to help identify priorities and stimulate creative ideas to improve City programs.

Taxpayer Receipt - By answering out a few simple questions, residents are provided a detailed receipt showing where their taxes go.

Timing Considerations

OpenGov currently has five years data loaded into the program and can be made available to the public. Balancing Act and Taxpayer Receipt will have data loaded into the programs as soon as draft budget documents are completed. This will be within the next few weeks.

Fiscal Impact

☒ Appropriation Not Required.

Suggested Action

Staff recommends Council review these programs and provide feedback to staff, including programmed questions for the Annual Report section of OpenGov.

Submitted by,

Jane Howington, City Manager

Jeff Knoblauch, Finance Director