

Minutes of the Belton Public Safety Sales Tax Oversight Committee
Electronic Meeting
<https://www.belton.org/watch>
May 21, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

Committee members present: Jane Hull, Caroline Allen, Martha Frasher, Mark Graves, Bill Peek, Marsha Vest, Police Chief James Person, Councilmember Dean VanWinkle

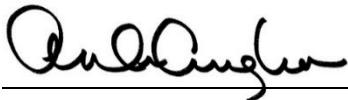
Committee members absent: Sarah Brooks, Fire Chief John Sapp

Staff present: Alexa Barton, City Manager; Sheila Ernzen, Finance Director/Assistant City Manager; and Andrea Cunningham, City Clerk

Caroline Allen presented the Annual Public Status Report for Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2020. (attached exhibit A) Bill Peek made a motion to accept the Annual Public Status Report for Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2020. Mark Graves seconded. All present voted in favor.

Alexa Barton, City Manager, asked how the committee would like to share this report with citizens. Ms. Allen said it would be best for the City to share it on their Facebook page and each committee member could share it on their personal Facebook page. Mr. Peek said the City could also put it on their website. Mr. Graves suggested putting this on the homepage. Sheila Ernzen, Finance Director/Assistant City Manager, suggested sending it out in utility bills or some other manner for those who may not have Internet access.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.



Andrea Cunningham, City Clerk

**PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2020**

The Public Safety Sales Tax Oversight (PSST) Committee was formed after the citizens of Belton, MO passed a ½ Cent Sales Tax Increase in 2018. This tax became effective April 1, 2019. (Ballot attached) This sales tax increase is to be used 50/50 for the Belton Fire Department and the Belton Police Department.

The PSST Committee met twice during the year, October 2019 and May 2020. During the time between meetings, the Committee was kept informed by email of all expenditures. At any time between meetings, we were able to reply with any questions. During the meetings we were presented with all revenues and expenditures. We also received a complete breakdown of these revenues and expenditures and how each was applied to the Belton Police Department and the Belton Fire Department. Included is a copy of the annual revenues and expenditures for both departments.

The second meeting held on Thursday, May 7, 2020, was for the year ending March 31, 2020. At the conclusion of that meeting the following determinations were made:

Revenues:

It was agreed by the PSST Committee that all Revenues were Received/Allocated in accordance with PSST ballot language.

Expenditures:

It was agreed by the PSST Committee that all Expenditures were Disbursed in accordance with PSST ballot language and budgetary/accounting standards.

Summary Public Status Review:

It was agreed by the PSST Committee that it meets all objectives.

The Committee lists the following conditions to monitor:

The PSST Committee agreed to continue receiving related monthly reports from the City's finance department. The Committee agreed the Covid-19 pandemic may impact PSST as it relates to the 2021 (and future) budget years. The Committee will meet in October 2020 (as outlined at the first meeting October 2019) to review the effect, if any, of economic trends that may impact the PSST.

Committee Members

Sarah Brooks	Caroline Allen
Jane Hull	Martha Frasher
Mark Graves	Bill Peek
Marsha Vest	John Sapp
James Person	Councilmember VanWinkle

CITY OF BELTON, MISSOURI
PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX FUND
Revenues and Expenditures - Cash Basis
For the Twelve Months Ended March 31, 2020

	FIRE		POLICE		TOTAL	
	ANNUAL BUDGET	12 MONTHS ENDED 03/31/20	ANNUAL BUDGET	12 MONTHS ENDED 03/31/20	ANNUAL BUDGET	12 MONTHS ENDED 03/31/20
REVENUES:						
Public Safety Sales Tax	799,045.00	863,034.95	799,045.00	863,034.90	1,598,090.00	1,726,069.85
Interest on Investments	-	827.83	-	827.81	-	1,655.64
TOTAL REVENUES:	<u>799,045.00</u>	<u>863,862.78</u>	<u>799,045.00</u>	<u>863,862.71</u>	<u>1,598,090.00</u>	<u>1,727,725.49</u>
EXPENDITURES:						
Transfers to the General Fund						
Wages & Benefits Above FY2019 Base**	484,295.00	383,292.41	599,045.00	-	1,083,340.00	383,292.41
Public Safety Equipment & Vehicles						
- Automatic CPR Machines	29,000.00	29,606.84			29,000.00	29,606.84
- Ballistic Protection	20,000.00	10,050.16			20,000.00	10,050.16
- AutoDefibrillators for Staff Vehicles	15,750.00	10,273.52			15,750.00	10,273.52
- Ambulance	250,000.00	265,836.74			250,000.00	265,836.74
- Remote Speaker Microphones, Etc.	-	7,498.25			-	7,498.25
- Computer Equipment			30,000.00	37,192.45	30,000.00	37,192.45
- Patrol Cars			170,000.00	-	170,000.00	-
TOTAL TRANSFERS:	<u>799,045.00</u>	<u>706,557.92</u>	<u>799,045.00</u>	<u>37,192.45</u>	<u>1,598,090.00</u>	<u>743,750.37</u>
REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	<u>-</u>	<u>157,304.86</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>826,670.26</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>983,975.12</u>



QUESTION 4: PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX



NOVEMBER 6 GENERAL ELECTION

Working to Improve Public Safety

On November 6, Belton voters will be asked to consider establishing a sales tax to improve funding for Police and Fire/EMS staffing levels, safety equipment for first responders and public safety vehicles & capital equipment.

As the City of Belton worked to make it through the recession that hit the nation in 2008, the Belton City Council and staff made strategic financial decisions including maintaining, and in some years rolling back, property taxes; freezing staff salaries city-wide; reducing spending across all departments; freezing hiring for some vacant positions and more. In the last several years, as the economy has recovered, the City Council's continued strategic budgeting has allowed for fleet and equipment upgrades for both the Belton Fire and Police departments.

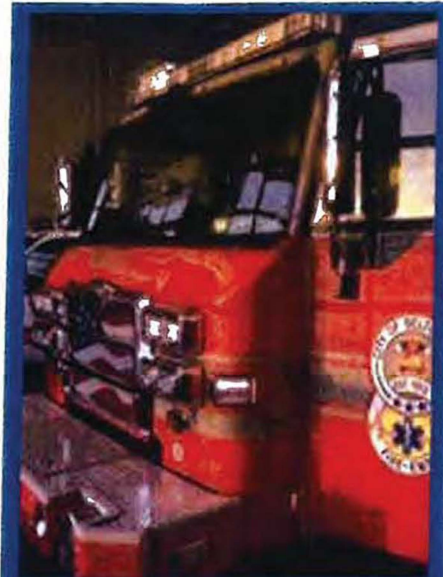
Recognizing that Belton residents expect dependable, quality and effective public safety services, the Belton City Council voted to place a 1/2-cent sales tax to be used solely for Public Safety on the November 6, 2018 ballot.

If approved, how will the City use the revenues from the Public Safety Sales Tax?

Staffing and safety improvements in 2019.

- Funding to rehire the 6 police officer positions frozen in the current year budget.
- Funding to rehire the 6 firefighter/EMS positions frozen in the current year budget.
- Funding to add 4 new, additional police officer positions.
- Funding for new safety equipment for first responders.
- Funding for public safety vehicles and capital equipment.

More information about the Public Safety Sales Tax is available online at www.belton.org/November6.



The Belton Fire Department has 11 total minimum daily staffing. National standards call for 17-18 personnel to respond to a single family house fire – including EMS response.



Belton Police has a minimum of five officers on patrol per shift.



PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

If approved, when will retailers begin collecting this sales tax?

April 1, 2019.

How can we know the funds will be used as promised?

An oversight committee comprised of citizens, Fire and Police representatives, a City Council liaison, and City staff has been established by the City Council to review the annual Public Safety Sales Tax expenditures to ensure they adhere to voter intent.

Who will pay this sales tax?

Everyone who shops in Belton, both residents and non-residents, who rely on public safety while in Belton.

How much revenue will be generated by this sales tax?

If approved, it is estimated that the Public Safety Sales Tax will generate \$1.6 million each year.

How will this affect the City's sales tax rate?

The City's current base sales tax rate is 2.75%. If this ½-cent sales tax is approved by voters on November 6 our base tax rate will be 3.25%.

The total basic sales tax rate for purchases within the City is 8.975%, which includes 4.225% for the state of Missouri and 2.0% for Cass County. If this ½-cent sales tax is approved the total sales tax rate will be 9.475%.

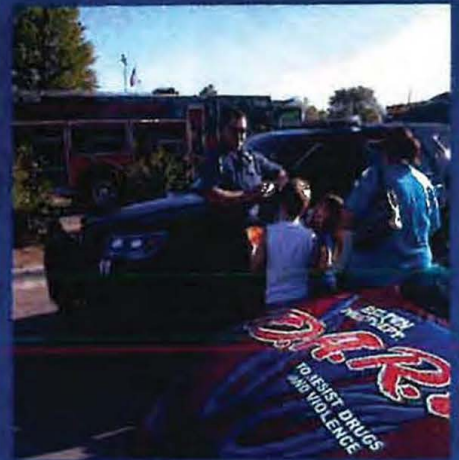
What does a ½-cent sales tax mean to you?

- It would add **3 cents** to the cost of a **\$6 fast food meal**.
- It would add **15 cents** to the cost of a **\$30 pair of pants**.
- It would add **\$2** to the cost of a **\$400 dishwasher**.

This sales tax will not apply to utilities, gasoline or prescription drug purchases.

What will happen if voters don't approve this ½-cent sales tax?

City of Belton Police and Fire Department staff will continue to provide the best services possible with the resources available.



BALLOT LANGUAGE:

Question No. 4

Shall the City of Belton, Missouri increase its citywide general sales tax rate by one-half of one percent (0.5%) solely for the purpose of providing additional funds for public safety for the City, including but not limited to, expenditures for equipment, salaries and benefits of city employees providing public safety services, and facilities for police, fire, emergency management and emergency medical providers?

APPENDIX C

CONDITIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES FOR A GENERAL SALES TAX DEDICATED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Below are certain supplemental agreements and understandings related to the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the City of Belton, Missouri ("City") and Local 42 of the International Association of Fire Fighters ("Union").

The City and the Union have met regarding the implementation of the General Sales Tax increase dedicated to Public Safety and the parties are in general agreement of the procedures to implement those measures.

The City will implement a nine-member Public Safety Sales Tax Oversight Committee, as provided for in Resolution 2018-44, with the Union appointing one member to said Committee. The Committee shall meet at least semi-annually to review the collection and expenditure of revenue from the General Sales Tax for Public Safety, as outlined in the Resolution. The City further agrees that the total of the revenue created by the General Sales Tax for Public Safety shall be divided equally between the Police Department and the Fire Department, and used to fulfill the needs of those departments (compensation, staffing, equipment, etc.).