

R-2
12/11/18

RESOLUTION NO. _____, 2018

Introduced by Councilmembers Harder, Page, Wasinger, Walton Gray, & Trakas

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, the St. Louis County Council is the appropriating authority of the County pursuant to Section 2.180.2 of the Charter; and

WHEREAS, the Council has reviewed the County Executive's proposed 2019 budget and finds the proposal far exceeds projected revenue and, therefore, does not represent prudent fiscal management; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive's proposed 2019 appropriations are again balanced on the back of continued depletion of necessary reserve funds, bringing our general reserves to an unacceptably low level; and

WHEREAS, while recognizing the spending patterns over the last ten years, the Council last year called attention to this ongoing structural deficit; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive's statements regarding the budget have misled the press and, therefore, the citizens as to the dire situation facing the County; and

WHEREAS, the Council has methodically taken action over the last year, through ordinances, voter-approved Charter amendments, and even court challenges, to assert its independent budget responsibility to the citizens of the County; and

WHEREAS, best practices mandate a minimum of 10% of the General Fund operating budget be on hand in the General Fund reserve account, yet the County Executive's proposed 2019 budget will leave the General Fund reserve account with only a 5% reserve; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has not offered any plan to fix the budget problem, other than to deplete reserves to a dangerously low level; and

WHEREAS, the Council must cut spending not only to balance the structural deficit proposed by the County Executive, but it must also set aside monies to build up the reserve fund, which is a key metric for the County's financial health; and

WHEREAS, despite requests from the Council, the County Executive and the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership have delayed in selling over \$40 million in vacant and unused properties; and

WHEREAS, the Council is aware of the wretched state of morale of county employees and the lack of merit-based pay increases to reward our quality employees, and throughout 2019 will focus on these disparities; and

WHEREAS, in the interim, the Council is considering a uniform adjustment to employee salaries for employees who did not receive an increase in compensation in 2017 and/or 2018 until a more appropriate long-term solution is identified and agreed upon; and

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The County Council shall:

- a) Request a comprehensive pay study to evaluate current market conditions, and, in the interim, will consider a pay increase as outlined above herein until a more appropriate solution is identified and agreed upon;
- b) Make significant reductions to the operating budget of the General Fund in order to prevent the catastrophic cuts that would be forced upon the County next year under the proposed 2019 budget offered by the County Executive;
- c) Amend the proposed budgets for the General Fund, Health Fund and the Special Road and Bridge Fund by reducing each by a minimum of 5%; and
- d) Review funding for the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership quarterly and will appropriate necessary and justified funds on that basis through supplemental appropriations; and
- e) Hold budget-related hearings, beginning in January 2019, to establish prudent fiscal changes to ensure a sound financial future for St. Louis County; and
- f) Recommend the aforementioned vacant and unused properties be sold and will, by ordinance, require the sale proceeds be placed into a designated fund to be used for the automation and technology needed to develop a truly 21st-century county government that is transparent, fiscally

- sound, and provides improved customer service for the residents of St. Louis County; and
- g) Encourage Budget Unit Directors to come to the Council in circumstances that may require justified supplemental appropriations during the fiscal 2019 budget year.

SECTION 2. The Administrative Director shall send a certified copy of this Resolution to the County Executive, the County's Budget Director and the directors of each Budget Unit within St. Louis County Government.

ADOPTED: _____

CHAIRMAN, COUNTY COUNCIL

ATTEST: _____
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

COUNTY COUNSELOR