



Pedro E. Segarra
Mayor

COLLABORATIVE FORMAT AND SCHEDULE SET FOR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETINGS FAIR AND BALANCED BUDGET A MUST DESPITE FISCAL CHALLENGES

---NEWS AND COMMUNITY ADVISORY---

Hartford Mayor Pedro E. Segarra and members of City Council will once again embrace a collaborative, workshop style during a series of Committee of the Whole (COW) meetings.

Last year, the City broke from the “business as usual” format by adopting this budget-building process that brought together the Mayor, City Council, Department Heads, the Board of Education, the Pension Commission and others. Guided by a shared vision, values, and priorities, the stakeholders achieved the following:

- closed a \$40 million deficit without a tax increase
- advanced critical projects identified in “One City One Plan”
- identified long-term projects to address structural budget challenges
- increased public confidence in the City’s ability to govern
- distinguished itself from surrounding communities which experienced much public rancor during their budget-setting meetings

Building on last year’s experience, City leaders will collaboratively discuss and examine options to address this year’s budget challenges. These discussions are grounded in the belief that a fair and open process will generate better decisions and more public support for decisions. Ted Carroll of Leadership Greater Hartford (LGH) will once again facilitate these workshops that will air live on Government Cable Access Television Channel 96 and stream live on www.hartford.gov.

Mayor Segarra says, “Hartford, like many urban areas, faces fiscal challenges. However, our situation is more unique because we are the regional center for jobs and services and must work collaboratively to maintain our momentum in the areas of education, public safety and economic development while also meeting the needs of our taxpayers and positioning ourselves for future growth.”

Council President rJo Winch is glad the City is repeating this cooperative approach to balancing the budget. “We need a budget that provides basic services that directly impact our residents and also provides a future for our children.”

Ted Carroll states, “This process worked last year and Leadership Greater Hartford is proud to participate again. Many creative ideas were put on the table and that ‘big picture thinking’ will be necessary again to help make better informed decisions.”

Here’s the workshop schedule for the FY 2011-2012 budget:

Thursday, February 24th--- Financial Forecast

Thursday, March 3rd--- Fiscal Task Force/Internal Audit/Pension/Benefits

Tuesday, March 8th--- Council Priorities

Thursday, March 17th--- Revenue/Debt/Capital Improvement Projects

Thursday, March 24th--- BOE/City-School Shared Services

Thursday, March 31st--- Session Wrap-up

All meetings are set for 5:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers but themes are topics are subject to change.