

Understanding the City of New Plymouth Budget

The City of New Plymouth prepares a budget each year using limited financial resources. Not all City funds can be used for every purpose. Some money is legally restricted, meaning it must be spent only on specific services.

This page explains how City funds work and how residents can provide informed input during the budget process.

Why Are City Funds Limited?

The City receives a fixed amount of revenue each year. State laws, voter approvals, grant requirements, and accounting rules determine how much money is available and how it can be used.

Because resources are limited, spending more in one area often means spending less in another. The City must balance these needs while continuing to provide essential services in a responsible way.

What Are City Funds?

City finances are organized into separate funds. Each fund has a specific purpose, and money generally cannot be moved between funds.

This system:

- Ensures transparency
 - Follows legal requirements
 - Protects taxpayers and utility customers
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What Is the General Fund?

The **General Fund** pays for services that benefit the entire community.

Examples include:

- Police services and public safety
- Street maintenance and repairs

- Parks and recreation
- City administration
- Planning and code enforcement
- Community programs and events

Because many services rely on the General Fund, decisions about how it is used directly affect residents across the city.

Where Does General Fund Revenue Come From?

General Fund revenue typically comes from:

- Property taxes
- Local option taxes
- Fees and permits
- State-shared and intergovernmental revenue

These revenue sources are limited, so the City must prioritize how General Fund dollars are spent each year.

What Are Enterprise Funds?

Enterprise Funds support utility services that are paid for by users rather than by taxes.

These services include:

- Water
- Sewer

Enterprise Funds function like a utility business. Money collected from utility customers is used only to operate, maintain, and improve that specific service.