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**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

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**City to Accelerate Release of Sales Tax Numbers**

Steamboat Springs, Colorado—City Manager Jon Roberts has announced that the City shall provide early release of preliminary monthly sales tax revenues each month.

“This information will benefit local businesses as well as the City in the management of financial resources,” City Manager Jon Roberts said. This action was approved at Tuesday’s City Council meeting in response to a proposal from the City’s new Finance Director, Deb Hinsvark, whose first day on the job was Monday.

Generally, retailers who collect sales tax must file a report with the City by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the following month. In the past, the City has released that sales tax data, containing the final, fully-reconciled numbers, on or around the middle of the subsequent month. As an example, January sales are reported to the City on February 20 and by March 15, the City’s Finance Department posts a report of the related tax data. Under the new plan, preliminary numbers would be posted within days after the City’s filing deadline, on the first day of the month. Then the final report, which will include other mountain communities, will be released on the regular monthly schedule.

Sales tax numbers provide the community with valuable economic indicators and the City would like to get as much information to the public as soon as possible. “Since the data will be preliminary and unaudited, we want to remind the users that it will change with the final report,” Finance Director Deb Hinsvark said. “However, our history leads us to believe that the preliminary data will be 90 – 99% complete and will be a useful tool to our business community.”

This new policy is a result of a new program of weekly meetings between the City Manager and local businesses. Roberts has been meeting weekly with local business owners to discuss how they are doing during these challenging economic times and to tour their facilities. From these visits, it has become apparent that providing preliminary sales tax figures would be a useful economic indicator.

“This is a fantastic response to the needs of our local businesses,” Council President Cari Hermanski said.

For more information, please contact Finance Director Deb Hinsvark at (970)871-8240 or email her at [dhinsvark@steamboatsprings.net](mailto:dhinsvark@steamboatsprings.net)

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