For Immediate Release
August 2, 2012

For more information contact:
City of Kyle
Jerry Hendrix 512-262-3921

Kyle City Manager Presents 2012-2013 City Budget to Council

Kyle City Manager Lanny Lambert presented his Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13 totaling $41.6 million to the City Council at the August 1, Special Called meeting. The budget as proposed allows for all City programs and services to continue at their current levels, but does not provide for any new employees, programs, equipment, roads, or facilities.

The proposed budget includes a proposal to increase property taxes by $0.0399 to $0.5244 per $100 of valuation. The additional revenue generated by the tax increase is estimated to raise an additional $554,668 and will fund increases in the City's debt service obligations, additional funding requirements brought on increases in fuel, public safety and personnel costs. Additionally, the tax increase will allow the City to decrease the amount of money transferred from the City owned water utility by $300,000, create an "Emergency Reserve Fund" as called for the City's new Debt Management Policy by funding $350,000 into the fund, and allow for a 3.5% cost of living adjustment for City employees.

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The proposed budget also includes a 20% increase in water and wastewater rates. These rate increases represent the second year of a three-year plan to bring revenues from the City's water and wastewater utility into balance with the utility's expenses.

The City Council will be hearing presentations from City staff and taking public input during a series of workshops and special meeting in the months of August and September. The City Council is scheduled to approve the budget on September 5th.

The Public Hearings will be conducted as part of the Budget Workshops (special called and regular meetings) of the Kyle City Council on the City's proposed Fiscal Year 2012-13 Annual Budget, Property Tax Rates, Fees & Charges, and Water/Wastewater Rates at the Kyle City Hall, 100 West Center Street, Kyle, Texas, on the following dates and time:

- **Budget Workshop #1: Wednesday, August 1, 2012, 7:00 p.m., City Hall**
- **Budget Workshop #2: Thursday, August, 2, 2012, 7:00 p.m., City Hall**
- **Budget Workshop #3: Wednesday, August 8, 2012, 7:00 p.m., City Hall**
- **Budget Workshop #4: Wednesday, August 15, 2012, 7:00 p.m., City Hall**
- **Budget Workshop #5: Thursday, August 23, 2012, 7:00 p.m., City Hall**
- **Budget Workshop #6: Tuesday, September 4, 2012, 7:00 p.m., City Hall (1st Reading)**
- **Budget Workshop #7: Wednesday, September 5, 2012, 7:00 p.m., City Hall (2nd Reading)**

All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearings and provide their comments to the City Council. Electronic copy of the City's proposed Fiscal Year 2012-13 Annual Budget document will be made available on the City's website at

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CityofKyle.com beginning August 2, 2012. Paper copies of the proposed budget for public inspection will be available also beginning August 2, 2012 during business hours Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Friday (except on a City holiday) at the Kyle City Hall, 100 West Center Street, Kyle, Texas.

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For Immediate Release
August 15, 2012

For more information contact:
City of Kyle
Jeff Barnett, Kyle Chief of Police
512-268-0859

Kyle Police Join Annual Labor Day DWI Enforcement Campaign

KYLE, TX – "Annual Labor Day DWI Enforcement Campaign: August 19 – September 5 Drink. Drive. Go To Jail" - That's the message Kyle Police Department and other officers around the state would like to send out to all motorists this Labor Day.

Beginning August 19th and continuing through September 5th, the Kyle Police Department will be stepping up enforcement and awareness activities to prevent drinking and driving on the city's roadways. The Kyle Police Department, in conjunction with other local and state agencies are participating in this effort to increase awareness of the consequences of drinking and driving in the state of Texas.

"The Kyle Police Department is committed to enhancing roadway safety in our community," said Kyle Police Chief Jeff Barnet. "The Labor Day holiday weekend is often a dangerous time as families try to end their summer with one last trip. We would like to do our part to make that trip a safe and happy one, as opposed to a tragic one. As part of the statewide traffic initiative, the Kyle Police Department will be using every available resource to enforce the state and local traffic laws to promote roadway safety and compliance."

Convicted first time DWI offenders can pay a fine of up to $2,000, lose their driver's license for up to one year and serve as much as 180 days in jail. Safety officers say other costs associated with an impaired driving arrest and conviction can add up to as much as $17,000 or

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more for bail, legal fees, court appearances, court-ordered classes, vehicle insurance increases, and other expenses.

With Texas leading the nation in drunk driving crashes and fatalities, it is imperative that citizens follow the law and seek alternative methods to driving after drinking. The Kyle Police Department urges impaired individuals to consider calling a cab, asking a friend or family member, or use a designated driver to prevent potential injury or worse, fatality on the roadways.

In 2010, the state of Texas experienced 25,032 alcohol-related crashes, of which there were 1,057 deaths and 16,877 injuries. It is of the utmost importance and priority for the Kyle Police Department to contribute to the reduction of those numbers. The Kyle Police Department urges its residents to drive safely, stay buckled and avoid any instances of drinking and driving every day.

“We would be very happy to not issue a single ticket or arrest a single person,” said Barnett. “However, if a driver is going to be reckless and put the public at risk, we are going to do everything possible to stop that activity.”

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For immediate Release
August 28, 2012

For more information contact:
City of Kyle
Jerry Hendrix, APR 512-262-3921

Historic Kyle Train Depot Restoration Continues

With Phase I nearing completion, focus turns to Phase II and fundraising

Kyle, Texas – The work to restore Kyle's historic train depot is well underway as the first phase of the project nears completion. The work completed in Phase 1 included installing a new foundation and roof as well as a construction of a couple of brick chimneys as seen on the building in historic photographs.

The project is expected to move into Phase II later in September and will restore the exterior of the building. Phase II will give the depot a much needed facelift by repairing or replacing the wood exterior, repairing or replacing the doors and windows, and giving the building fresh paint which will bring back to its original historic look.

After the completion of Phase II, the attention will turn to restoring the building's interior to its original state. The work plan for Phase IIIa not only includes restoring the building's interior, but also installing new electrical and plumbing systems, a new HVAC system, new wall framing, restrooms and finishes.

Phase IIIb will give the building a new platform and handicap accessible ramp. Other

site improvements include a community plaza, restroom outbuilding, and relocating the caboose on new tracks

The building, originally built in 1917, has played a key role in the history of the City of Kyle. Even before the train depot was built, the railroad was the original reason for establishing the town. In 1880, city founders David Moore and Fergus Kyle deeded 200 acres to the International-Great Northern Railroad with the intention of starting a town, which later became the City of Kyle.

For years the depot was the center of activity for the city and remains a key element as a gateway into the city's historic downtown and has served as home to the Kyle Area Chamber of Commerce.

"The work that has been completed already is remarkable and substantial," said Kate Johnson, Chairperson for the Kyle Train Depot Committee. "We still have a lot more to do, particularly in the area of fundraising to see this through. We are truly appreciative to everyone who has given to the project so far and look forward to completing this project and returning the building to a proper public use."

The project, which is expected to cost approximately $900,000 is being funded mostly by private donations. The City of Kyle has dedicated $250,000 to the project through bonds being repaid through the City's Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund. Other donations include $25,000 coming from a grant for the Pedernales Electric Cooperative and grants and donations which have been received from the Burdine Johnson Foundation, Soliref Inc., and various private donors.

"We've obviously had some success in raising funds for this project," said Johnson. "We also have a long way to go. We feel that the restoration of this valuable icon of Kyle's history should be preserved, and with the generous help of our community

and other stakeholders, we will make that happen."

The entire project is expected to take 10 to 12 months, depending on funding. Once the project is completed, the building will be used as a museum commemorating Kyle's history and will also continue to house the Kyle Area Chamber of Commerce.

The architect for the project is Clayton&Little Architects, and the contractor is SpawGlass, Inc., both are based in Austin.

Interested persons can follow the progress of the project on the Kyle web site at CityofKyle.com. Anyone interested in making donations can contact the City of Kyle at 512-262-3921.

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For immediate Release
September 6, 2012

For more information contact:
City of Kyle
Jerry Hendrix, APR 512-262-3921

Kyle City Council Finalizes Budget for 2012-2013

KYLE, TX – After months of work by city staff and numerous public workshops and public hearings, the Kyle City Council has approved the City's Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13. The budget totals $41.64 million allows for all City programs and services to continue at their current levels. The budget was approved on first reading at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on Tuesday, September 4th. The second reading of the budget was conducted during a special called meeting of the City Council on Wednesday, September 5th. Both reading passed on 4-2 votes with Mayor Lucy Johnson, Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hervol, and Council Members David Wilson and Samantha Bellows-LaMense voting for the budget. Council Members Ray Bryant and Bradley Pickett voted against the budget at both reading. Council Member Becky Selbera was out with an illness for both readings.

"Developing and passing a budget that covers all the needs of the city while keeping taxes and utility rates at a reasonable rate is the most important job of the City Council," said Kyle Mayor Lucy Johnson. "The council and city staff worked very hard

for many months to craft this budget, and as difficult as it is to raise taxes and utility rates, we believe that it was necessary to bring our revenues more inline with our expenses. We've gone over every line item in this budget and it is as lean as they come."

The budget includes an increase in property taxes of $0.0399 per $100 of valuation, bringing the total property tax assessment to $0.5244 per $100 of valuation. The additional revenue generated by the tax increase is estimated to raise an additional $555,509 and will fund increases in the City's debt service obligations, additional funding requirements brought on increases in fuel, public safety and personnel costs. Additionally, the tax increase will allow the City to decrease the amount of money transferred from the City owned water utility by $300,000, create an "Emergency Reserve Fund" as called for the City's new Debt Management Policy by funding $350,000 into the fund, and allow for a 3.5% cost of living adjustment for City employees.

"City staff have gone a number of years without a meaningful wage increase and without adding any new personnel or equipment," said Johnson. "Although we are not in a position to add people or equipment, we did feel that a moderate wage increase was due. I would like to thank our city staff for their dedication, diligence and for making due with what they have to keep our city safe and beautiful."

The City Council approved adding a part-time animal control officer who will cover some nights and weekends. The City currently has only one animal control officer.

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The budget also allows for the hiring of two full-time and one part-time dispatcher for the police department to relieve overtime for the department's communication staff. Funding for these positions comes from reallocating funds from a currently vacant police officer position. The only other new position is for an additional motorcycle officer to be used in the traffic control division of the police department.

The City Budget for 2012-2013 also includes a 20% increase in water and wastewater rates for all City of Kyle Water Utility customers. This increase represents the second year of the City's three-year plan to bring the utilities rates to a level that covers its expenses. The utility did not have a rate increase for 10 years prior to raising rates in the 2011-2012 budget.

The City Council conducted 5 public workshops that included 20 public hearings on various parts of the budget and presentations from City staff.

"Public input is a huge part of the budget development process," said Mayor Johnson. "The council realizes that the money we authorize to be spent comes from our citizens, and we want them to know that we spend that money as thriftily as we can. We also realize that the public has expectations as to what services are delivered. Those services cost money and we work very hard to balance the expectation of low taxes with the expectation of service delivery and the value of that service."

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For immediate Release
September 13, 2012

For more information contact:
City of Kyle
Jerry Hendrix, APR 512-262-3921

City of Kyle Finishes Budget Year With a Good Number

The City's Sales Tax Receipts for September
Up 42% Over Previous Year

KYLE, TX – The City of Kyle's bank account received an unexpected, but very welcome, boost this week when the Texas Comptroller's office release sales tax numbers for September. These numbers showed that Kyle racked in $287,654, which is almost $75,000 (42%) more then the same month last year.

"We've grown to expect to see increases in our sales tax receipts over the past couple of years," said Kyle Mayor Lucy Johnson. "Our collections have been positive news for us lately and I think that shows that Kyle has strong economic fundamentals in place and that our financial future is very bright."

The City of Kyle ends the year with total sales tax collections of $3,540,287, compared to $3,155,933 in 2011. The sales tax collections for this year were budgeted at $3,306,400, giving the City an additional $233,877 for to add to the City's coffers. Sales tax collections for the City of Kyle have risen steadily for the past decade. The collections for 2002 was just over $500,000.

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"It is great to have such a healthy sales tax year," said City of Kyle Finance Director Perwez Moheet. "The additional funds will be rolled into the City's fund balance and will help to offset some expenses that were not anticipated this year."

"The City of Kyle has seen remarkable growth in our tax base over the past five or six years," said Johnson. "Our sales tax was approximately $1.7 million in 2007, and we've effectively doubled that in 2012. I think that shows that what we are doing here in Kyle is working. It also shows that the citizens of Kyle really support our local businesses and hopefully this sends a message to businesses that are not here yet that they should really take a long hard look at what Kyle has to offer."

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