

Responsible choice

After the Fresno City Council and I made the balanced, responsible choice to put \$1 million of a \$4.1 million windfall into our reserve, The Bee Editorial Board said that I was ignoring “a glaring need.” I assure you, every day at City Hall, we’re faced with at least a dozen “glaring needs.”

In fact, there was an online poll last week: “In your opinion, which is more important — more Fresno parks or street/sidewalk repair?” Ninety-six percent voted for streets and sidewalks.

I want more parks, too. That’s why the FY2016 budget includes \$5.8 million for parks and why we’ll look at additional funding for parks and street repair if our mid-year budget review shows that money is there.

That’s also why the city has been in discussions with Fresno Unified to open its playground space, especially in central and south Fresno.

It’s a basic tenet of human nature that you’ll be less careful spending other people’s money than you would with your own. I have avoided that temptation while, at least in this instance, The Bee seems to embrace it.

Let’s instead embrace the advice of Warren Buffet: “Do not save what is left after spending, but spend what is left after saving.”

Ashley Swearengin, mayor of Fresno