

I would like the following issues addressed by the Council and Administration for the 2009 budget:

1. **Mayor's Budget** – City Administrator Position – Given the budget challenges and the personnel cuts, this position should not be funded. While the argument is the Charter provides for it, the city managed without this position for more than six years. It is not prudent on our part to fund an executive position while the city is experiencing revenue shortfalls and other personnel are being cut. The Mayor and Council must demonstrate cuts in our areas while we insist cuts in other depts. Alternatively, as the Mayor insists that he needs to have this position and that he stands by his position, I suggest, to move forward, that the budget be cut by 1% allowing the Mayor to make the right decision and collectively we reinvest those funds in one of the critical need areas, such as adding a deputy.
2. **Community Policing** – The city will not be in a position to hire additional 6 or 8 or 10 officers. With the type of crime that we experience in our city community policing will be effective. With minimal resources it provides both tangible and intangible benefits. I have advocated for this in 2007 and 2008. I urge for us to seriously consider this for the 2009 budget.
3. **Dispatch** – For three consecutive years I have been advocating to address the duplication of this service. It costs the city approximately \$1 million annually. The contract with Sheriff dept has costs included for 911 service and in addition to it we have our own costs. I am not sure why the hesitation to address this issue. Recently, the entire 911 calls both land and cell have been shifted to OCCC, but we continue to keep the status quo and incur another \$1 million in duplicative costs for the 2009 budget year. If we eliminated this cost in 2009, we can reduce the Fire fund millage by .10 and add that to the general fund which will give us an opportunity to increase revenue.

Since I have been on council the city wasted \$3 million in tax payer dollars. This is not a prudent thing we are doing. The Fire department raised its salaries by 8 – 10% costing annual increase of approximately \$700,000 and the status quo is reflected in the future year projections clearly showing by 2011 there will be huge shortfalls.

4. **The Parks department** cuts was primarily due to the recommendation I have made of not allocating costs for future facilities replacement. There have been no real cuts. There are opportunities to make changes in the department. One specific suggestion has been to privatize the Museum and EEC and create a public/private partnership.
5. **Expiring Bond Millage** – This gives an opportunity to request the residents to continue to fund it, without raising tax levels, so it can be used to meet some of the critical needs. This request will most likely be in competition with a potential request by the School District and the Library either in 2009 or 2010.
6. **Travel Costs** – Eliminate out of state travel wherever possible
7. **Tree Fund** – Set up an endowment and operating fund accounts and allocate personnel costs to the operating fund. If this were implemented in 2008 there would be some savings to the general fund.

8. **Hills Herald** – I would recommend moving entirely to e-news and eliminate the printing, mailing and any other associated costs. Alternatively we should evaluate, once a year if we partnered with Rochester Post or Lifestyles and did an insert in those papers what would the costs be and are there any benefits to it.

This past week the third quarter 2008 budget amendment showed the general fund balance has dropped by approximately \$1 million due to revenue short falls and cost increases. We received a forecast in March of this year indicating a 17.5% decline in revenue. Since 2004 every year the costs continue to go up. I feel if we do not take proactive steps to do major changes the problems will not go away and given the economic conditions it will be much difficult in the future coming years.

Additionally, the following issues should be addressed by us at the earliest:

1. Establish the trust for Supplemental Retiree Health
2. Review the Weed Control Program assessment of charges to cover 100% of the costs
3. Survey – conduct external survey once every five years. Recommend to conduct an internal survey once every three years to learn from staff of the city. To conduct this survey the costs will not be more than \$3,000.
4. SAD Policy – for converting gravel roads to paving.
5. LDFA – We need to review a 10-yr plan for a clear understanding on the future direction, revenue and costs.
6. Brownfield Redevelopment Policy – given the experience of the properties on Hamlin and Hamlin/Adams I recommend, to be proactive, we adopt a policy on the redevelopment of the Brownfield's in our city.