



CITY OF NEW BRITAIN

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THE HONORABLE ERIN E. STEWART

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Mayor Stewart Presents No Tax Increase Budget for 2020-21 to Common Council

NEW BRITAIN—Mayor Erin Stewart presented on Wednesday to the Common Council a \$234,848,391 budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

“This budget is balanced, fair, and most importantly does not impose a tax increase on the residents of New Britain,” said Stewart. “As in the previous six cycles, I was committed to making the budget work honestly, transparently, and without using any gimmicks.”

In her message to the Common Council, the Mayor stressed that the current public health and economic crisis due to COVID-19 is going to have a lasting financial impact on the City.

“Though it’s too early to fully quantify, I am proactively anticipating reduced revenue streams coming into the City starting this year,” said Stewart. “We’ve been forced to make temporary cuts in areas that we normally wouldn’t. Everybody and everything is impacted, including local government. We know property tax collections will be down and we know market yields will be flat. We, like so many of our residents, have been forced to adjust.”

The Mayor’s proposed budget represents a reduction of roughly \$8 million from the current fiscal year’s budget. “We’re all pinching pennies right now. When it comes to our revenue stream, I’d rather make a temporary budget cut than raise taxes. Our taxpayers can’t afford any additional burdens during these challenging times,” said Stewart.

She also called upon Common Council members to begin brainstorming ways to help close next year’s anticipated budgetary gap. Last year, the Mayor presented a list of 40 revenue generating ideas. “I cannot stress how important it is that we all work as a team to find new, creative ways to generate future revenue,” Stewart said.

Looking ahead to next year, the City will see increases in the following areas: the cost of doing business, contractual obligations, medical self-insurance payments, Police and Fire pension contributions, and debt service payments. These increased payments will leave the City with a projected \$14.7 million hole in the projected fiscal year 2022 budget.

In January, department heads requested a total of \$256,934,982, a spending increase of 5.9 percent, which would have required a real estate and personal property mill rate increase from 50.50 mills to 61.49 mills, a difference of 10.99 mills.

The Mayor’s budget now gets referred to every council sub-committee: Administration, Finance, and Law; Planning, Zoning, and Housing; and Consolidated for council discussion. The Common Council must adopt a budget by June 8. A public hearing on the budget will be announced in the forthcoming weeks.

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