



Cavalier Johnson
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

November 11, 2022

Honorable Members of the Common Council:

The Milwaukee Common Council and I substantially agree on the majority of next year's fiscal plan. I am, however, vetoing portions of File #220001, the 2023 City Budget.

For more than a century, city leaders have acted with care and foresight to put Milwaukee in a solid, long-term fiscal position. We paid our bills, funded reserves, sensibly borrowed, and fulfilled our obligations to the pension system.

Though I respect the attention and consideration the Milwaukee Common Council has directed to my proposed budget, I am concerned about Council action that increases our budgetary challenges over the next several years.

As I have said repeatedly, I take no pleasure in staffing cuts, and I have no desire to reduce city services. In crafting the city budget, we simply do not have good choices. Our revenue is insufficient to cover our growing financial obligations. The only reasonable option is to budget prudently. That means taking steps this year that prepare us for the even more difficult years ahead.

We could carry on without many of the belt-tightening measures proposed this year, but the impact would be ephemeral. At this time next year, the cuts will be even harsher, the results more severe, and the consequences much crueler to our constituents and colleagues in city employment because of this year's amendments.

I am vetoing portions of the omnibus budget amendment because they disrupt the gradual changes we need to make in our libraries and in our fire department. They also siphon off American Rescue Plan Act money we need to replace lost revenue in our 2024 budget.

If I were to accept the changes the Council has submitted, it would place the city in a worse fiscal situation next year and in subsequent years. I am not willing to do that.

Of the hundreds of Council files that have crossed my desk, this is the first I have vetoed. It is an action I take with both restraint and seriousness. My vetoes are more than an expression of opposition; they are reserved for files that divert us from the path we should be on.

In appreciation of the sentiment expressed by Council actions on the 2023 budget, I propose a compromise. Accompanying this veto, I offer substitute language that partially restores Library and Fire Department funding that was reduced in my original budget proposal.

A second veto is a technical modification that acknowledges sufficient funding already exists for the two new positions added to the Department of Neighborhood Services' Development Center, so levy funding is not necessary.

I ask the Council to sustain my vetoes and act affirmatively on the proposed substitutes.

Both the city's Budget and Management Division and staff from my office are available to answer questions and further discuss the coming year's budget.

Sincerely,

Cavalier Johnson
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cavalier Johnson', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Attachment

VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS, AMENDMENT 1K

A. DISAPPROVAL ACTION

The Mayor disapproves of the following budget line(s) in the 2023 budget (which were affected by Common Council Amendment 1K- which affected various departments). The Healthy Foods Establishment Fund has approximately \$400,000 for carryover. The Emergency Medical Services staffing study will be funded through a larger operational study done in conjunction with local philanthropic support.

BMD-2 Page and <u>Line No.</u>	<u>Item Description</u>	<u>2023 Positions or Units</u>	<u>2023 Amount</u>
SECTION I.A.1. BUDGETS FOR GENERAL CITY PURPOSES			
DEPARTMENT OF CITY DEVELOPMENT GENERAL MANAGEMENT & POLICY DEVELOPMENT			
140.10-2	Healthy Food Establishment Fund*	--	\$100,000
CITY TREASURER			
150.1-11	Temp. Customer Service Rep. I	20	\$55,114
150.2-22	Personnel Cost Adjustment	--	\$-26,043
150.3-8	O&M FTE'S	30.08	--
150.3-14	ESTIMATED EMPLOYEE FRINGE BENEFITS	--	\$769,561
FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION			
210.4-22	Emergency Medical Services staffing study (B) (C)	--	\$100,000
FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS BUREAU			
220.3-16	Fire Captain	39	\$4,396,435
220.3-17	Fire Lieutenant	126	\$12,094,581
220.3-18	Firefighter / Paramedic (H)	367	\$27,860,173
220.3-19	Heavy Equipment Operator	133	\$12,268,012
220.4-5	Overtime Compensated (Special Duty)	--	\$5,821,411
220.4-13	Grants & Aids Deduction	--	\$-51,735,682

220.4-18	NON-O&M FTE'S	492.50	--
220.4-26	ESTIMATED EMPLOYEE FRINGE BENEFITS	--	\$8,737,306
	LIBRARY		
	ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES		
240.5-21	Custodial Worker II – City Laborer (X)	11	\$449,314
240.7-24	Grant & Aids Deduction	--	\$-278,925
240.8-4	NON-O&M FTE'S	9.20	--
	BRANCH LIBRARY SERVICES		
240.11-11	Library Services Manager (X)	12	\$945,591
240.11-12	Librarian III	23	\$1,474,452
240.11-13	Library Reference Assistant	8	\$405,204
240.11-14	Library Services Coordinator	12	\$644,788
240.11-15	Library Circulation Services Rep.	28	\$1,120,938
240.11-17	Library Circulation Services Rep. (0.475 FTE)	15	\$281,516
240.12-14	Grant & Aids Deduction	--	\$-734,869
240.12-19	NON-O&M FTE'S	16.75	--
390.1-3	FRINGE BENEFIT OFFSET	--	\$-163,730,926

In lieu of the above disapproved item I recommend adoption of the following substitute action:

B. SUBSTITUTE ACTION

<u>BMD-2</u> <u>Page and</u> <u>Line No.</u>	<u>Item Description</u>	<u>2023 Positions</u> <u>or Units</u>	<u>2023 Amount</u>
	SECTION I.A.1. BUDGETS FOR GENERAL CITY PURPOSES		
	CITY TREASURER		
150.1-11	Temp. Customer Service Rep. I	15	\$38,580

150.2-22	Personnel Cost Adjustment	--	\$-52,085
150.3-8	O&M FTE'S	29.75	--
150.3-14	ESTIMATED EMPLOYEE FRINGE BENEFITS	--	\$750,402
	FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS BUREAU		
220.3-16	Fire Captain	38	\$4,311,888
220.3-17	Fire Lieutenant	124	\$11,950,598
220.3-18	Firefighter / Paramedic (H)	358	\$27,347,758
220.3-19	Heavy Equipment Operator	130	\$12,060,470
220.4-5	Overtime Compensated (Special Duty)	--	\$5,679,138
220.4-13	Grants & Aids Deduction	--	\$-50,402,346
220.4-18	NON-O&M FTE'S	481.25	--
220.4-26	ESTIMATED EMPLOYEE FRINGE BENEFITS	--	\$8,858,594
	LIBRARY		
	ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES		
240.5-21	Custodial Worker II – City Laborer (X)	9	\$367,621
240.7-24	Grant & Aids Deduction	--	\$-197,232
240.8-4	NON-O&M FTE'S	7.20	--
	BRANCH LIBRARY SERVICES		
240.11-11	Library Services Manager (X)	9	\$709,194
240.11-12	Librarian III	27	\$1,703,879
240.11-13	Library Reference Assistant	7	\$354,554
240.11-14	Library Services Coordinator	12	\$644,788
240.11-15	Library Circulation Services Rep.	20	\$800,669
240.11-17	Library Circulation Services Rep. (0.475 FTE)	8	\$150,142
240.12-14	Grant & Aids Deduction	--	\$-252,606

240.12-19	NON-O&M FTE'S	6.43	--
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390.1-3	FRINGE BENEFIT OFFSET	--	\$-163,833,055

C. COMBINED EFFECT OF ACTIONS A & B ABOVE:

1. Budget Effect = \$0
2. Levy Effect = \$0
3. Rate Effect = \$0.000

DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES, AMENDMENT 30A

A. DISAPPROVAL ACTION

The Mayor disapproves of the following budget line(s) in the 2023 budget: (which were affected by Common Council Amendment 30A which added funding, position authority and FTEs to support operations of the Development Center in the Department of Neighborhood Services). The intent is to retain the positions and fund with a carryover from unspent 2022 salary funds.

<u>BMD-2 Page and Line No.</u>	<u>Item Description</u>	<u>2023 Positions or Units</u>	<u>2023 Amount</u>
SECTION I.A.1. BUDGETS FOR GENERAL CITY PURPOSES			
DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES			
270.6-19	Plan Examiner III	12	\$837,258
270.6-21	Plan Examiner Specialist	4	\$206,542
270.6-22	Program Assistant II	8	\$354,301
270.7-24	O&M FTE'S	189.88	--
270.8-19	ESTIMATED EMPLOYEE FRINGE BENEFITS	--	\$5,049,586
390.1-3	FRINGE BENEFIT OFFSET	--	\$-163,730,926

In lieu of the above disapproved item I recommend adoption of the following substitute action:

B. SUBSTITUTE ACTION

<u>BMD-2 Page and Line No.</u>	<u>Item Description</u>	<u>2023 Positions or Units</u>	<u>2023 Amount</u>
SECTION I.A.1. BUDGETS FOR GENERAL CITY PURPOSES			
DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES			
270.6-19	Plan Examiner III	12	\$763,366
270.6-21	Plan Examiner Specialist	4	\$177,036
270.6-22	Program Assistant II	8	\$331,955
270.7-24	O&M FTE'S	189.88	--

270.8-19	ESTIMATED EMPLOYEE FRINGE BENEFITS	--	\$4,993,001
390.1-3	FRINGE BENEFIT OFFSET	--	\$-163,776,470

C. COMBINED EFFECT OF ACTIONS A & B ABOVE:

1. Budget Effect = \$-125,744
2. Levy Effect = \$-125,744
3. Rate Effect = \$-0.004