

TO: Citizens of the City of Manitowoc  
Eric Sitkiewitz, Common Council President  
Jim Brey, Chair of the Finance Committee  
Members of the Manitowoc Common Council  
Employees of the City of Manitowoc

FROM: Mayor Justin M. Nickels

DATE: October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

RE: 2021 Executive Budget

Citizens of the City of Manitowoc, Common Council, and City Employees; I am proud to introduce the 2021 Executive Budget for your consideration.

The 2021 Executive Budget is the twelfth budget I have presented to the Common Council and the sixteenth budget I have worked on during my time with the city. I can unequivocally say this is the one I am most proud of from any I've presented or worked on. After several years of hard work, discipline, and a shared commitment to lower our debt, increase our reserves, and invest in our community – I am honored to present the most important document we approve each year – the citizen's budget.

The 2021 Executive Budget began with a few priorities that I laid out to Department Heads and a few priorities I have addressed publically over the past few months.

Priorities going into the 2021 Executive Budget process:

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic where people lost their jobs and businesses were affected negatively; there would be no tax increase (*even though our financial plan called for a 2% increase to help pay down our debt*)
- All departments were required to present a 0% increase in their budgets
- No new positions would be added to any department, the goal was to maintain our current employment (*even with the hiring freeze in effect*)
- Connecting Highway Aids from the State (*used to repair 11-miles worth of state roads in the city limits*) would go 100% toward Washington Street (*\$229,810*)

I am proud to say that we met and in some cases exceeded all of those priorities with this final budget I am presenting today. Department Heads did an excellent job adhering to submitting their individual budgets with 0% increases.

The 2021 Executive Budget:

- Decreases property taxes by 2.07%
- Follows the debt financing plan approved by Council and lowers overall debt
- Unassigned general fund balance projected to be \$5,300,000 by the end of 2021
- Puts over \$6,000,000 in road reconstruction citywide
- \$390,000 to repair Washington Street from S. 15<sup>th</sup> to S. 18<sup>th</sup> Street
- Invests \$3,300,000 into the River Point District (*former CN Peninsula*)
- Invests \$1,425,000 into Downtown (*continue what we started this year*)
- Eliminates the downtown/calumet corridor snow removal assessment fee
- Creates a locally controlled Revolving Loan Fund for small businesses
- Creates a COVID fund for future budgets of \$549,050
- Invests \$300,000 into the Mariner's Trail for upgrades
- No layoffs or elimination of any position and the employee pay plan is funded

This budget is a culmination of many years of hard work. The COVID-19 pandemic threw us a fastball, but thankfully because of our conservative budgeting over the years we are able to work through these difficult times and still provide the citizens excellent services while investing in the future of our community – without having to ask them to pay more in 2021!

I want to thank the Finance Department and Department Heads for helping put this budget together. We are providing this budget to you with all our support behind it.

Best wishes as you deliberate on behalf of the citizens you individually represent. I will always make myself available to discuss this in greater detail if you desire.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mayor Justin M. Nickels – Phone (920) 686-6980  
CITY HALL • 900 Quay Street • Manitowoc, WI 54220-4543 • Fax (920) 686-6989