



CITY OF AMSTERDAM, NEW YORK

Office of the Mayor

Mayor Michael Cinquanti

2023-24 Budget Message
Mayor Michael Cinquanti
City of Amsterdam, NY

The attached spending plan is structured to accomplish two key objectives:

- 1) to provide the level of services necessary to maintain and improve the quality of life in our city's neighborhoods;
- 2) to create an environment that helps attract more business and more development investment in our City.

Should the Council approve this budget proposal as presented, the proposed tax and user fees on a 100K single-family home, would increase by a total of \$50.60 in the 2023/2024 fiscal year, which represents less than a 2% increase from the current year.

This budget calls for an increase in total spending of just under \$3,000,000. The most significant components of that increase include: higher labor costs generated by the contract settlements with six of the City's bargaining units; a \$400,000 increase in the cost of the chemicals used to filtrate our City's drinking water; a \$160,000 increase in the cost of our City's liability insurance premium; the cash purchase of a new \$230,000 street sweeper; and a close to \$600,000 repayment on a bond we have executed to finance the upfront costs of several major projects our City will initiate this coming year. A large portion of this repayment amount will be offset by reimbursement revenues from grants we were awarded to help fund these projects.

This budget also forecasts \$2.5 million more in revenues as well. This includes increasing the forecasted budget for Sales Tax revenue by \$1.4 million, upping the revenue anticipated from the AFD Ambulance services by \$125,000 and adjusting revenue budgets in both the water and sewer accounts. All of these revenue decisions reflect actual receipts instead of underestimated budgeted amounts from previous years.

This budget provides for improvements and additional resources in every City department, which will in turn enable those departments to better serve the residents who live in Amsterdam, the employers who do business here and help attract new investment as well.

And I do want to point out that despite the warnings and trepidations of some when we made the decision to switch our City's health insurance coverage for employees and pensioners from self-insured to fully-insured, the appropriations budget for that line item will not need to be increased from the current year.

More so than at any time in the previous decade, the accounting focus of the budget process this year was on making sure each and every line item on both the revenue and expense side of the budget factored in actual amounts from recent history instead of traditionally inaccurate budgeted amounts carried forward. We also tried to include and budget for categories of significant spending, which have been ignored in the past and simply taken out of contingency accounts.

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I wish to thank our department heads and their staff for the input and support they provided in this year's budget development process. I especially recognize the efforts of Kim Brumley, who took charge of converting the budget decisions that were made, into the numbers we put on paper.

For a more detailed description of the specific departmental and city-wide initiatives funded by this budget, please reference my 2023 State of the City address which is available in the Mayor's section of our City's Web site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Cinquanti". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Michael Cinquanti, Mayor
City of Amsterdam, NY