



For Immediate Release

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Cohoes Mayor Bill Keeler Releases 2023 Budget Proposal

1% Property Tax Cut - First Reduction in Decades

Cohoes, NY (September 15, 2022) – Cohoes Mayor Bill Keeler today released his proposed 2023 city budget. The \$25.9 million budget proposal, includes:

- 1% reduction in the property tax rate
- No increase in sewer or water rates
- Full staffing of all city departments; and
- Decrease in spending from the General Fund adjusted 2022 city budget.

“Inflation has exacted a toll on our purchasing power, but we prepared for that possibility when we implemented our Tax Stabilization Plan one year ago. As a result of that planning – as well as an increase in sales tax revenue and savings generated from our recent LED streetlight rollout – we’re able to cut property taxes,” Mayor Bill Keeler said.

In addition to the reduced energy costs associated with the streetlight conversion, the city is also realizing savings from a citywide recycling program that significantly reduced landfill tipping fees. “One efficiency begets another. Next year we will replace the 330 energy-inefficient windows on city hall with savings generated by the new LED streetlights. That will create additional savings. Our Floating Solar project should come to fruition later next year, generating even larger savings in 2024,” Mayor Keeler said. “Cohoes has successfully pursued a variety of grant funding over the last 12 months and the year ahead is likely to be just as fruitful. Additionally, state and federal aid has allowed us to do much needed and long overdue public works projects.”

At the same time, public safety clearly remains the highest priority, with Fire and Police spending alone exceeding \$10 million in the proposed budget. Fire department staffing is currently at its highest level in decades, and the city continues to invest in technology geared toward helping its police department prevent crime and quickly solve cases.

“I have been the City Comptroller for 23 years and this is the first time that we have been able to lower taxes for the residents of Cohoes. The already-high cost of employee health and pension benefits increased dramatically year over year. Increases in sales tax revenue have helped with keeping the General Fund budget expenditures in check. I am also happy that we can keep water and sewer rates flat even though the cost of producing water has increased. The sewer fund is in the midst of the long-term control plan which also comes with increased expenses to the sewer budget. We will continue to look for new revenue sources and cost savings measures to continue this trend going forward,” Comptroller Mike Durocher said.

Mayor Keeler presented his budget proposal to the Board of Managers, who have until September 30, 2022 to review and make changes. The Board of Managers must submit a budget proposal to the Cohoes Common Council by October 1st, and the Council has until November 15th to enact a final budget.

A copy is available on the City of Cohoes website. Link here: [Mayor Keeler's 2023 Proposed Budget](#)

A public hearing on the Cohoes 2023 Fiscal Year budget is scheduled for Tuesday, October 11, 2022, beginning at 7 p.m., in the Cohoes Common Council Chambers, 2nd floor of City Hall. The meeting is open, and the public is welcome to attend.

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