



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

For Immediate Release:
September 24, 2008

Contact: Eileen Force
(414)286-8504

BARRETT DELIVERS 2009 BUDGET TO COMMON COUNCIL

Mayor makes clear priorities during uncertain economic times

MILWAUKEE – Mayor Tom Barrett delivered his 2009 budget for the City of Milwaukee this morning to the Common Council, one he called the most difficult he has ever faced. Because of a \$7 million hole in revenue caused by Council action to delay a decision on an increase in the solid waste fee, Barrett outlined two spending plans – one with the \$7 million in funds, and one without.

What the Mayor presented the Council with this morning was a balanced budget, as required by state law that included \$20 million in spending cuts and the elimination of 180 full-time positions. Barrett made clear however that this was not his “preferred budget,” one that included the following line items:

- \$3.415 million for the Police Department to fund 56 new recruits that would otherwise be eliminated
- \$1.455 million for the Fire Department to fund Firefighters that would allow for staffing flexibility otherwise not funded and avoid closing a second Engine Company
- \$520,000 needed to keep all 12 neighborhood libraries open and include \$300,000 of new materials otherwise not funded
- \$95,000 for Graffiti Abatement that would otherwise be eliminated
- \$564,000 to provide street side brush collection, avoid further reductions in streetlight burn time and minimize extensions to the tree pruning cycle

The Mayor’s preferred budget keeps the total impact on the average Milwaukee homeowner under the current rate of inflation. The tax rate increase is 3.6 percent, only slightly higher than the previous years’ average.

-more-

Barrett/add one
September 24, 2008

Highlights of the Mayor's 2009 budget include:

- \$325,000 for the Summer Youth Employment Project
- \$200,000 for the Driver's Licensure and Employment Project
- \$5.4 million in additional funding for improvements to local streets, street lighting, and traffic controls, a 39% increase over 2008 levels
- \$2 million in automated materials processing and check out at the Central Library
- \$1 million for the Villard Avenue Library Project

The Mayor's proposed budget now goes before the Finance and Personnel Committee of the Common Council where hearings on individual items will occur throughout the month of October. Amendments will be heard and final adoption of the 2007 budget will occur on Friday, November 7.

A copy of the Mayor's address before the Common Council is available on the Mayor's web site at www.milwaukee.gov.