

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 12, 2025

Mayor Diny Issues Budget Veto: “This Budget Is a Tax-Hike Setup, And I Won’t Sign It”

“I was not elected to raise taxes on an already highly taxed city. This veto is a line in the sand, even if Council overrides, the message is clear: stop the scare tactics, start planning for the fiscal cliff.” — Mayor Doug Diny

VETOED. The 2026 budget is returned unsigned to the Common Council.

At issue:

- Staff grew 7.5% in 4 years (+27 FTE) over half using one-time grants.
- Grants end 2026.
- Council wants them all — so they’re pushing a \$1.4M/year referendum with firefighter cuts as the threat.

Some alders tried to purge and hide data from the public; they literally asked to remove packet financial analysis they didn’t like. It feels like they want chaos; the public wants discussion on tax relief. One stated that they had ideas that will come out between now and January. Sorry, they had 8 weeks but, now hold out a promise to fix things in the 11th hour.

They don’t have to cut firefighters alone. They could cut anywhere, like overlapping Parks admin jobs. That permanently funds 4 firefighters.

This Veto Is a Message

- Council may have 8 votes to override. That’s fine.
- But taxpayers should remember who refused to cut one admin before asking for \$1.4 million more.