



June 28, 2021

Members of the City Council
Citizens of Waukegan

As I embark upon my first year as Mayor, I am reminded of the reasons I have chosen this path and of the steps necessary to move the City forward. As an experienced business owner, I have learned valuable lessons applicable to the management of local government. After all, local government is in the business of providing much-needed public services to a large clientele – the citizens of our community. Sound management and proven business practices are as crucial to local government as they are to the corporate world.

One of the immediate goals of my administration is to identify and address the pressing needs of our businesses and neighborhoods. We are just now returning to some sense of normalcy after a year-long pandemic and its devastating impact on our families and our economy. These may be uncertain times, but I am cautiously optimistic that we will witness the re-opening of our economy and, with it, a robust awakening of businesses affected by temporary closures and government restrictions. My administration will be there to lend assistance within the avenues available to us.

The preparation of this budget is but an initial step in moving forward with the ambitious goals I have for the next four years. My experience tells me it is always the right time to examine how we have operated in the past, identify what works and what doesn't, and formulate a strategic plan for accomplishing what needs to be done. To this end, we will use this budget to embrace new technologies to improve efficiencies, control costs through adherence to set budgets and constant monitoring, and invest in our employees, our most valued asset, through training and implementation of rigorous productivity standards. Our first goal must be to control costs and professionalize the delivery of services.

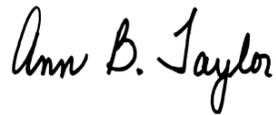
To this end, this budget contains the introduction of professional managers to move the City forward and bring about continuity in goals and strategies. In addition, this plan has a new position for a Lakefront Coordinator to lend expertise and direction to the redevelopment of our beautiful shoreline. As holders of the largest stretch of undeveloped lakefront between Chicago and Milwaukee, we know we have a diamond in the rough ripe for the right plan and developer. A Coordinator tagged with this specific responsibility will assist the administration in crafting the best plans possible for the redevelopment and best use of the City's lakefront area.

A second position funded in this budget is that of a professional engineer. Although the City has enjoyed a relationship with one or more private engineering companies for years, a full-time engineer would provide uninterrupted attention to the City's needs. This position will be supplemented with a second GIS Analyst budgeted in the Public Works Department.

We have taken great pains to craft ambitious but attainable goals in this budget. Measuring over \$181 million, forty-seven percent, or \$85 million, has been earmarked for public safety and supports over 300 uniformed and civilian personnel tasked with the safety of our community. In addition, streets, alleys, sidewalks, bridges, and general public works projects will receive \$14.5 million and 8% of total city-wide funding to maintain our highways and walkways. Water & Sewer operations have an operating budget of \$12 million, with an additional \$9.4 million earmarked to continue much-needed infrastructure projects.

My objective is to provide the best services possible with the resources available, control costs; improve efficiencies, and continue to professionalize our great City's management. I am confident that this agenda will set us on a path forward to ensuring that Waukegan continues to be the City of Progress and that we are giving our residents and businesses the professional government they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann B. Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ann B. Taylor
Mayor