

Mayor's Budget Message

As required Article XVIII, Sections 1801 to 1811.2 of the Third Class City Code and Optional Third Class City Charter Law, it is my pleasure to present for your consideration the City of York's proposed budget for calendar year 2013.

We worked diligently with cabinet members, and the Budget Team to develop this balanced budget, mindful of our City's needs while providing the best and most effective services given our financial constraints.

Since taking office over two and a half years ago, I have spoken often of our hopes for the City of York and our desire to build the city we want to become. We strive to be a safe city, where every resident can live, work and play; where every child has access to an excellent public education; and a city whose government is open and honest. I said at this time last year that we were on the right track and that we needed to stay the course. And that is exactly what we have done.

All 3rd Class Cities in Pennsylvania continue the difficult challenge of paying for necessary public services with revenue from an antiquated and inadequate revenue generating system. The financial picture for our sister cities in the region is very similar to ours and continues to deteriorate. This has not changed from previous years of performance, and I cannot overstate this enough.

As your Mayor, I continue to demand that these issues be addressed and that we not sit idle while our Commonwealth's core communities continue to struggle to conduct the business of government. I called upon you to help me to demand of our York County delegation of Pennsylvania elected officials, both representatives and senators, to listen and read our many email messages and letters, and you responded. We must continue to let our message be heard. The authority to lessen our City's over-dependence on property tax rests with our Commonwealth General Assembly.

The total 2013 proposed budget for the City of York is approximately \$96 million, with a General Fund budget of over \$41 million. A complete copy of this proposed budget is available at www.yorkcity.org. For 2013 the City of York will enjoy some financial relief, as there is no real estate tax increase proposed, and this is my goal as we look to 2014.

The relief is thanks in part to our Directors maintaining expenses at the 2010 levels, the newly instituted sewer fees collection processes, and decreased costs associated with overtime within our fire department, to name a few.

We will continue to work with City Council to minimize the impact going forward and to continue to provide the absolute best possible service to you, our citizens.

Respectfully,



C. Kim Bracey
Mayor