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October 25, 2023

City Council  
City of Sharon  
155 West Connelly Blvd.  
Sharon, PA 16146

Members of Council and Citizens of Sharon:

In accordance with the City Charter, I am submitting to City Council the proposed Annual Operating Budget for the City of Sharon for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024, ending December 31, 2024. The annual budget is one of the most important documents the City Council adopts each year. It was prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and all applicable City, State, and Federal requirements. This proposed budget maintains the exceptional level of service to our community, while leaving the real estate millage rate unchanged for the 14th consecutive year.

Following this submission to Council, as required by the City Charter, the budget will be posted for the public on the City's website. Budget hearings have been scheduled for November 15, 2023, at 6:00 PM, and November 29, 2023, at 6:00 PM.

The proposed 2024 operating budget totals \$10,783,314, which is \$341,286 (or 3%) more than the current year adopted budget. The 2024 proposed budget preparation process was challenged by a 28 percent increase in healthcare premiums. Although the 2024 budget increases by \$341,286 from the previous year, we continue to be resistant to raising taxes. The budget contains 2 percent (approximately \$140,000) wage increases next year for all three bargaining units and non-union employees.

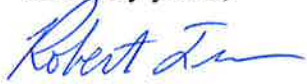
Additional revenue to support the proposed budget is generated through increases in earned income taxes and grants. The \$69,000 from the American Rescue Plan program covers the cost of lateral transfers in the police department. The Sick Time Buyback account was created in 2019, with the foresight to plan for future retirement obligations; \$160,000 will potentially be drawn down as necessary in 2024 to support possible retirements.

For 2024, the City has budgeted and will pay a total of \$561,093 in debt service, consisting of \$471,697 and \$89,396 in principal and interest payments, respectively.

In 2024 the City will continue to attack rental property compliance through transitioning part-time compliance specialists to one (1) full-time position. The City will continue to aggressively attack blight through the demolition of blighted and abandoned properties. Staffing in the Police and Fire Departments will remain at previous years' complements.

The budget was prepared by carefully and conservatively reviewing historical data in projecting revenue and in analyzing the realistic cost of providing all necessary services. All departments have scrutinized their controllable operating costs. We are committed to serving Sharon residents and businesses in a manner that is affordable and valued, ensuring that the City of Sharon continues to be a great place to live, work, and grow. I look forward to discussing the budget and working with members of City Council through its eventual adoption.

Sincerely yours,



Robert G. Fiscus, MPA, EFO, ICMA-CM  
City Manager