

From: [Conrad Miller](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Cc: [#CI-StPaul Ward4](#)
Subject: 2024 Proposed City Budget
Date: Friday, December 1, 2023 9:30:16 PM

Following is the text from an email I initially sent to the Council email contact on November 21st. Since I did not receive a confirmation of receipt I would like to know if it was received, if a response should be expected and/or if it will become part of written comments reviewed at the December 5th public hearing?

Conrad Miller

Email sent November 21st:

I recently received my proposed 2024 property tax statement. Proposed taxes on our home are expected to increase 12.2% in 2024 with a 9.6% increased in the portion going to the City. In addition to the taxes paid to the City through property taxes, the City also collects assessments for recycling, solid waste, storm sewer service charges, street maintenance, alley maintenance (though I believe the courts took away street and alley assessments in 2022) and special assessments for RSVP work. I also pay to plow the alley behind my house and see an average of 25% of my utility bill going to the City. The City also receives funding directly from the State. Finally, a few weeks ago the citizens of St Paul authorized an additional 1% sales tax to be used for road repairs and parks.

The amount of times and ways the City burdens residents is confusing and perhaps a bit extreme. Each of the methods used to generate revenue by the City makes the use of funds increasingly less transparent and caused me significant angst while trying to decide if voting for the additional 1% sales tax was good or bad for the City and residents.

While considering all of the different ways the City uses to generate revenue, I have some very specific questions related to money and budgets tied to road work and parks:

- With passage of the 1% sales tax increase will road and park funding in the proposed budget be reduced in lieu of a new funding source?
- If the budget for roads and parks is reduced will the proposed property tax likewise be reduced? If not, where will the budgeted dollars be

redirected?

- With passage of the 1% sales tax increase will residents still be assessed street and alley maintenance fees either directly or through property taxes?
- With passage of the 1% sales tax increase will neighborhoods undergoing an RSVP project still be assessed?
- SPRWS recently announced plans to replace lead service pipes throughout the City. Does the cost of this come from water user fees or is this a new cost to the City?

Conrad Miller