Dear Councilors,

I’m not going to repeat myself too much from last year, but the percent increases for the city are still on track to double in about 19 years or less.

I wrote Council last year and the response I got was that they were concerned about it too, and were going to work on it over the coming year. Well, here we have the results. You still don’t get it.

The city assumed inflation rate is 2%, but my pension increase, based on the CPI, only went up 1.4%, as did my wife’s.’

In the Mayor’s December newsletter, he said that he thought the budget could be whittled down to something more like the 2%.

From this Gazette story, there is still time to move in that direction in the coming days before the Council meeting of the 23rd.

I worked in government for 33 years, and went through a lot of budget cuts. The way it was done, if the guy was serious about it, was just to tell the managers and the finance people to cut the budget across the board to meet the target expenditure increase.

No nonsense or sacred cows, except entitlements. Don’t get lost in every line item. Just do it at the high level.

Then managers cut where you want, but just make the cuts.

This is what is needed now.

The idea that there is nothing left to cut is absurd.

It’s all in the approach and the political will.

Thank you,

Tom Muir