

2009 – 2010 Budget:

I apologize for not being able to attend the Budget Committee meetings. The meetings were held on Saturdays and I work 6 days a week.

However, I attended the first meeting long enough to make my proposal. Enact the revenue streams items that are in limbo. Put into effect immediately a 10% decrease {spending, departments, salaries} across the board. It is my belief that an increase in revenue along with a decrease in spending, is the common sense approach to begin to pare down the budget numbers. None of which were implemented.

Mayor Zimmer, while campaigning promised 25% reduction in August, if she should be elected in the July election. My calendar tells me it is March not August and also I do not see a 25% decrease in my taxes. We must hold politicians to their promises, I am very disappointed but not surprised.

A little history: While David Roberts campaigned to be elected Mayor, the budget was \$52,000,000.00. He declared, "that \$52,000,000.00 was an obscene figure to run a city the size of Hoboken."

When elected the budget figure rose to \$125,000,000.00 in 8 years. At a Council meeting I put his feet to the fire and asked him to, "justify that huge increase in such a short time period." His answer, "I lied," he went on to explain, "in campaigns people lie to get elected." That was an honest answer, I'll give him that.

I would have asked Mayor Zimmer that same question had she attended the budget meetings or for that matter any of our meetings. As Mayor she should have presented the budget to the council, to date she has not attended any council meetings, except to present a proclamation or nominate a candidate for a board seat.

If given the opportunity I would have asked her, "how could you make that statement in your campaign literature. You as a 2 year Councilperson had to know an August date with a 25% decrease was impossible, feet to the fire. What is your answer?"

I also asked the most important question at the meeting, "Is this budget fully funded?" "I got an infatigable "yes," from Councilman/Finance Chair Michael Lenz. As to date 4-29-10 No changes have been made. Revision: 6-22-10 there have been several line item transfers, this is exactly how the Roberts debacle began. Underfunded line items, which I was assured was not the case, have begun to surface, I am starting to feel we are going down the same road. I will post updates as they occur.

Our Community has been rocked with negativity ,perpetuating negativity only serves to create deeper divisions.Houses divided do not stand ,I want our house to not only stand,I want our house to flourish. I believe everyone of us has a passion for our City ,we as one City needs to move forward in a positive atomsphere. Please settle the Police-Fire-Municipal Workers contracts move the City forward not backwards.

As anticipated I removed myself from the Council table and sat in the audience while the vote was taken. The contract was voted down and we are now going into arbritration.