

CITY OF ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

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Members of the Government Finance Officer's Association
of the United States and Canada

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CITY OF ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

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CITY OF ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA
INTRODUCTORY SECTION
DECEMBER 31, 2009

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ROCHESTER

Minnesota



June 17, 2010

FINANCE DEPARTMENT
201 4th Street SE, Room 204
Rochester, MN 55904-3779
(507) 328-2850
FAX (507) 328-2876

To the Honorable Mayor, Members of the Common Council, and the Citizens of the City of Rochester:

Minnesota statutes require all cities to issue an annual report on its financial position and activity prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), and audited in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards by a firm of licensed certified public accountants or the Office of the State Auditor. Pursuant to that requirement, we hereby issue the comprehensive annual financial report of the City of Rochester for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009.

This report consists of management's representations concerning the finances of the City of Rochester. Consequently, management assumes full responsibility for the completeness and reliability of all the information presented in this report. To provide a reasonable basis for making these representations, management of the City of Rochester has established a comprehensive internal control framework that is designed both to protect the City's assets from loss, theft, or misuse and to compile sufficient reliable information for the preparation of the City of Rochester's financial statements in conformity with GAAP. Because the cost of internal controls should not outweigh their benefits, the City of Rochester's comprehensive framework of internal controls has been designed to provide reasonable rather than absolute assurance that the financial statements will be free from material misstatement. As management, we assert that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, this financial report is complete and reliable in all material respects.

The City of Rochester's financial statements have been audited by Smith, Schafer and Associates, Ltd., a firm of licensed certified public accountants. The goal of the independent audit was to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements of the City of Rochester for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009, are free of material misstatement. The independent audit involved examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. The independent auditor concluded, based upon the audit, that there was a reasonable basis for rendering an unqualified opinion that the City of Rochester's financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009, are fairly presented in conformity with GAAP. The independent auditor's report is presented as the first component of the financial section of this report.

The independent audit of the financial statements of the City of Rochester was part of a broader, federally mandated "Single Audit" designed to meet the special needs of federal grantor agencies. The standards governing Single Audit engagements require the independent auditor to report not only on the fair presentation of the financial statements, but also on the City's internal controls and compliance with legal requirements, with special emphasis on internal controls and legal requirements involving the administration of federal awards. These reports are available in the City of Rochester's separately issued Single Audit Report.

CITY OF ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

GAAP requires that management provide a narrative introduction, overview, and analysis to accompany the basic financial statements in the form of Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A). This letter of transmittal is designed to complement the MD&A and should be read in conjunction with it. The City of Rochester's MD&A can be found immediately following the report of the independent auditors.

PROFILE OF THE GOVERNMENT

The City of Rochester, incorporated on August 5, 1858, is located in the southeastern part of the State of Minnesota, which is considered to be one of the top growth areas in the state, and one of the top growth areas in the country. The City currently has a land area of nearly 54.67 square miles and serves a population of 104,578. The City of Rochester is empowered to levy a property tax on both real and personal properties located within its boundaries. It also is empowered by state statute to extend its corporate limits by annexation, which is done periodically when deemed appropriate by the governing council.

The City of Rochester is governed under a charter adopted August 22, 1904. Policy-making and legislative authority are vested in a governing council consisting of the mayor, the council president and six council members. The governing council is responsible, among other things, for passing ordinances, adopting the budget, appointing committees, and hiring both the City's administrator and attorney. The City's administrator is responsible for carrying out the policies and ordinances of the governing council, for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the City, and for appointing the heads of the various departments. The council is elected on a non-partisan basis. Council members, the president and mayor all serve four-year staggered terms, with four of these positions elected every two years. Six of the council members are elected by ward. The mayor and council president are elected at large.

The City of Rochester provides a full range of services including police and fire protection; construction and maintenance of streets and infrastructure; recreational facilities, library and cultural events; water, sewer, electric, storm water management, public parking, mass transit and airport services.

The annual budget serves as the foundation for the City of Rochester's financial planning and control. All departments and agencies of the City of Rochester submit requests for appropriation to the city administrator in August of each year. The city administrator uses these requests as the starting point for developing a proposed budget. The city administrator then provides this proposed budget to the council for review prior to November. Work sessions are then held with the council covering each department budget. The council is required to hold public hearings on the proposed budget and to adopt a final budget no later than December 31, the close of the City of Rochester's fiscal year. The appropriated budget is prepared by fund, function (e.g., public safety), and department (e.g., police). Department heads may make transfers of appropriations within a department. Any changes to the budget at the functional level (e.g. General Government, Public Safety, Public Works, etc.) must be by formal resolution of the City Council. Budget-to-actual comparisons are provided in this report for each individual governmental fund for which an appropriated annual budget has been adopted. For the general fund, this comparison is presented on page 24-25 as part of the basic financial statements for the governmental funds. For governmental funds, other than the general fund, with appropriated annual budgets, this comparison is presented in the governmental fund subsection of this report, which starts on page 76.

CITY OF ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

FACTORS AFFECTING FINANCIAL CONDITION

The information presented in the financial statements is perhaps best understood when it is considered from the broader perspective of the specific environment within which the City of Rochester operates.

Local economy. The third largest City in Minnesota, Rochester is located 78 miles southeast of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Rochester's strong economy is built around world-renowned health care, cutting-edge technology, agriculture and agribusiness. As home to the Mayo Clinic and IBM Rochester, the City has developed into an economic growth center and the cultural hub of southeastern Minnesota. Its many recreational and cultural activities draw people from southeastern Minnesota and northern Iowa. Add these benefits to a low crime rate and an exceptional school system and it is easy to see why Rochester continues to rank as one of the top places to live.

Recent indicators of Rochester's economic climate include:

- **Jobs.** Total employment figures in the last 12 months ending March of 2010 have shown a decrease of 941 jobs since the first quarter of 2009. This continued a year over year decline from last year. Last year's total was the first 12 month decrease in over 14 years. Total employment had dropped for the year to 102,008, reflecting a small increase of 238 jobs from the previous month. Job losses in the goods producing sector were down 6.1 percent in the last 12 months, primarily in the construction sector, but the service providing sector was basically flat, maintaining only a slight one tenth of one percent decline.
- **Unemployment.** Rochester's unemployment rate was reported at 6.7 percent in March of 2010, an improvement from the 7.3 percent posted a year earlier. While still higher than Rochester's norm, the improvement is encouraging. Rochester's unemployment rate continues to be well below State and U.S. averages of 8.2 and 9.7 percent respectively.
- **Home Sales.** Home sales for the first quarter of 2010 fell to \$38.8 million from \$45.9 million the year before, a decline of 15.5% from the prior year. The average home sold for \$166,484 during this first quarter with 233 units being sold and the average time on the market was 135 days. Mortgage rates continue to remain low.
- **Building Activity.** After a significant decline in 2009, total commercial and residential building permits issued during the first quarter of 2010 were up 30.2 percent to \$45.4 million from the same period last year.

Long-term financial planning. The Rochester council is directing City staff on numerous projects that will affect the growth of the City. A partial list includes:

- **Public Works Operations Center.** Street crews have outgrown our existing equipment maintenance facility and have sold the property to the adjacent Olmsted Medical Center Hospital to provide room for the Hospital's expansion plans. Ground work is now complete and building construction is underway on the 20-acre site. Ultimately, the facility will house and maintain both our street maintenance equipment as well as our transit fleet though we are still awaiting federal grant award decisions on some of the transit portions. This total project, estimated at \$43 million in cost, is planned for use by mid- 2011.

CITY OF ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

Long-term financial planning (continued).

- Downtown Development – University of Minnesota Rochester (UMR / GH Holdings). The University of Minnesota continues to develop its targeted health sciences campus in Rochester's downtown area. Projected classroom shortage in the near future and growing demands for student housing has them investing in a new 9-story housing and office/classroom space facility with GH Holdings of Rochester. This \$15.9 million project will have 98 dwelling units as well as additional classroom space for UMR. UMR stated long-term plan is for a 5,000-student campus in the downtown area, building off synergies with the Mayo Clinic and IBM.
- Downtown Development – Minnesota Bio Science Center. The City's EDA and the City opened the doors in 2009 to its new 9-story Bioscience Building. A \$9 million expansion of the City's 1st Avenue Parking Ramp was completed at the same time to support the new facility. Constructed by the City's Economic Development Authority, the top 5 floors are leased by Mayo's research and development teams. Three other bio-tech firms have committed to long-term leases and a new restaurant has opened on the first floor. With nearly 76% of the space already leased up, the City is currently in negotiations with three additional firms for space in this facility.
- Mayo Civic Center Expansion. The City is finishing the design phase for a major expansion of its existing Mayo Civic Center. State funding of \$3.5 million was approved for this design work in 2009 and the City received legislative approval for a new local food and beverage tax that would fund the City's planned ½ share of the estimated \$70 million expansion. However, State budget woes stalled the State bond funding legislation for this project in the 2010 session. This addition would nearly double the usable space of the facility and is expected to greatly increase the variety of uses and venues brought to the downtown. These activities complement our Mayo Clinic visitors to the community and support our lodging industry. The City continues the design work and will attempt to secure State bonding monies again in the 2011 session.
- Cascade Lake / Trail Development. The City has purchased some properties, provided for the relocation of power lines, obtained easements and accepted development plans for the gravel mining and eventual development of what will become the largest lake in the area. Plans are proceeding for adjacent public parkland and a public bike trail surrounding the lake is now complete. This project has already become a significant attraction for new residential development, and will eventually be a wonderful asset for all the citizens of Rochester to enjoy. During 2009, the first phase of a four-phase bike trail and bridge system going into to the park got underway. This total \$5.8 million four-year project is funded by federal, state and City dollars and will eventually link the well traveled Douglas Trail from Pine Island into this park.

CITY OF ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA


AWARDS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City of Rochester, Minnesota for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008. This was the fortieth consecutive year that the City has received this prestigious award. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, the government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report. This report satisfied both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current report continues to conform to the Certificate of Achievement Program's requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA to determine its eligibility for another certificate.

The preparation of this report could not be accomplished without the professional, efficient services of many dedicated people. We first express our appreciation to all members of the Finance department who assisted and contributed in preparing the report. We also thank the staff of Smith, Schafer and Associates, Ltd. for their assistance and review of the document. And finally, we acknowledge the Mayor and the members of the Common Council for their interest and support in planning and conducting the financial operations of the City in a responsible and progressive manner.

Respectfully submitted,



Dale R. Martinson
Director of Finance



Stevan E. Kvenvold
City Administrator

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Presented to

City of Rochester
Minnesota

For its Comprehensive Annual
Financial Report
for the Fiscal Year Ended
December 31, 2008

A Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is presented by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada to government units and public employee retirement systems whose comprehensive annual financial reports (CAFRs) achieve the highest standards in government accounting and financial reporting.



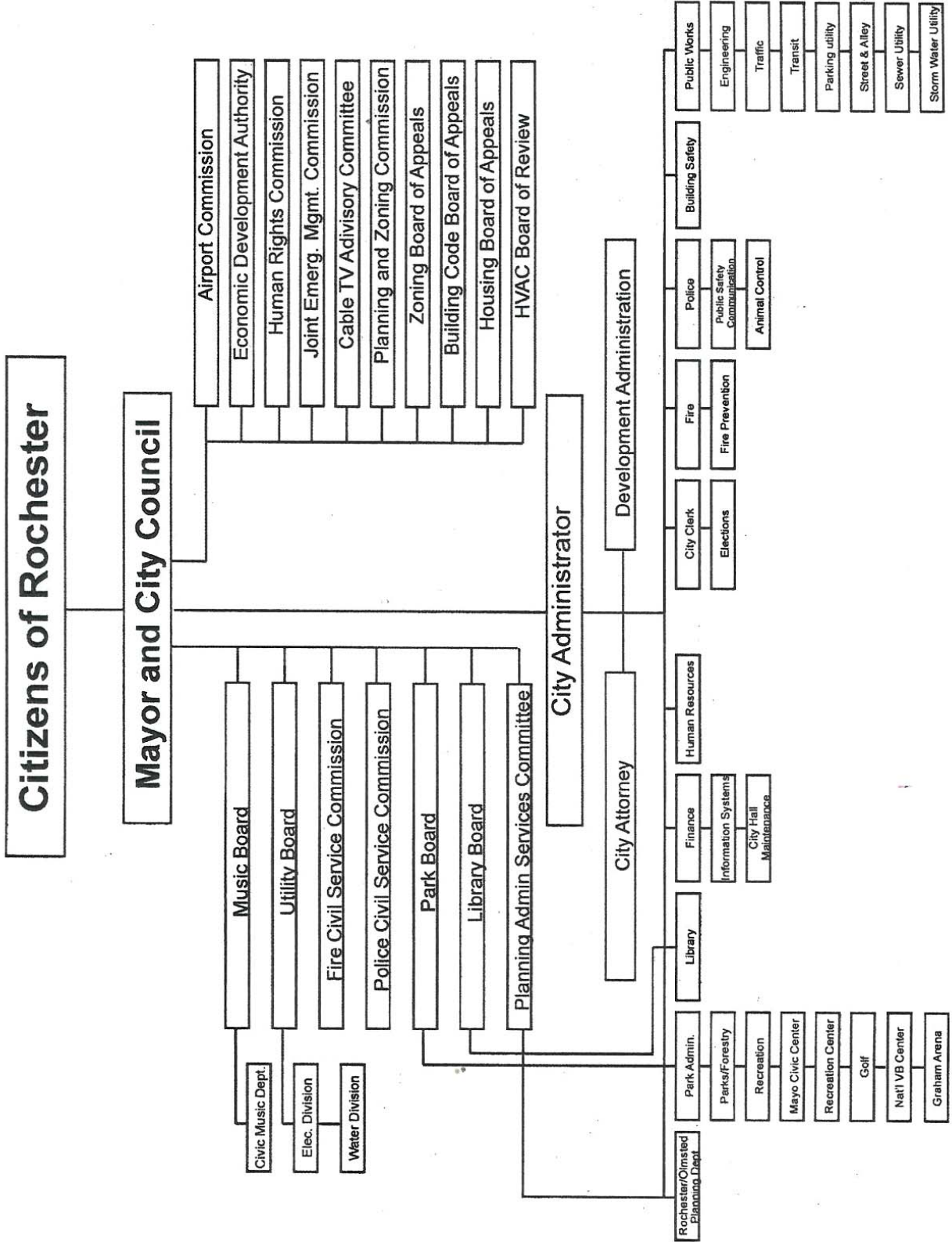
A stylized handwritten signature in black ink.

President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey R. Emer".

Executive Director

**CITY OF ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**



**CITY OF ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA
LIST OF ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

MAYOR - COUNCIL

	Initial Term <u>Commenced</u>	Current Term Expires <u>December 31</u>
Mayor, Ardell F. Brede	2003	2010
Council President, Dennis L. Hanson	1999	2012
Councilmember First Ward, Ed Hruska	2007	2010
Councilmember Second Ward, Michael Wojcik	2009	2012
Councilmember Third Ward, Bruce Snyder	2006	2010
Councilmember Fourth Ward, Mark Bilderback	2009	2012
Councilmember Fifth Ward, Bob Nowicki	2003	2010
Councilmember Sixth Ward, Sandra Means	2003	2012

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Stevan E. Kvenvold

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE – TREASURER

Dale R. Martinson

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS

City Attorney, Terry L. Adkins
City Clerk, Judy Kay Scherr
Director of Public Works, Richard W. Freese
Director of Building Safety, Ronald D. Boose
Chief of Police, Roger L. Peterson
Fire Chief, Greg K. Martin
Director of Human Resources, Linda K. Hillenbrand
Director Library Services, Audrey Betcher
Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, Ronald E. Bastian
General Manager - Music, Steven J. Schmidt
General Manager - Public Utilities, Larry J. Koshire
Superintendent of Water Reclamation Plant, Lyle J. Zimmerman