

Among La Crosse city council members, Doug Happel is probably one of the most conservative, so it's not a big surprise that he's aligned himself with mayor Matt Harter in wanting to draw a line in the sand about keeping the city's tax levy at last year's level even if it means lifting a few thousand dollars from the city's reserve fund to make it happen. Happel says, that reserve fund can absorb a very small hit

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And, Happel says, the city council would send a good message to voters if it can provide services while keeping the tax rate from growing.