



For Immediate Release

December 10, 2018

2019 City Tax Increases Held to 2.9 %

Council tabled the 2019 Operating and Capital Budgets Monday night, holding municipal tax increases to two percent for Operating and just under one percent for Capital.

“This amounts to a tax increase of less than \$5.00 per month,” said Mayor Bob Maloney.

“When you include this modest increase for 2019, the average Yorkton homeowner (property value of \$250,000) will be paying roughly \$160.00 per month for a variety of City Services.

These include upkeep of our streets and roads, snow clearing, drainage, police and fire protection, recreational facilities including parks and pathways, the Gallagher Centre, Kinsmen Arena and sporting fields,” said the Mayor. “That’s excellent value when you look at just the monthly cost of your smartphone, for example,” he said.

“We have worked hard to keep tax increases down to the level of inflation, while maintaining current levels of service and continuing to fund important capital projects,” said the Mayor.

“Council’s focus continues to be streets and roads as we work hard to catch up on the back log of necessary work in that area,” he said. The self-sustaining City Water Utility will see a 3.5 % increase in monthly rates for 2019. Water rates are set on a cost recovery basis while a modest amount is set aside each year for future water related projects. The sewage treatment plant will need to be upgraded within the next few years, for example.

Key Capital projects planned for 2019 and 2020 include:

- Paving Broadway East from Myrtle Avenue to Highway 9 - \$1 Million. This continues work done in 2018 with the repaving of Broadway West;
- Reconstruction of the main storm water drainage outfall for the City, from Dracup Avenue and York Road to Highway 9, emptying into Yorkton Creek - \$3.8 Million. Eighty per cent of the City’s storm water flows through this area and the current condition of the underground pipes in this key part of the city’s drainage system has created a choke point on the system;
- Sanitary sewer trunk line from Dracup Avenue and York Road to Highway 9 - \$3.4 Million;
- Highway 9 bridge reconstruction - \$3.4 Million. This includes replacement of the sewer line and storm water culverts under the bridge, plus replacement of the bridge roadbed. The storm water culverts are failing and will not adequately handle water flows during heavy rainfall, creating another choke point on the storm water system;
- Darlington Street overpass rehabilitation (Highway 9) - \$800,000;

- Mayhew Avenue reconstruction - \$2.6 Million. This project will see reconstruction of Mayhew Avenue from Morrison Drive South to Darlington Street including the Darlington Street intersection. This continues work done replacing underground infrastructure and repaving of Mayhew Avenue from Broadway Street East to Morrison Drive South in 2017;
- Darlington Street waterline replacement - \$1.5 Million;
- Darlington Street Roadway reconstruction – Dracup Avenue to Mayhew Avenue rehabilitation - \$3 Million.

“Given the unprecedented amount of roadwork planned in the upcoming two years, borrowing of \$3 Million will be required in 2020,” said the Mayor.

Budget documents will be posted Tuesday on Yorkton.ca and linked from the City Facebook page. “We welcome input from the public between now and the next Council meeting January 21,” said the Mayor. “We will be looking to finalize the 2019 budget at that time. When we complete the budget process early in the year before contractors have their season booked, this facilitates more bids and best pricing on construction tenders,” he said.

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