



**For Immediate Release**

December 2, 2019

**City Tax Increases Held to 2.9% for 2020**

City Council tabled the 2020 Operating and Capital Budgets Monday night, holding municipal tax increases to 2019 levels, two percent for Operating and just under one percent for Capital.

“A two percent increase for operating is consistent with many other cities just to keep pace with inflation and to maintain current levels of service,” said Mayor Bob Maloney. “To maintain that level we have cut some \$350,000 from initial department submissions,” he said. “Our other focus is on capital spending for projects such as roads and streets, drainage, sewer and water,” said the Mayor. “As cities continue to face growing gaps in infrastructure repair and maintenance it is critical to work on closing this gap,” he said. There will be a 0.9 percent increase in Capital funding for 2020, the same increase as was seen in the current year.

“The impact of a 2.9 percent total tax increase amounts to less than a \$5.00 increase per month per household, or roughly a total of \$160.00 per month for the average homeowner for the many services provided by the City,” said the Mayor.

“It’s worth noting that the Federal carbon tax also has implications for the City budget relating to electricity and energy costs,” said the Mayor. Municipal governments are not eligible for rebates on carbon tax collected, as individual taxpayers are, so this has already meant a cost of \$45,000 for the City in 2019. “The annual amount is expected to rise to \$67,000 in 2020 and reaching some \$112,000 by 2022, said the Mayor. These amounts are conservative as they do not include the carbon tax on fuel costs for the City’s fleet of vehicles and equipment.

“In 2019 we worked very hard to close our infrastructure gap, with a record breaking \$22.9 Million spent on infrastructure repairs, the busiest construction season ever,” said the Mayor. Major projects included:

- North Sanitary Storm Channel, Highway 9 Bridge, the Darling Overpass and Landfill Bridge - \$11 Million cost shared equally with the Federal, Provincial and City governments.
- Broadway East resurfacing from the CN Tracks to Highway 9
- Whitesand Drive/Pheasant Cove drainage improvements
- SGI Access Road rebuilding and resurfacing
- York Road East reconstruction
- Circlebrooke water main replacement
- Airport runway resurfacing
- Dracup Avenue pathway pedestrian bridge
- Truck Wash access road, Highway 9

Other projects included:

- Ukrainian Pioneer Park outdoor arena and basketball court
- Deer Park driveway resurfacing
- New Number 7 and 8 holes at Deer Park Golf Course
- New Tupper Park playground equipment

2020 key infrastructure improvement projects will include:

- Mayhew Avenue reconstruction from Fietz Street to York Road East, including a roundabout at the Darlington Street Intersection
- Darlington Street reconstruction from Dracup Avenue to Mayhew Avenue
- New City Operations Centre and site remediation work at the current Public Works location on York Road
- Complete Water Meter Replacement Program for all City customers
- New waterpark dehumidification system
- New pathway from Dracup Avenue to Mayhew Avenue

Residents may review budget documents and provide feedback at:

<http://www.yorkton.ca/dept/finance/budgets/2020CityBudget.asp>

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