



**For Immediate Release**

December 16, 2019

**Council Passes 2020 Budget**

The 2020 City Budget was passed by Council Monday night, holding City tax increases to 2.9 %, the same level as in 2019.

“Last year we saw an unprecedented number of infrastructure improvement projects, spending upwards of \$22.9 Million on streets, roads, sewer, water and drainage projects. We did all this work while holding municipal tax increases to two percent for Operating and just under one percent for Capital,” said Mayor Bob Maloney.

“It is so important to close the serious infrastructure gap that Yorkton and most Cities across the country are facing,” said the Mayor, and “we plan to continue doing many improvements again in 2020, while being mindful of our fiscal responsibility to residents,” he said.

“A two percent increase for operating is consistent with many other cities to keep pace with inflation and to maintain current levels of service,” said Mayor Bob Maloney. “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 in taxes per month for the average homeowner for the many services provided by the City,” said the Mayor.

The City Water utility operates as a separate entity from other City operations and is self-sustaining. Increases to water and recycling rates are adjusted annually to cover operational and capital costs of the utility.

Two of the major projects completed in 2019 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.

Key 2020 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.

The draft City Budget was tabled December 2nd to allow for public input. Only two comments or written submissions were received.

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