



For Immediate Release

January 21, 2019

Council Passes 2019 Budget

The 2019 City Budget was passed by Council Monday night, holding City tax increases to 2.9%.

“Council was able to keep increases low to cover the cost of inflation while maintaining services and continuing to fund important programs like streets, roads and drainage,” said Mayor Bob Maloney.

“This year we will see an unprecedented number of construction projects undertaken as we work to meet the needs of our residents,” said the Mayor. We have been able to do this while keeping our tax increase to less than \$5.00 a month. This covers the Saskatchewan Consumer Price Index cost of living increase and provides a 0.9 percent increase in funding for capital projects,” he said.

“Council would like to point out the difference between the Education Tax and the Municipal Tax amounts on your tax bill,” said the Mayor. “In 2019, the total amount collected on an average assessed value residential home in Yorkton will be \$2,795.56,” said the Mayor. Of that total \$824.00 is education tax, which the City collects on behalf of the provincial government. This portion goes directly to the province to fund education services and has nothing to do with civic operations.” said the Mayor. “That leaves the municipal tax portion on that property of \$1,971.56 or roughly \$160.00 per month in revenue to the City. And this covers a host of City services, from 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. Compare that to your monthly bill for internet and cable or your smartphone,” said the Mayor. “That’s pretty good value for what you receive.”

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;

Other important projects for 2019 include hiring a consultant to provide options regarding the replacement of the Kinsmen arena, and continuing expansion to our popular paved pathway system, said the Mayor.

Funding for the design and tender of a new Yorkton City Operations Centre was included in previous budgets and work on this will continue in 2019. The new building will house Public Works, Parks, Fleet Services, Facilities and equipment in one location. “Existing Parks and Public Works facilities are deteriorating and no longer meet the needs of the city, both in terms of size and safety requirements,” said the Mayor. Combining operations in one new facility on the existing Public Works site on York Road, will provide efficiencies and meet our needs for many years to come,” he said.

The draft city Budget was tabled December 10th to allow for public input. No written or emailed comments or submissions were received.

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