

NEWS RELEASE

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2019 provisional budget passes three readings

Summary

Nanaimo City Council passed three readings of the 2019-2023 Provisional Financial Plan bylaw at their regular meeting on Monday, December 17, 2018. The plan, expected to be adopted in January 2019, allows Council to set spending limits for programs and services for the next five years. Staff will now proceed with preparing to implement their 2019 work plans and projects.

Highlights from the plan include:

- The 2019 budget includes \$144 million to fund annual operations and \$56.6 million to fund projects. • A 5.1 per cent increase in property taxes for 2019 and user fee increases of 4 per cent for sewer, 7.5 per cent for water and 3 per cent for solid waste collection.
- Continued focus on public safety with the addition of four new career firefighters in 2019, two new Bylaw Enforcement Officers in 2019 and 15 new RCMP members over a five-year period. • A strategic plan update. • Continuation of the multi-year project to replace Fire Station #1. • Support for the Transportation Master Plan and the goal of doubling active transportation trips by the year 2041 with the inclusion of cycling lanes expansion and a new Active and Sustainable Transportation Coordinator to help advance the strategic tasks outlined in the plan. • Phases two and three of the LED streetlight conversion program in 2019 and 2020. • Construction of the Harewood Youth Park phases one and two in 2019 and 2021.

For more information on the 2019-2023 Provisional Financial Plan, visit www.nanaimo.ca/goto/budgetinfo.

Strategic Link: Economic Health - creating a vibrant culture of innovation, stewardship and partnership to encourage a healthy economy, now and into the future.

Key Points

- The 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan will be amended in April/May 2019 to incorporate property tax and funding requisitions from the Regional District of Nanaimo and others.
- Council must consider and adopt the 2019 Property Tax Bylaw before May 15.
- Ongoing budget discussions will take place in the New Year as Council begins to set its strategic priorities.

Quotes

"I am proud of the work done by both Council and staff to bring a budget that addresses the needs of the organization to sufficiently deliver services to the community. We will continue work on the budget in the New Year as we set our priorities for the next four years."

Leonard Krog
Mayor
City of Nanaimo

"A provisional budget will allow for staff to proceed with planning and implementation of projects and services for the coming year while Council continues discussions on strategic priorities."

Laura Mercer
Acting Director, Financial Services
City of Nanaimo

Quick Facts

- Following 2019, the projected property tax increases are 3.6 per cent for 2020, 2.9 per cent for 2021, 2.6 per cent for 2022 and 1.5 per cent for 2023.

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