

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Review process for City's 2020 budget begins next week**

*eTown Hall and other opportunities for public review, input available*

### **Summary**

Preparations are underway for the City of Nanaimo's 2020-2024 Draft Financial Plan. Residents will have a number of opportunities to review, ask questions and provide input leading up to a budget-focused eTown Hall on Monday, December 2.

Council will begin reviewing draft budgets and project plans over the course of four Special Finance and Audit Committee meetings on November 20, 22 and 25 and December 2. All meetings are open to the public and will be held in the Vancouver Island Conference Centre's Shaw Auditorium.

The eTown Hall will start at 7 p.m. during the Council Meeting and will run for one hour. If necessary, an additional 30 minutes will be allocated. Residents are encouraged to review available information prior to the start of the meeting.

The draft plan and other related documents will be available to review at [www.nanaimo.ca/goto/budgetinfo](http://www.nanaimo.ca/goto/budgetinfo). Anyone wishing to watch the meetings but cannot attend, can view them on the City website at [www.nanaimo.ca/meetings](http://www.nanaimo.ca/meetings).

*Strategic Link:* Being transparent in the budgeting process and providing opportunities for public input contribute to the strategic priority of Governance Excellence.

### **Key Points**

- The public will have opportunities to ask questions and provide input on the 2020-2024 Draft Financial Plan at four Special Finance and Audit Committee meetings on November 20, 22 and 25 and December 2 in the Vancouver Island Conference Centre's Shaw Auditorium.
- An eTown Hall on this subject will be held on December 2 beginning at 7 p.m. in the Vancouver Island Conference Centre's Shaw Auditorium.
- As this is only a draft version, budgets and plans may change as work progresses in review process.

### **Quotes**

"Annual budget planning is a complex process that takes many months of preparation. We are now in the next phase where City staff will present draft plans to Council and the public for their review and input. Once the review process is complete, the draft 2020-2024 Financial Plan Bylaw will be presented for Council's consideration."

Laura Mercer  
Director, Finance  
City of Nanaimo

### **Quick Facts**

- To date, the City of Nanaimo has held 10 eTown Hall meetings. The first eTown Hall meeting, held in March of 2013, was awarded Bronze for Innovation Management by the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC).
- In accordance with the Community Charter, municipalities must prepare a five-year financial plan each year.

Continued... Review process for City's 2020 budget begins next week

Municipal Councils must adopt each annual five-year financial plan before adopting of a property tax bylaw by May 15.

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