

NEWS RELEASE

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Provisional budget passes three reading, 2020 users rates set

Summary

The 2020-2024 Provisional Financial Plan passed three readings at the December 16, 2019 Council meeting. The plan's approval allows Council to set spending limits for programs and services for the next five years. Staff will now proceed forward in preparing for 2020 capital projects.

During the meeting, Council also set the 2020 water, sewer and garbage collection rates to support long-term asset management requirements as outlined in the City's 2020-2024 Financial Plan. Revenues collected through these increases assist the City in paying for costs incurred during the long-term replacement of fixed assets, including water supply and distribution and sanitary sewer assets.

Highlights of the provisional plan include projected increases in:

- Property tax of 5.2%, equivalent to \$109 for a typical household with an assessed value of \$516,418
- Water user fees of 7.5%, equivalent to \$42
- Sewer user fees of 4.0%, equivalent to \$6
- Solid waste user fees of 0.6%, equivalent to \$1
- This equals an annual increase of \$158 or roughly \$13 per month in taxes and fees for a typical household.

The provisional plan incorporates investments into the community, public safety, economic development, good governance and effective service delivery. Some highlights include:

- \$19 million in funding over the next five years for pedestrian and cycling safety improvements.
- Funding to support Council's priorities including a review of the Official Community Plan, update to Nanaimo's Community Sustainability Action Plan and a waterway and watercourse restoration and enhancement project.
- Funding for new amenities including construction of the Harewood Youth Park, the replacement of Fire Station #1 and the Metral Drive Complete Street project.

The provisional plan will be adopted at the January 13, 2020 Regular Council meeting. For more information on the budget, visit www.nanaimo.ca/goto/budget and check out the Quick Facts attached to this news release.

Strategic Link: The 2020-2024 Provisional Financial Plan supports Governance Excellence through a number of new initiatives and additions to staffing levels to ensure effective service delivery to residents.

Key Points

- The new user rates will come into effect January 1, 2020.
- The City owns and maintains over \$3 billion in infrastructure assets such as roads, water mains, facilities, drainage, parks and the sewer system.
- Council will consider and adopt the 2020 Property Tax Bylaw in April/May 2020.
- The City also collects fees and taxes on behalf of Regional District of Nanaimo (rdn.bc.ca), Vancouver Island Regional Library (virl.bc.ca), School District 68 (sd68.bc.ca) and BC assessment (bcassessment.ca). For more information on taxes related to the above mentioned agencies, please visit their respective websites.

Quotes

"I am very proud of the collaboration between Council and staff to create a budget that focuses on delivering high quality service to the residents of Nanaimo. The plan supports Council's strategic priorities to be a community that is environmentally responsible, livable, economically healthy and centred around good governance."

Leonard Krog
Mayor
City of Nanaimo

"Council's approval of the 2020-2024 Financial Plan will allow the City to proceed with implementing programs and projects for 2020. Ongoing conversations and decisions on Council's strategic priorities and initiatives will aid in making any amendments to this financial plan and developing future plans."

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