

City of Parksville Budget Deliberations Completed

Parksville, BC: Following four public budget meetings, the Council of the City of Parksville has completed its budget deliberations with a proposed 2012-2016 Final Financial Plan for the City.

The City held four public meetings to compile input on budgets and tax rates. Staff presented the 2012 budget, detailing levels of services, service priorities, spending packages, how City services are funded and how municipal tax dollars are spent. Service priorities were considered in seven categories - health and safety, legislative, development and maintenance of municipal infrastructure and assets, protection of private property, organizational welfare, economic welfare and social welfare.

On April 3, Parksville City Council wrapped up budget deliberations by approving a 3% tax increase for 2012. In order to provide funds for capital infrastructure renewal, the budget includes a freeze on operating expenditures over the next five years in the areas of protection of private property, organizational welfare, economic welfare and social welfare.

"Each year brings its own challenges and this year is no exception," said Mayor Chris Burger. "Difficult decisions were made throughout our budget process and we worked hard to develop a budget reflective of the economy and the needs of the community."

Chief Administrative Officer, Fred Manson, noted, "Infrastructure renewal is a priority for staff and Council over the next few years. This budget is a step towards improving infrastructure in our community."

The water utility and sewer utility funds are separate from the municipal budget. Small spending packages were included for both funds however; there will be no fee increase to residents in these areas.

Staff will now prepare a financial plan bylaw for adoption by Council in May. Please see the City's website at *Quicklinks/Financial Reports* for more information.

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