

City of Parksville Delivers Balanced Budget

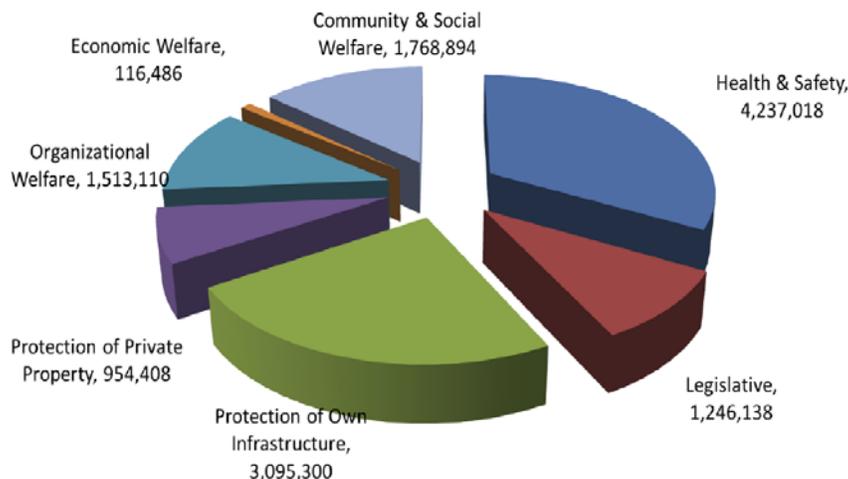
Parksville, BC - The City of Parksville has delivered a balanced budget for the 2013 financial year and established a new tax rate. At the May 1 special Committee of the Whole meeting, Council set the residential property tax increase at 2.4% for 2013. The tax increase for subsequent years 2014-2017 is anticipated to be 3% for each year.

Similar to many other municipalities, the City of Parksville is facing external pressures which include increasing expectations, the current global economy and rising costs. The City's budget balances these challenges and at the same time continues to provide quality services for the citizens of Parksville.

Budget deliberation meetings were held on April 18 and May 1 and public input was encouraged in person and through a number of online opportunities.

The 2013 budget is aligned with the seven priority categories set in 2012: health and safety, legislation, development and maintenance of municipal infrastructure and assets, protection of private property, organizational welfare, economic welfare and community and social welfare. In order to provide funds for capital infrastructure renewal, Council in 2012 included a freeze at 2012 levels for four priority categories (protection of private property, organizational welfare, economic welfare and community and social welfare) as well as a freeze on new hires. Council reaffirmed this decision at the May 1 meeting.

2013 Service Priorities Summary - \$12,931,354



The 2013 tax increase of 2.4% allows the City to continue its efforts to address the infrastructure deficit. When other government tax collections are added in, the total tax increase for the average priced residential property is about 1.91%. For a home with the average assessed property value of \$299,531, the total property taxes including City of Parksville, School, Regional District of Nanaimo and BC Assessment Authority will increase by \$47.68.

"My thanks to staff who created this responsible budget which reflects Council's priority to deliver good value for residents and businesses," said Mayor Chris Burger. "It is the City's good fiscal management which has permitted only a 2.4% tax increase, the lowest since 2010."

The City's Chief Administrative Officer, Fred Manson said, "The City aims to provide quality services to residents as effectively and efficiently as possible. This is a fiscally responsible budget that takes external factors as well as future needs into consideration."

Council also approved the 2013-2017 final financial plan which will be available on the City's website by May 15 at <http://parksville.ca/cms.asp?wpID=467>. This plan sets out the financial requirements to enable departments to carry out projects for 2013.

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For more information:

Mayor Chris Burger 250 954-4661
Fred Manson, Chief Administrative Officer 250 954-4666

City of Parksville | 100 Jensen Avenue East (P O Box 1390), Parksville, BC V9P 2H3
Phone 250 248-6144 | Fax 250 954-4685 | www.parksville.ca

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About Parksville — Located on Vancouver Island's sheltered east coast, 12,000 residents call Parksville their home. Parksville offers a quality lifestyle with many activities. We are committed to being the city of choice for ourselves and future generations in a clean, safe, friendly, economically viable and sustainable environment.