

Your City eNews!

January 19, 2021



Parksville Budget 2021 Survey

Public input is an important part of the financial planning process and Council is seeking input from residents and businesses prior to Council budget deliberation meetings in the spring to determine the City's 2021 municipal budget and 2021-2025 financial plan. If you are not familiar with the City's budget information, municipal budgets and financial plans are on the City's [website](#) and on [Let's Talk Parksville](#).

PARKSVILLE
BUDGET
2021

In 2019, Council identified their five strategic plan priority areas as housing, recreation, healthcare, economic development and community safety. We are once again asking residents to complete a short online survey to assist Council to better understand where residents would prioritize monies to be spent in 2021. The survey, available online until February 21, may be accessed [from this link](#).

Parksville Firefighter Recruitment



Parksville Fire is looking for positive, energetic and community minded women and men to join their team of volunteer paid on-call firefighters. Volunteer firefighters demonstrate the personal values of trust, honesty, integrity, compassion and empathy. Parksville Fire, a composite department of volunteer on-call and career firefighters, provides fire and rescue services for the Parksville Fire Protection Area.

Professional training and on the job experience are exceptional opportunities to learn and develop skills as team members, leaders and highly-skilled firefighters. As well as extensive training in all aspects of firefighting, the benefits of being a volunteer firefighter include

community recognition and personal satisfaction, the chance to make new friends and be involved in community activities; from firefighting and rescue to public education. The department also offers a junior program for those under the age of 19, providing an introduction to life as a member.

Do you have what it takes to be a firefighter? Candidates for volunteer firefighters should be:

- 19 years of age or older (junior member - age 16)
- Healthy and physically fit (medical and fitness screening required), non-smoker
- Good driver (valid BC drivers licence and good driving record)
- Of good character (RCMP security check required)
- Able and willing to commit to the community
- Live in the Parksville Fire Protection area (ideally live within City of Parksville boundaries)
- Daytime availability preferred
- Able to attend weekly training sessions

Before applying, please learn about the position and requirements and with the tasks and different steps in the selection process. To learn more, call the fire hall during business hours, Monday to Friday to speak with a member. Closing date is **Friday, March 5 at 4 pm**. Details and applications on the department [website](#).



Understanding Your BC Property Assessment Notice

Parksville property owners will now have received 2021 assessment notices from the BC Assessment Authority. Property assessments are announced on an annual basis and the 2021 assessments are based on market values at July 1, 2020. The average increase in property values for your class of property is shown by BC Assessment on your assessment notice.

Property owners should visit www.evaluatebc.bcassessment.ca to search your property, compare assessments and review recent sales of nearby properties to see if your assessment is reasonable. The deadline to appeal 2020 assessment (through BC Assessment) is February 1. Questions or concerns about your assessment should be directed to BC Assessment at 1 866 825-8322.

Increases in your property assessment do not mean your 2021 property-tax bill will increase by the same amount. If your assessment increase is the same as the average residential increase for the City of Parksville then the City's portion of your property taxes will rise by only the amount of the tax increase which will be set by Council following budget deliberation meetings in the spring.

On January 4, the Province of BC confirmed the homeowner grant for 2021 as follows:

- Up to \$570 for the basic homeowner grant.
- Up to \$770 if the home is located in a northern or rural area. A "northern or rural area" means outside the Metro Vancouver, Fraser Valley and Capital Regional districts.
- Up to \$845 for homeowners who are 65 years or older, or if the homeowner is a person with a disability or lives with a relative who has a disability.
- Up to \$1,045 for homes in northern or rural areas where the homeowner is 65 years or older, or the homeowner is a person with a disability.

2021 New Homeowner Grant Application Process

The homeowner grant is available to eligible homeowners who pay property taxes. Starting this year, homeowners in municipalities no longer apply for the homeowner grant through their municipal office. Everyone now applies directly to the province using a new online system that's easy to use. Not yet accessible, the link will be available soon. Although the application process has changed, program details and eligibility requirements have not changed.

This new system helps ensure homeowners receive their full grant entitlement, including the additional grant for seniors or persons with a disability. It also helps process applications faster and reduce fraudulent applications. Early applications are not being accepted at this time. For more information about the homeowner grant visit gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant.

Zoom with EMO Emergency Preparedness



emergencyoceanside.ca

The pandemic has changed so much about the way we live and work and for Parksville and Qualicum Beach emergency program coordinators, engaging the community is no exception. Without pandemic restrictions in place, our EPCs would be working in the community, meeting with residents and neighbourhood groups.

We are reaching out virtually and hope you will consider spending an hour on Zoom with Aaron and Rob to chat about emergency preparedness. Space available on:

- Thursday, January 21 at 10 am
- Wednesday, January 27 at 2 pm

Email info@emergencyoceanside.ca if you would like to participate, letting us know which date is preferred. We will confirm your participation and send you Zoom instructions by email. To join, you will need a computer with an internet connection and can join the meeting in the following ways:

- Computer with camera and microphone – click the link provided.
- Computer with or without camera but no microphone – click the link and call the phone number provided above.



City Services

Residential Family Water Rates

Large families with five or more immediate family members consisting of parents and dependent children less than eighteen years of age may qualify for modified water rates. Application deadline is February 26. Information and application forms may be obtained from City Hall and from the City's [website](#).

2021 Licence Renewals

Business licence and dog licence renewals are due January 31 and details are included with renewal invoices. Business licences may be paid by mail, drop box at City Hall, through online banking, by credit card or in-person. Dog licences may be purchased from City Hall and the BC SPCA. Fees are as follows:

- Paid by January 31, spayed/neutered \$20, not spayed/neutered \$30
- After January 31, spayed/neutered \$25, not spayed/neutered \$35.



Credit Card Payments

The City is now accepting credit card payments for business licences, bylaw infraction tickets and comfort letters. Credit card payments, Visa and Mastercard, may be made in-person at City Hall or from online services on our website. Payment options available to our residents are explained [here](#).

Being Winter Prepared

We've seen our share of rain and wind recently and will no doubt see more weather over the coming winter months. This [link](#) provides a home preparedness checklist for severe weather, ideas on how to develop an emergency plan and emergency kit as well as suggestions on how you can connect with your neighbours.



COVID-19 Related Information

Province-wide PHO Restrictions Continue

It was announced on January 7 by the Provincial Health Officer that the order to suspend all events and social gatherings continues through February 5 at midnight. These orders are intended to significantly reduce COVID-19 transmission related to social interactions and travel. It is recommended that all non-essential travel continue to be avoided. This includes travel into and out of BC and between regions of the province. British Columbians are asked not to travel for vacation or visit friends or family outside of your household or core bubble.



For information on provincial orders please refer to the BC Government [website](#).

Are you experiencing cold, flu or COVID-19 like symptoms? Please remember to visit <http://bc.thrive.health> to complete a self-assessment to see if you need a test before calling the Island Health Testing Call Centre. Non-medical information about COVID-19 is available daily, 7:30 am to 8 pm at 1-888-COVID19.

Participation in Council Meetings During COVID-19

The Public Health Order related to gatherings and events, which prevents in-person attendance by the public at Council meetings, hearings, committee meetings, open houses, and other in-person meetings has been extended to February 5 at midnight. Due to provincial health orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person attendance at Council meetings and public hearings is not permitted and we are not able to offer in-person public participation.

The agenda for the Monday, February 1 meeting will be posted to the City's website on January 28. Comments or questions related to the Council agenda may be submitted by phone to 250 954-3060 or by email to council@parksville.ca, no later than noon on the day of the meeting. Arrangements will be made to allow participation at public hearings by Zoom webinar, by telephone and in writing. Full details are provided with the public hearing notice.

Ensuring meetings are accessible to the public continues to be an important principle we are working to provide in these challenging times. The health and safety of our residents is a priority, and Council encourages residents to reach out via email or phone and to stay informed through virtual means until we can safely resume in-person activities. In the meantime, should citizens wish to contact Council, please email council@parksville.ca.

Council meetings are webstreamed from the City's website and may be viewed live or archived for viewing at another time. Council minutes and meeting highlights may be view on our website and notice is provided on City social media channels.



Important Dates

February 1	Council Meeting
February 4	Parks and Open Spaces Meeting
February 15	Family Day Statutory Holiday
February 17	Council Meeting
February 21	Budget Survey Deadline
March 1	Council Meeting

In-person services during the COVID-19 pandemic are limited to payments of tickets/licence fees and the purchase of bus passes, with all other City business by appointment and no walk-in services. To book an appointment, call 250 248-6144 or refer to website contact [info](#). Finance is open **Monday to Friday, 9 am to noon and 1 pm to 3 pm** . Please note, entry is from Jensen Avenue East. Masks are mandatory when at City Hall and visitors will be asked to provide information for contact tracing.

For more information:

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