

DATE OF MEETING APRIL 29, 2019

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PLANNING

SUBJECT 2019 – 2023 FINANCIAL PLAN AMENDMENT BYLAW

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To introduce “Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw 2019 No. 7279.01” for first, second and third readings.

Recommendation

1. That “Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw 2019 No. 7279.01” (To amend the 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan), pass first reading;
2. That “Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw 2019 No. 7279.01” pass second reading; and
3. That “Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw 2019 No. 7279.01” pass third reading.

BACKGROUND

The Provisional 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan Bylaw “Financial Plan Bylaw 2018 No. 7279” was adopted by Council at the 2019-JAN-14 Council Meeting. The Financial Plan reflected decisions made by Council during the budget review process in 2018. A Final 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan Bylaw and a Property Tax Rates Bylaw must be adopted by 2019-MAY-15 to enable the calculation and collection of 2019 property taxes.

At the 2019-APR-10, Finance and Audit Committee meeting Council received an update on the proposed Final 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan. The update highlighted changes since the provisional budget was adopted including updates to estimates and directives from Council.

At the 2019-APR-15 Special Finance and Audit Committee meeting, Council received an update on the proposed property tax increase and engaged in deliberations, which resulted in the addition of a permanent full-time Engineering Development Technician effective July 2019 to help reduce processing times for development approvals.

Budget highlights include:

- Continued focus on public safety with the addition of 4 new career firefighters in 2019, 2 new Bylaw Enforcement Officers - Parking Patrollers in 2019 and 15 new RCMP members over a five-year period (2020 – 2024).
- A commitment to the City’s 20 Year Investment Plan and asset management with:
 - Increased funding for projects; and
 - Confirmation of annual increases for asset management reserves - 1% annual increase in property taxes ending in 2022 for General Asset Management Reserve and annual increases in sanitary sewer (4%) and water user fees (2.5%) ending in

2022 and 2020 respectively for contributions to Sewer and Water Asset Management Reserves.

- Strategic Plan update with Council.
- Continuation of the multi-year project to replace Fire Station #1.
- Support for the Transportation Master Plan and the goal of doubling active transportation trips by the year 2041. Including expansion of cycling lanes and a new Active and Sustainable Transportation Coordinator to help advance the strategic tasks outlined in the plan. As well as a new Parking and Street Use Coordinator.
- Construction of the Harewood Youth Park Phase 1 (2019), Phase 2 (2021) as per the Harewood Centennial Park Improvement Plan received by Council in 2013.

Summarized below are the projected property tax rate changes for 2019 to 2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
General Asset Management Reserve	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	0.0%
General Property Tax Increase	4.0%	2.6%	1.9%	1.8%	1.4%
2019 - 2023 Financial Plan	5.0%	3.6%	2.9%	2.8%	1.4%

OPTIONS

1. That “Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw 2019 No. 7279.01” (To amend the 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan), pass first reading;
 2. That “Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw 2019 No. 7279.01”, pass second reading; and
 3. That “Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw 2019 No. 7279.01”, pass third reading.
 - **Budget Implication:** Adopting the 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw authorizes the expenditures in the 2019 budget and calculation of 2019 property taxes.
 - **Legal Implication:** Adoption of the budget bylaw ensures that spending is within legal limits.
 - **Strategic Priorities Implication:** Governance excellence is one of Council’s four strategic themes in the draft 2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan.
2. Table the report and request more information from Staff.
 - **Political Implication:** Will require additional meetings to complete adoption of bylaws by 2019-MAY-15 deadline.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The projected 2019 property tax increase will be 5.0%.
- The “Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw 2019 No. 7279.01” must be adopted by 2019-MAY-15.
- This bylaw will allow Staff to calculate and collect 2019 property taxes. Annual property taxes fund City services and capital programs.

ATTACHMENTS

“Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw 2019 No. 7279.01” |

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Concurrence by:

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