



Councillor Blog

March 2022

Welcome back fellow residents of White City, and those reading from the surrounding area, for the March 2022 edition of the White City Councillor Blog.

This month's blog will focus on the 2022 Annual Budget. At the February 7, 2022 Regular Council Meeting, Council adopted the 2022 Annual Budget, including operating and capital expenditures and municipal tax rates. The budget includes operating revenues of \$8.7M, operating expenditures of \$8.2M and \$5.4M for capital expenditures. Tax policy changes include a \$100.00 reduction to the municipal base tax and a 9.07% mill rate increase resulting in an overall tax revenue increase of 2.48% for the municipality. The proposed tax revenue increase is below the year-to-year Consumer Price Index of 4.0%¹ for the Regina Region.

The reduction in base tax was to ensure a more equitable distribution of taxes for basic services across all assessment values within the municipality.

The 2022 Annual Budget introduces a Recreation Levy to allow the Town to invest in recreational infrastructure and provide improved recreation services to residents. The Recreation Levy is partnered with the establishment of a specific Recreation Reserve where levy funds will be allocated for the planning, development and construction of a Multi-Use Recreation Centre within the community.

87.7% of properties in White City will see a minor annual increase to their municipal taxes of \$1.19 - \$102.39 without the inclusion of the annual recreation levy and \$101.19 - \$202.39 with the levy.

Based on the 2021 Revaluation Taxable Assessment Value, the chart to the right details what kind of change you can expect to see to your 2022 Municipal Taxes:

Total Taxable Assessment Value	% of Properties	Annual Change (with Recreation Levy)
\$300K or less	7.3%	\$0.00 - \$101.19
\$300K - \$400K	25.4%	\$101.19 - \$134.93
\$400K - \$500K	42.7%	\$134.93 - \$168.66
\$500K - \$600K	19.7%	\$168.66 - \$202.39
\$600K - \$700K	3.5%	\$202.39 - \$236.12
\$700K - \$800K	0.9%	\$236.12 - \$269.85
\$800K - \$1.5M	0.6%	\$269.85 - \$505.97

¹ <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/86686/formats/131943/download>



Council made the decision to implement a Recreation Levy and begin saving to fund the proposed recreation facility. Based on the public engagement conducted in the Spring 2021, 69% of respondents indicated a preference of, at minimum, an annual property tax increase per household between \$100–\$300 per year. Council recognizes the importance of recreation services and facilities for our current residents and the appeal for future residents. With COVID-19 and rising inflation, it is important to build a fund to provide those services now for the benefits it will bring to residents in White City and our neighbouring communities. More information on the Multi-Use Recreation Centre will be coming in the April edition of the Councillor Blog.

In the upcoming year just a few of projects the Town will focus on includes:

- funding to the WCRM158 Wastewater Management Authority to continue the Wastewater Expansion Project and ensure sufficient effluent management and infrastructure to support growth in the region;
- asset renewal of equipment to ensure efficient, consistent and dependable services to residents;
- a recreation master plan to improve recreation and culture services in the community and create a long-term strategy to meet the needs of residents in White City; and
- continuing support of the Town's Boundary Alteration Project to complete the process to incorporate White City, Emerald Park, Park Meadows Estates, Meadow Ridge Estates, Escott/Deneve, Great Plains Industrial Park and sufficient additional land to support a well-planned and managed community for the next 25-years into one urban community.

Municipal Budgeting Summary

In the most basic sense, the annual municipal budget determines how much revenue the Town will bring in from taxes, grants, fees, and other revenues and how much it will spend within a year.

Within the 2022 Annual Budget are three distinct portions: the Operating Budget, the Capital Budget and the Utility Budget

Revenues

- Taxes
- Grants
- Fees
- Investment Income
- Long-Term Borrowing

Expenses

- Wages
- Utilities
- Supplies
- Contractual Services
- Amortization
- Interest

Operating Budget

The Operating Budget of a municipal government covers day-to-day expenses on services such as: recreation, park & road maintenance, snow removal, waste collection, fire & police services.

The majority of funds for the operating budget come from property taxes. The remainder is funded through provincial grants and user fees.

Capital Budget

The Capital Budget of a municipal government funds infrastructure that supports service delivery such as waterlines, roads, and equipment. Including roads & pathways, water & wastewater, equipment, asset renewal.

Funds for the capital budget come from reserves, development levies, grants and long-term borrowing. A small portion of the capital budget may also come from property taxes.

Water Utility Budget

While part of the Town's 2022 Annual Budget, the Water Utility Budget is intended to operate as its own self-sustaining portion of the budget.

The Town purchases treated water from SaskWater while owning and maintaining the water distribution infrastructure. Both aspects are considered when preparing the Utility Budget.

If you would like more information on the budget or how tax changes were determined, we encourage you to reach out to a member of Council or the town office for more information. If you have any questions, have a comment, want more information, or want to suggest a topic for a future blog please email townoffice@whitecity.ca or call 306-781-2355 – we look forward to hearing from you!

– Mayor Brian Fergusson