



City of Sarnia

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: January 15, 2019 RELEASE DATE: Immediate

FROM: Katarina Ovens, Communications Coordinator

SUBJECT: City Council Highlights – January 15, 2019

At its budget meeting Sarnia City Council approved a \$145.3 million budget for 2019.

Approved 2019 Operating Budget including General, Police, and Transit, with the total property taxation amount of \$78.3 million, an increase of 3.35% versus 2018.

Approved 2019 Water Rates Budget is \$16,476,009, representing a 3.17% increase versus 2018. Sewer (Sanitary and Storm) Rates Budget is \$18,229,353, representing a 3.66% increase versus 2018.

Approved 2018 Capital Budget in the amount of \$29,789,300. 36 capital projects were approved including:

1. Oversized Load Corridor - \$1,285,000;
2. Emergency Fire Apparatus - Heavy Water Tower & Platform - \$1,000,000;
3. Road Resurfacing/Reconstruction - \$2,000,000;
4. Rehabilitation Various Structures (Bridges & Culverts) - \$1,000,000;
5. Donohue Bridge - \$1,500,000;
6. Sarnia Sewer Upgrade Project - \$7,500,000;
7. Sewer Separation - \$2,000,000;
8. Watermain, Sanitary & Storm Sewer Replacement (Various Locations) - \$3,200,000;
9. Corrosion Protection Program - \$1,200,000;
10. Police Services Radio Communication System - \$2,761,300.

Fees for Services are charged to users that benefit from the service. 2019 highlights include:

- A charge for issuing a refund for overpayments or transfer errors after the second incident;
- Tax Certificates \$55 (+10%), Tax Certificate on Demand \$75 (+15%) and Ownership Change Notice \$32 (+28%);
- A new service of installing a clean-out on a sanitary lateral (waste water pipe) - \$833 to be phased in over three years to a final fee of \$2,500;
- A new service, Trenchless Service Line Repair is being offered for the repair of a lateral (pipe) on private property - \$1,000;
- Relocation of Temporary Water Connection \$150 (+43%) and Testing of Backflow Preventer fees have been significantly increased due to operator training requirements \$125 (+20%);
- New Sarnia Transit fees for Care-A-Van and Conventional Bus Passes - Daily Family Pass \$14.50, Weekly Pass \$24.50, and Senior Pass \$60;
- New Parks & Recreation fees - Set Up & Take Down day rental fee for Anchor Events and Festivals \$250, Germain Park Japanese Garden Wedding \$35 per hour, and Art/Craft Vendor Centennial Park \$125;
- Building and By-Law Enforcement fees have generally been increased by 2% to adjust for cost of living;
- Parking passes at the Victoria St. municipal lot are reduced by 50%;
- Addition of a fee for cone and barricade drop off and pickup;
- Formalized the fees for commemorative benches and trees.

Approved a total of \$ \$72,566 in grants, as follows:

- Sarnia Lambton Taskforce on Healthcare Worker Recruitment - \$72,366
- Lambton Farm Safety Association - \$200

The next Regular Council Meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 21.

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