

## **Wetaskiwin City Council takes a big step toward sustainability after passing 2013/2014 budgets**

For immediate release  
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WETASKIWIN, AB – Wetaskiwin City Council officially approved its 2013 and 2014 budgets at its regular council meeting held March 11, 2013.

“Now that the budget is passed, the city can move forward with implementing the strategic plan and proceed with the proposed projects,” stated City of Wetaskiwin Mayor Bill Elliot. “I appreciate the input from the many citizens who shared their budget concerns with myself and with council.”

The City underwent an extensive public process for the 2013/2014 budgets which included six days of strategic planning, three days of public budget meetings, a public open house, and an additional full day of public budget deliberations.

The 2013 – 2014 Operating Budget establishes total operating revenues and expenditures at \$27,535,898 for 2013 and \$29,728,632 for 2014. This will amount to an estimated tax increase of 7.35 % in 2013 and 7.53 % in 2014. On a \$300,000 home, the average monthly municipal tax increase in 2013 will be \$13.35. The average monthly municipal tax increase in 2014 will be \$14.68.

Wetaskiwin City Council also approved the 2013 – 2014 Project Budgets with 2013 expenditures of \$14,816,975 of which \$661,485 is funded from the tax base and 2014 expenditures of \$5,832,653 with \$1,030,600 funded from the tax base.

### **Some highlights of the proposed budget include:**

#### **In the Operating Budget...**

- No increase in salary for members of Council in 2013
- A 1% Cost of Living adjustment for staff (Provincial statistics show that the average wage in Alberta increased by 3% in 2012)
- Funding for an Election in 2013 and a Census in 2014
- An increase in funding for the Wetaskiwin Library of \$77,000 in 2014

-One additional maintenance person in the Community Service facilities area to assist with the arenas, drill hall, curling rink and aquatics facility

-Funding for operation of the new Aquatics center

-A continuation of the Municipal Intern program with a second intern for 2013

-Funding for a full scale disaster exercise in 2014

-An increase in the amount of funding for sidewalk replacement and roadway crack sealing in an effort to protect the roadway asset, and to improve pedestrian safety

-Initiation of a \$15,000/year tree and landscaping replacement program for our park and boulevard areas beginning in 2013

### **In the 2013 Capital Budget...**

Approximately \$14,800,000 has been budgeted for new projects. Of this total, only \$700,000 is funded by tax revenue, \$11,000,000 is funded by grants, \$2,800,000 from reserves and \$300,000 from other sources.

### **2013 Major Projects include:**

**-Roadway upgrades and reconstruction projects costing \$11,300,000 at the following locations:**

- Main St-50 Ave: 50 St. to 53 St.
- 55A St.: Centennial Dr. to Hawthorne Cres.
- 40 Ave.: 49 St. to 56 St. Driving Lane
- 36 St.: GMD to Hwy 13
- 50 St.: 40 Ave. to 47 Ave.
- 56 St.: 45 Ave. to 50 Ave. Driving Lane Southbound
- 51 St.: 47 Ave. to 49 Ave. Sidewalk Replacement
- Landfill Road Upgrade (to comply with a permit to operate)

**-Trail Upgrade & Paving 1.6 KM By-The-Lake Park**

**-Replace Equipment including a 10-year-old vector truck, a 16-year-old flat deck truck, a 20-year-old forklift, and an 8-year-old Gator**

**-Automatic Water Meter Reading system**

### **In the 2014 Capital Budget...**

In 2014 approximately \$5,800,000 new projects are budgeted. Of this total only \$1,000,000 is funded by tax revenue, \$1,600,000 is funded by grants, and \$2,300,000 from reserves and \$900,000 from other sources.

#### **2014 Major Projects include:**

##### **Roadway upgrades and reconstruction projects costing \$1,700,000 at the following locations:**

- 52 St.: 43 Ave. to 47 Ave.
- 51 St.: 45 Ave. to 47 Ave. Sidewalk Replacement

#### **Review and Update Offsite Levy Policy**

#### **Projects from the Utility Master Plan**

**Replace Equipment including 6 year old garbage truck, an 8 year old tandem plow truck, a 7 year old roll-off truck, a 13 year old pick-up truck and an 8 year old trackless tractor**

For further information, please contact Communications Coordinator Dale Cory at 780-361-4461, or email: [dcory@wetaskiwin.ca](mailto:dcory@wetaskiwin.ca).