

city of

Wetaskiwin

PRESS RELEASE

Municipal budget deliberations to be held first quarter of 2021

January 5, 2020

(Wetaskiwin, Alberta) – Wetaskiwin City Council’s 2021 municipal budget deliberations have been postponed until early 2021. Originally slated to take place in the last quarter of 2020, the City’s budget deliberations were rescheduled for early 2021 to allow the 2019 year-end financial process to be completed.

In addition to the delay in finalizing the 2019 audited financial statements, organizational delays associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and staff attrition were also contributing factors to the decision to postpone the municipal budget deliberations.

“This year brought with it unique challenges for our organization, and the need for increased oversight and understanding of our financial processes was important to me,” said Sue Howard, City Manager.

“Harmonized financial protocols are the precursor to a firmer understanding of our budget—and this is required for City Council to continue making transparent and responsible fiscal decisions on behalf of the community.”

To this end, a thorough review of the City’s financial processes is being conducted to add confidence for City Council with the 2021 budget process. The review should be completed by the end of February 2021. A report on the findings and subsequent recommendations will then be presented to Wetaskiwin City Council as information.

“Being transparent is important for both Council and our organization. We wouldn’t be able to make our best decisions for 2021 without having our 2019 audited financial report,” stated City of Wetaskiwin Mayor Tyler Gandam. “We have made finding efficiencies in the City’s spending our top priority. I understand that delays like this can be frustrating and we will continue to keep you updated as we work through this.”

The updated budget deliberation schedule will be posted at www.wetaskiwin.ca/budget as soon as it is finalized.

About the City of Wetaskiwin

Wetaskiwin is a secure, connected, and inclusive community home to a diverse population of 12,655 people. Located only 30 minutes south of the Edmonton International Airport, the City of Wetaskiwin provides a high quality of life through ample recreation opportunities, diverse cultural activities, and a modernized, business-friendly downtown.

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