



Verbatim Responses Received from the autumn 2018 *Let's Chat Wetaskiwin* Survey

What is the main reason you feel that way (poor value for taxes)
Taxes are pretty high here.
I don't feel that the city spends money intelligently. They talk about responsible spending while I watch them hand out grants like candy and spend money on projects that aren't important in the long term. Meanwhile my sidewalk is crumbling, but if it gets fixed I have to pay for half of it.
Essential Services targets are met but just met....sometimes not in a timely fashion....I believe the cost sharing of road work is unnecessary which puts my rating to fair instead of good
Wish we had more services such as curb side recycling pick up, more walking paths, maybe a landfill discount for those people owning property for the amount of tax we pay we get nothing...the roads are poor, there is next to no decent shopping, our recycling services are getting worse with each other month
Our taxes are higher than surrounding communities and there are less recreational activities and shopping options
The road improvements alone are significant. As well, the upkeep and maintenance of the City is impressive.
more needs to be spent on basic infrastructure. Roads. Taxpayers should not have to pay extra for street repairs
staff & administration are doing a good job.
Reliable water, sewer, garbage collection, recycling program etc.
Too much focus on useless beautification projects. Also not enough focus on coordinating manager infrastructure projects nor on maintaining basic maintenance.
Too much money has been wasted on projects such as beautification instead of addressing core services
the street in front of my house is not well maintained. poor snow removal service during heavy snowfall winters
I don't see anymore publicly funded beds for the very long waiting list for seniors housing
Lack of snow removal in our area and manholes protrude from street making for a rough ride
The taxes are driving people out of Wetaskiwin.
Poor roads, winter snow removal, homelessness, lack of shopping, crime
Taxes are high but we have many amenities

I believe there is always room for improvement. I would prefer to pay more taxes in able to access more/better services.
Sometimes I feel City Tax dollars could be better utilized
It seems like we spend money on projects that could possibly wait a year or 2 and neglect things that should be deemed more of a high priority. An example would be maybe the blue planters could of waited and maybe seeing the same section of road ripped up more than once in the same year (near BPS)
We love within city limits but are not on city or septic. We pay A LOT of property tax compared to other communities. We've always felt the amount we pay is unfair for living in Wetaskiwin where it seems only liquor stores stay open. While the sports programs good there is little else here.
Toad maintenance has been nonexistent for many years. The dump is almost at capacity. Crime is ridiculous, and I don't feel safe in my town. Main Street is pretty, but a large portion is a waste of money. Slumlords are allowed to maintain their businesses without repercussion.
Honestly, it feels like a lot of the city's focus right now is using our tax dollars to employee people to get more money out of us (i.e., protective services and development permits) It feels like we pay a lot and have less and less freedoms and services that improve our quality of life.
The City is doing well with the funds approved by City council.
City service in my area of the city is good.
There are many things that the City needs to take care of with the tax dollars they collect. Over the last couple of years, I've seen many improvements in the roads and especially the last phase of the Main Street project & Jubilee Park. More peace officers are needed to keep up with by law issues.
Winter Road Maintenance is almost non existent, Summer Road Maintenance almost non-existent
The crimes is bad, The roads are horrible. And the city does not support the arts. And there are people between kids and seniors that get nothing in the form of support.
Seniors need to be taken care of!
Good services, great recycling centre, snow clearing always done well at least where I live!
Need more recreational affordable programming for ages 6-18. Decrease crumb, increase self esteem, leadership, healthy lifestyles, perhaps counseling, etc. Can't just focus on Seniors, have to invest in kids, they represent our future.
Please bring in more businesses so I can MAYBE have lower taxes.
My garbage is picked up, the streets are cleaned, the parks are well maintained, infrastructure work is being done regularly
It costs money to operate and maintain a 120 year old community. Taxes for services are middle of the road around the region.
I always think there are better ways to use tax payers dollars. So always room for improvement.
I feel our taxes are high for a small city
I think the taxes should include the maintenance of our roads. I do not appreciate that I will be having a huge tax increase to fix my road soon. They need to budget better.
I feel that our taxes are too high because I feel unsafe in my community. I understand emergency services is doing a great job, our crime rate is just so high it is extremely discomforting. Also too much is spent on new equipment. To spend more, we need more left in our bank accounts.

Taxes keep going up and services keep getting cut.
Infrastructure is now being added on top of taxes collected . I haven't had a raise in 7 years. Middle class people are the new poverty. Alberta has the highest tax levy. I see posts of the mayor in exotic locations and I work 2 jobs plus my hubby works full time and we can't make it .
Not impressed with how the debt is consuming so much of the collected taxes and how new things we don't need. We pay some of the highest taxes for the services we get. You will never attract development in a city so burdened with taxes. Its already effecting the property values. Wish I could sell.
condition of some roads and sidewalks. we pay for many extras like garbage etc. that we never paid for in other communities where we lived.
Lack of curbside recycling and compost pick up. (Without an increase to current costs) Our family does not recycle As it is too much of a hassle and time consuming ordeal to save recyclables and sort them at the city recycle center.
Bullshit having to pay for sidewalks in front of property. This is very burdensome on seniors!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
I'm not well enough informed to be anywhere but in the middle. I vote in all the elections; then sit back and let those people do as they see fit.
Our roads are cleared, we have a recycling program, by-law enforcement, maintenance of trees, parks etc. Lots of programs and activities, recreation. With such a small population we have it pretty good for the taxes we pay.
There is a lack of residential street cleaning in the winter, crumbling sidewalks and trees that need trimming in many areas. The roads also need work and there is no longer free dump week so door to door recycling would be nice.
Poor quality work on our downtown. Lots of trips to conventions to attract new business but not many new business
Street cleaning and snow removal are poor. I get each one time per year.
There seems to be much more improvement to city roads and other improvements this year.
Only service I get is garbage pick up - once a week. Street gets brushed in the spring. Snow is not cleared in the winter - at all. All winter there is a big lip to go over to get into the cul-de-sac from the street. Not happy with this service for the amount of taxes paid.
I feel that we get very good services for our tax dollars. Especially over the last few years as more long term planning for improvements to streets and sidewalks are being put in place.
The services the City provides are quite good, including garbage pick-up, street cleaning in both summer and winter, and bylaw services. The City parks are beautifully cared for and they are doing their best to maintain and fix roads and sidewalks that have been neglected for a long time.
Services and infrastructure are good but money is being spent on other non essential items. I.e. solar speed lights,
Jobs are done that don't need to be done, items purchased that don't need to be. For examples, the flashing lights on the stop signs at 4 way stops, the speed signs in the school zones. Some streets such as a section of the auto mile were paved not long again and were just done again in 2018.
I have lived in several communities where the services for dollars spent is way less.
City is paving the wrong streets, if I wanted my street paved they would want additional tax money to do so. I don't see a lot of business being attracted to the city, I see more empty store fronts and business closing. I see taxes going up but we are not a city that is growing and we are over spend
It's hard to see what services are being offered for 78% of what I pay in taxes each year.
The streets are horrible. Pot holes, no lines painted. Worst city for creating or maintaining bike paths. Very disappointing. Spend money on selfless

watering planters that wasted money and took away a few summer jobs.
Our side of town is totally ignored and has been since we moved here when questioned they have other areas that need it more
Our road doesn't even get plowed more than once a winter.
services could be better
road repair is badly needed
Taxes seem higher here than other small cities, yet we have poorish roads, and police can't respond quickly to calls for help. I think too much is spent on councilors' travel to other cities and to meetings and conventions. More use of videoconferencing should be looked at.
Wetaskiwin has beautiful parkland and recreation. The infrastructure is constantly being updated and I think a city of our size is doing the best it can
Snow removal on residential streets needs to be a WHOLE lot better. And lets clean the snow from the back alleys at least once a year, too.
I feel that the city of Wetaskiwin Council and mayor are screwing the citizens out of money that we've been paying for years that they should have done properly so now they are taking taxpayers money and screwing the people over and not spending the money properly
Winter street cleaning is horrible and I'm talking about the Main Street. Our residential street was cleared once, and was getting quite rutted which is hard on my vehicle. Cleaning the streets in the Spring & Fall are not great. I ride a motorcycle and would like the Spring cleaning earlier.
Our city constantly over spends on frivolous beautification projects. More attention needs to be on good senior housing and infrastructure and attracting more businesses
Crime is horrible in this city, I am afraid to go out after dark. My car is going to need new shocks from the terrible roads. Community wise the is very little for my children to do here with only one small toddler park and it is in a terrible area. I don't see where the money goes.
Lack of resources for roads, tree pruning, general upkeep.
Money wasted on ugly flowerpots that are a laughing stock to visitors, paying for pavement and improvements on top of taxes, taxes higher than almost anywhere else, fancy lights around stop signs, etc. What actually do we get for our tax dollars? Spring and fall free dump day gone
the population has grown very little. Our mayor said the industrial area was going to get people "to come back" I don't see any change in either. When you consider how many more city employee's we have it is stupid. We have to pay more taxes every year with no change to the community
Money spent on foolishness like the ridiculous main street disaster and the ugly blue flower bins could be used on other projects like a decent recycling program and some of the older roads that are in complete disrepair
I feel that our tax dollars are not being spent for the common good of the city. Our streets are falling apart, our rec facilities are not being maintained well and our taxes are high in my opinion. I don't see the value
The City maintains the streets extremely well, and the employees are very efficient and friendly to interact with.
Budget seems poorly managed, roads are poorly maintained, recycling program could be upgraded to encourage more people to participate, stores have no incentive to move in or stay which limits options for consumers.
I believe we still need to develop the airport to attract more commercial traffic and that the City put the cart before the horse by building the pool first. While I see that the pool is well used😀, it is an expensive part of our tax bill for minimal ROI economically

Nothing is being repaired or service is very poor
Anyone with the city of Wetaskiwin can say what they want about us compared to "surrounding municipalities" and that our mill rate is justified because of assessments etc. Its absolutely UNTRUE. I would like to see PROOF.
My back alley is always full of water. Street never plowed. Roads in terrible shape. etc.
Not all decisions made by Council are to my liking.
I do not feel that wise business decisions are made with the money spent.
Comparing it to other cities and provinces I have lived in the value that we got for our taxes included all kinds of recycling pick up and services. We need to attract more business to help take the tax burden off homeowners.
Unsure exactly where the 77% is going and how it benefits me directly
Neighbouring communities have better services and pay less overall.
There always seems to be the need to have additional costs and not seeing where the money is going
Don't agree with some expenditures
Road maintenance is not as good as I would like to see. Also the loss of the free cleanup weeks is a negative.
Because taxes \$\$\$ are super high compared with other places. too many bad financial decisions made by councils and city managers
inappropriate use of tax dollars. Less unnecessary infrastructure improvements vs more social programs would be appreciated.
We need more snow plowing and maintenance for where we are located.
I feel more could be used for community support services
The money spent only partially addresses the issues facing Wetaskiwin. Money is spent on things not "needed". Cover the needs first and the wants when funds are available.
Roads are deplorable. Vandalism is up, crime is high. Taxes are too high for the services we receive. There are areas in town that never see a snow plow in the winter. New businesses, that would employ a number of people, aren't motivated to come here. Why not? \$\$ has been spent to attract them?
It's hard when you see areas where money is spent less frugally (maintenance, upkeep, purchases) and then as a resident we're hit harder again with the cost of recreation space rental etc. Also residents need to pay for road upkeep, but not business's? Taxes should also be higher on vacant property a
We pay some of the highest taxes in Alberta. We don't have decent roads, no curb side recycling and many other advances other communities have.
Plowing strategy sucks....city workers will wait a day before they snow in s big snowfall and some areas like where I live only get it once or twice a winter. Roads and sidewalks are in very poor shape. City spent way too much on Main Street and the Aquatic Centre versus base infrastructure.
I guess I feel that this way because I am happy with the city and don't have any complaints. I see beautification happening, the new crosswalk controlled lights, new trees and roads and sidewalks being repaired.
Streets not being cleaned in our area properly or in a fair amount of time.
I owned property elsewhere in Canada and property taxes were lower for similar property value. Also we received more city services, for example the town had weekly pickup of garbage, recyclables and compost !! So it was hard getting used to the way things are here again, when I saw what can be

done.
N/A
Disappointed at time with services: 2017/18 winter street was not cleaned even once, back lane hasn't been graded in 2 years. And little to no improvement to the auto mile, which really showcases our city.
When it snows the town is on top of plowing and they do the sidewalks in a timely fashion or when I call about sidewalks they get cleared quickly. My only complaint is the sidewalks that don't have "down ramps", it's hard to walk with a stroller
I don't always agree with how my tax dollars are spent nor do I use all of the services my tax dollars support.
Which of the following tax strategies to balance the budget would you support? Specify Other
Depends on what "enhance" means. We could use some additional services, but need to be considerate of overall costs.
Reallocate funds. Reduce recreation budget. Fees for season passes at Manluk are much lower than those in private gyms. Review spending in other areas.
Reduce the arts and cultural programs, eliminate all First Nations everything and cut the wages of politicians and middle managers.
Again I believe the tax dollars are a fair amount but manageable. But on that same note I believe The City needs to better manage their projects for the year to reduce costs.
I e never felt that the tax amount is equal to services. Wetaskiwin is well known for raising taxes in order to complete anything and have been known to scare away businesses
I would like to know which services would be reduced to avoid increasing taxes. Our taxes are too high already for what we are getting.
Personally, our family can afford a moderate tax increase but there are MANY families in our city that cannot afford even a small increase. I worry about them being driven out of our city.
Why does everything have to raise taxes? Cut the salaries of council and give the tax payers a break.
It would be nice to enhance the level of services but use other money's for it than taxes.
reduce taxes in order to entice more potential residence
It would be an efficient use of our dollars to see city workers doing the job all year so we won't see such a huge impact at once
They need to maintain current taxes levels but maintain the services that are provided but trim expenses internally. Maybe incentives to employees?
I am not informed enough to make this decision at this time.
Reduce all unnecessary spending. Reduce the bloated city staff. Reduce new equipment purchases. While maintaining close to the same services and reduce taxes . Or keep the taxes the same reduce debt
Cut out 70%of overtime and ALL employee anniversaries. If need be, hire part time casual to offset the overtime.

better use of tax dollars to keep current services, taxes are quite high for what we get already and could be used more efficiently
Maintain with no tax increase
I am sure there are places that can handle cuts. I am on a fixed income so a tax increase would be difficult.
Enhance the level of services while leaving the current tax levels. Believe we pay way too much for the services provided in this small town.
Maintain service levels. Find cuts elsewhere such as excessive new positions in the organization. An assessment of the work levels in all departments needs to happen, too many with not enough to do.
My income isn't increasing, therefore I can't afford increases as we barely get by as it is financially. So vote for staying the same, as last year there were hidden increases in our city bills
What kind of services are you talking about
increase the level of services, but don't raise the taxes....
Spend the money more wisely (see last answer).
I support none of the above it should be the taxes that we are paying should fix whatever is needed in the city of Wetaskiwin as is
We need to start being smart about how we spend our money. We are constantly over budget on projects. We need more accountability with how money is spent and more transparency with city finances
With proper money management, the few services we get could be maintained with current tax levels. Mayor Gandam needs to get his head out of the clouds and start serving the people who elected him
Stop throwing away the money. How many times do we have to pay for repaving the same intersection? By the water tower is a prime example. Fix the roads that need it first
More efficiency and value in the services provided without upping our taxes. There is definitely room for efficiency and improvement.
Balance services better - some can be reduced to provide another elsewhere, maybe. It's not as easy as the choices listed.
Enhance service levels that will be of economic benefit even if it means having to spend extra if a business case can be substantiated to offset the costs in a reasonable amount of time
Use the money you collect in taxes to do a proper job!
A mixture of both. Make sure expenditures are optimized
Keep taxes about the same or less and offer new business incentives to attract business and revitalize our community and reduce homeowners tax burden
As I deal with non-profits; try to work out squeezing funds from other sources. Cut backs on non-essential services.
Trim spending. Are we top heavy in admin. Positions. Are city wages too high. Please don't compare Wetaskiwin to thriving communities, Camrose, Leduc.
Increase taxes on vacant land and buildings. It will encourage owners to reduce rent, sell unused space to people wanting it, and to actively pursue tenants and businesses

I think Wetaskiwin should contact other communities across Canada and learn about city services of similar size towns particularly the Maritimes who are using creative solutions to economic problems.
Most important budget process priorities facing the City of Wetaskiwin Council
To make residents feel they are getting value for their dollars and to feel like they are being heard.
Our street people/vagrant issue, policing, streets and road condition, declining population, lack of small business support
Finding a way to stop sending money on project that don't need to be done in the short term, save the money and put towards projects that do take priority and are needed right away.
Balancing the amount of residential taxes and services.
City council needs to find ways to bring in a tax base before they keep spending money they don't have
Road work and maintenance
Road maintenance and police services
Continued infrastructure improvements.
Give more help to businesses already located in Wetaskiwin rather than only trying to entice new businesses. Don't drive residents out by charging them exorbitant fees for road repair on top of annual taxes.
Economic development is non-existent!
Reduce taxes! Reduce the corporate tax in effort to build up our business/commercial properties. Focus on encouraging the local economy and on bringing in new business.
Trying to maintain services without costs going up
infrastructure
Continuing and improving community services
Road Work - Sidewalks - Road Maintenance - Library
keeping up with road repairs maintaining buildings
Dealing with the BS in the southwest corner of town.
Housing for homeless,
To remain within a budget reflected in our current collected tax dollars. I don't feel that we should be getting any increases but am okay losing some amenities.
Infrastructure improvements, additional services, continue to pay any remaining debt from previous projects.
mill rate to high and trying to get roads repaired at the same time

Roadwork and RCMP enforcement.
Making the citizens of Wetaskiwin responsible for issues involving homeless people from Makawcis. Realizing this is a sensitive nature I feel so angry that there are people from that community not being cared for. That burden should not be Wetaskiwin's
Infrastructure; Waste water treatment and roads
Policing and road repair
Cut back on unnecessary spending (we did not need new flower pots, flashing speed signs/lights all over town or city owned photo radar vehicles). Hearing that the city is "broke" and then seeing all this spending is maddening.
Replace aging infrastructure and better fund both policing and municipal enforcement.
Make the city of Wetaskiwin receptive to new business. We need to attract new business which will help our tax base. The private home owners are taxed out
To not over-analyze every cent or line item. Trust their managers to manage the funds they are allocated. City Council should be concerned with the bottom line and not get involved with the details so much. I don't feel like that is their role in how the City is run.
The tax goes up, but we all benefit from well maintained infrastructure and increased services in some way.
Not increasing property taxes to clean up messes made in previous years
Nobody ever address the god awful amounts on the water bills. My god it is killing us. and we don't even use that much water.
Services for the homeless
Reducing debt
infrastructure
Spend within your means. Lower my taxes. Bring more businesses in to compete with Camrose.
Infrastructure work - roads, water & sewage lines, sidewalks Maintaining parks Keeping streets clean - fall & spring sweeping, winter snowfall removal
Low income people. High maintenance costs. Infrastructure debt.
balancing the budget and dealing with the debt load from previous councils
road repair, RCMP budget, property taxes
Vagrancy, Safety(theft), infrastructure
Trying to maintain the same tax level without reducing services. Little tweaks in each department should be looked at
Reducing crime, reducing money spent on beautification until basic necessities (water/sewer replacements) are taken care of, encourage new business to reduce our taxes and create jobs for tradesmen
RCMP have huge budget and their level of service is sub par. They get called and never show up. Never see them patrolling. They seem to be more reactive than proactive. I would support more peace officers as you see them more. They also help clean up the city of nuisance properties making clean
LISTEN to the people who elected you. I am tired of the lies and inexperience council has. We need roads fixed . New businesses in the city.

Dealing with debt and the high taxes. Wetaskiwin will never be more than it is today unless the issue of drunks is addressed. No business owner in their right mind would want to open a business here and have to deal with the BS of drinks!
keeping the city moving forward without increasing the debt load too much
We need homeless shelter...
Policing
First -the homeless, transient, addicted. Then planning for a greener future which can include enhanced recycling, alternate energy, hybrid car charging sites (other than city hall).
Streets are a mess. Sidewalks. Are a mess.
New Business
More efficient spending and identification of money saving initiatives.
Paying down debt
I would like to see the debt handled that the previous council made enormous.
We need an increase of policing, i.e.. hiring of more police. Infrastructure improvement needs to be both continued and maintained. We need to clean up the "culture" of Wetaskiwin and how we are viewed within the province as Wetaskiwin. needs increased business e.g. Staples, Save on, etc.
Street Maintenance
To find a way to deliver the services the City needs to at least maintain the infrastructure we have without increasing taxes too much. I think it is not realistic to expect the city to do everything it does without at least a small increase in taxes since everything gets more expensive every year.
Infrastructure maintenance.
Re-evaluate the % people are being asked to pay on local improv tax. I would be good with 25% across the board. Main priority sold be new business and new jobs, Wetaskiwin needs a new identity, we are not Makiwacis. Then sell it like crazy.
Paying off the financial debt the city owes. Pay the bills and THEN move forward with projects.
Business attraction , maintain what we have
Understanding citizens are on fixed incomes or incomes have decreased in the last few years if we want people to stay it needs to be affordable to live here.
Road repair and sewage lines.
Roads, and services
Plowing residential streets more than once a winter. And how about fixing the roads that are actually full of pot holes instead of roads that seemed totally fine and not requiring repairs
balance the budget
involve the public early; be more willing to abandon a project if the costs increase beyond what was agreed, hire a dedicated city constable(s) to patrol late at night to curb property offences.

Roads
Infrastructure repair
Roads(repair), sidewalks (fixing & adding more wheel chair/stroller/bike ramp access at corners), helping the homeless, finding a way to put rent cap on city.
Conflict of interest issues. City beautification projects that benefit alderperson's personal circle and which send good businesses out of town because the streets were needlessly torn up for over a year. That was absolutely idiotic. NEVER spend my tax dollars that way again.
Get counselors that know what they're doing
Infrastructure. Affordable housing. Better services and housing for our aging population
Crime and advertising to bring more business and other professionals to the city.
Taxes are already very high. Need to have a balance between services and \$\$.
Maintain the services, fix the roads, and live within their means. Start listening to the people of Wetaskiwin
Need to use the tax money properly instead of throwing it away. the amphitheatre in the park was a waste. No one uses it. that's just one example. Infrastructure. There are many areas in town that need to be repaved but council doesn't to seem to think that's important
Finding a place for a warming centre/sleeping place for our homeless, making roads safe without giant potholes, trying to keep property taxes as reasonable as possible,
Keeping the taxes low while maintaining a high level of service.
Service to the residents not wasteful spending on aesthetics
Using tax money efficiently
Roads and services
Attracting/maintaining business and industry
Increasing revenue and making economically realistic decisions, keeping the airport certified and growing its commercial benefits, increasing the runway if necessary to increase commercial traffic, upgrading infrastructure, cooperating with relevant partners on projects where it makes sense to do so
road and sidewalk improvement
Yes I feel that the City budget should be a priority .
Need to REDUCE DEBT.
Infrastructure
To make sure every dollar is spent wisely.
City Debt Load Policing Staffing Infrastructure
Fixing and maintaining infrastructure and reducing crime
Reducing taxes and doing upgrades that are necessary and beautifying the city as less of a priority

Expenses exceeding revenue and using money poorly.
More grants for roads and other services
To find ways to reduce the deficit you
To lower taxes, bring businesses here and create jobs, clean up the high crime rates, to pay off our high debt.
What to do with the dump situation and the obvious water shortage which appears to be an annual thing. Hard to sell your community to businesses looking for a place to locate.
TAXs...
Need roadwork completed
infrastructure (sidewalks especially), recreation (splash pad or field house), social services (friendship centre)
Non-commercial infrastructure maintenance. Getting some form of housing/service agreement for the homeless in co-operation with Maskiwacis and the federal/provincial governments.
Things have fallen into disrepair over the years. Start picking away at each project till completed. Also we've been paying an extra fee on the water bill to offset the cost of a new landfill, where's that money how much is there?
I don't feel I'm really in the loop on that. What we see is not always the case
Getting base infrastructure fixed (like underground piping and such) versus stiffing homeowners to pay for it and fancy projects like the aquatic centre.
Maintaining the roads.
Lack of creative thinking regarding ways of saving money or finding new funding for services. Rather than simply raising residential property taxes or cutting services. We need to learn from other communities that are coming up with unique solutions. Plus figure out were money is unnecessarily wasted
I know it's not simple but ways to lower property taxes. Compared to larger cities I think our property taxes are high. This removes one of the benefits of living in a smaller town.
Infrastructure
BALANCE NEED VERSUS WANTS
Cleaning the city up and catching up on years of neglect the infrastructure in the city has faced
Fixing the roads without using the local improvement tax option. The local improvement tax should have been used to pay for Manluk Center not roads.
What type of bags does your business distribute? Specify other
We use plastic bags to cover product to protect from elements. We receive plastic wrappers, which we used to be able to recycle, but no longer are able.

What do you do with plastic bags after using them? Specify other
Mostly used as garbage bags
it makes no sense to buy plastic bags for household garbage when I can re use grocery store bags
I use them for garbage.. If I didn't have them I would buy plastic bags
use them for trash bags in our washrooms instead of purchasing bags.
Recycle what I don't use as garbage bags, but recycling resources for plastic bags is very insufficient.
Donate to thrift store usually. Otherwise I reuse them
Half discard, half reuse
Garbage bags...
Recycle AND reuse
Use as garbage bags
I use them for my garbage collection
Cat litter.
Re-use, re purpose and then recycle
I usually take my own bags but when I do get plastic bags I use them to line my garbage can.
Use them for garbage.
Reuse them and also donate them to local thrift stores to use.
USE THEM TO PUT THE USED KITTY LITTER IN; TAKE CLEAN ONES TO STORE TO PUT GROCERIES IN, REPURPOSE THESE BAGS MANY TIMES BEFORE THEY GET REGULATED AS "GARBAGE:
What prevents you from using re-usable bags more often? Specify other
Nothing we use grocery tubs.
Not worth the cost
I don't always have re-usable bags in my pocket!
When I am running low on bags at home I usually will not use re-usable bags.
I re-use my bags for several different things. And I feel we have bigger issues than plastic bags to be focusing on

I like and want plastic bags. We use them as garbage bags.
Convenience
I can just carry some stuff out; don't need a bag.
I forget them, and I prefer plastic bags.
Who cares? Get off the eco freak bandwagon and run the city equitably and not get off on some stupid green tangent.
Sometimes I like plastic bags so I have them for the re use of garbage.
I currently don't like most of the re-usable bags that are for sale because most are still made out of plastic. Also many aren't sanitary because they don't wash well.
It is impractical for my family and it is gross and unhealthy to have spilled milk and blood in a reusable bag that needs to be thrown away.
What recreation and leisure activities would your household like to participate in within the City of Wetaskiwin but is currently unable to? 1st resp.
Following Canada's largest Truck and Tractor pull team that is based out of Wetaskiwin but does not put the event on
Outdoor pool
challenging walks
Basketball league
Racquetball
racquetball
Paper crafting
Hot yoga
Skiing
Swimming in a pool with a kids jungle gym (like Leduc)
Outdoor swimming pool
Affordable shopping
Adult dance
Sledding on a bigger hill
Indoor soccer - I think we need to build a fieldhouse!
trampoline jumping

Certain craft classes not offered here
Spray Park
Indoor walking area available evenings and weekends
Better walking program for seniors
skiing
Spray park for children
Swim, however due to thefts we don't attend and go to other cities
See an Edmonton Eskimos game. They don't play here.
Better shopping
cross country skiing
Hiking in desirable location
quality skateboarding (our skatepark is not good)
Rec volleyball
Leduc rec
Slo-Pitch Tournaments
Art tutorials
Adult only events
ukulele and Spanish programs at our library
inline hockey
A nice spray park
Dancing
Theater
Ball pits/trampoline in Sherwood park
Better shopping
Indoor walking track
Men's Yoga
Splash parks
XC skiing
More family dances.
indoor field for soccer or lacrosse

Splash and Spray Park
Indoor soccer field
Running trails-Wetaskiwin trails don't connect and not enough of them, in the older part of town there are no trails
What recreation and leisure activities would your household like to participate in within the City of Wetaskiwin but is currently unable to? 2nd resp.
Spray park
fun runs e.g.: Foam Fest/ Color Me Rad
Better playgrounds for kids
Painting Pottery
Mountain biking
Lacrosse
Mountain bike park
Decent movie theatre
Inside walk -running track
Summer Festival down main street
Spray park - I would be willing to join a board to make this happen.
Pool activities not offered here
Indoor walking track
Show/theater that shows current movies in A CLEAN THREATER
live music performances
Bowling, the current business is not a good experience
Axe throwing.
ski-skijoring
Biking in desirable location
weekly adult basketball league or drop-in
Rec hockey
Leduc's walking paths. So clean and maintained

Motocross riding
Singles events and meetings
off road biking
Mini golf
Summer events and other events
Swimming in Leduc
Cheaper gas
Barre fitness class
Affordable drop in fitness classes. Our Manluk centre has increased its prices for classes substantially the last 2 years.
Indoor playgrounds
More variety of language classes. Example- I would like to learn Spanish or Chinese.
mini golf
Mini Golf
Indoor skating - after school wet only has stick n puck now
Playground-Leduc has an awesome dino park with zip line, Ponoka has a fun playground too
What recreation and leisure activities would your household like to participate in within the City of Wetaskiwin but is currently unable to? 3rd resp.
camping
Splash park
Large trail hiking
Fencing
Outdoor play and splash park
Free workshops for seniors
regular theatre productions/festivals
Dancing
Swimming in a lake or river
youth drop-in sports (especially court sports)

Children indoor places
Block parties
Interesting museums and galleries
Expo
Arcade
The libraries hours on Fridays is so silly. Should be 8pm
Shopping
Bus tours departing from Wetaskiwin to events /attractions around Alberta
beach volleyball
Safe walking paths
Better tennis courts
Why hasn't your household participated in recreation and leisure activities?
working, not able to leave the business, weather, health conditions
too busy
Not much for autistic children to do, we stay home were we can control the atmosphere
We are not interested in participating at this time.
Work out of town. Last time to the pool people kept pooping in it. :(
Don't want to.
Too busy working
Holidaying out of town.
Expensive
I have a disability which makes it difficult
No time.
Health reasons
We have our own leisure/recreation and a lot of the time own plans and the City's activities overlap and we can't do both.
Nothing of interest for the adults. And nothing available for the kids based on the ages other than swimming, we participate in Leduc instead.
We are seniors and not interested in sports. I should not have to pay for other people's recreation

Don't feel like it.
too expensive
Doesn't interest us
Not interested. Most activities are aimed at young families. Generally not anything to do for young adults
No money
COST IS PROHIBITIVE
Any other comments or suggestions
Along with the plastic bag issue, the city should try to address the amount of garbage produced regarding "takeout" foods and perhaps offer an incentive to the restaurant providers to use only biodegradables to provide this service. Could have a high impact on our landfill as well.
The province is in a rescission and the city needs to find ways to increase its tax base. More and bigger business and work with them and not against them. The city needs to stop spending on unnecessary things and i.e.. plastic flower pots which were very unneeded ,increase its spending or increase tax we need to become more environmental - look towards places like Okotoks and how environmental they are becoming, their new developments...we need easier access to solar, better incentives, we need way better recycling, we have lots of land availability for a new Tiny House development
traffic. I like the flashing speed signs. They are great reminders to slow down without the negativity of photo radar tickets.
What does Community Development do? Event planning is good but there is very little in the way of new business or business expansion. With new shopping facilities at EIA, this department should be working extra hard to protect, develop, and enhance business in the City.
If your genuinely concerned about the environment and about affordable housing then do more to encourage our local building centres to make their old slightly damaged or obsolete items available at pennies on the dollar to the public. Last if you believe in equality then take down the treaty 6 flag
City administration & staff are doing a very good job!
The City is too concerned with lowering taxes, and not concerned enough with supporting and increasing community services.
You are spending too much time over the plastic bags. Your street upgrading is excellent. The upgrading at 40 Ave & 47st is excellent. You missed upgrading the street from 46 St & 40 avenue east 500 ft.
business property taxes are too high!
Something needs to be done with the BS around the mall and Walmart. THAT IS WHAT IS STOPPING WETASKIWIN FROM GROWTH, and taxes!
How does the city plan to have its residents pick up dog waste if no plastic bags are allowed in the landfill or allowed to be sold within city limits? Why are we not looking at doorstep recycling and composting to divert waste (I'm assuming cost).
I guess my question would be what is The City of Wetaskiwin's emergency response plan? I've never seen one advertised and most people would not try to search it up.

For the first time living in Wetaskiwin I have really felt the issues arising from living next to the reserve. I hate that I see drinking barfing people, passed out on the road. Stumbling down alleyways while I'm with my children. Several people I have spoken to are considering moving. It's unfair
Please stop wasting time focusing on plastic bags, and work more on all the looters coming out at night to commit crime. I'm scared to be out in town after dark, and scared to be in my own yard at night.
Ever since protective services was put under one umbrella it has been hemorrhaging money. I am seriously unimpressed with many of the purchases made by that department. We need to get back to basics to ensure that vulnerable families in our community are able to survive in our city.
could consider privatizing the pool, that way we don't have to use taxes to cover operating deficit... or does it still operate at a deficit?
The City would get more bang for their buck by hiring more Peace Officers rather than RCMP because the peace officers are dedicated to the City and don't spend the majority of their time out in the County or other areas outside of the City.
Do not ban Plastic bags. Ban public consumption of marijuana.
Start to promote the art programs in this city.
Need overpass, many trains, unpredictable times, busy times like 8:00 when parents driving kids to school or kids walking, ppl going to work etc. Very slow, blocks several crossing blocked with one train
Policing costs a very high compared to other communities due to the issues related to vagrancy and the revolving door in dealing with them. While a tough issue Wetaskiwin and other municipalities is close proximity to similar addicted communities should receive special funding from the Prov. Feds.
I think that the City needs to seriously consider installing a fieldhouse (part 2 of the Manluk Centre), and spray park. There would be several community members invested in helping to fundraise and hold board positions in relation to these two initiatives.
Eliminating plastic bags is not right.. Educating the consumer & retailer to recycle or bring their own bags is better. Costs to businesses will increase and the internet is already driving consumers away. Ex. We get our bags free from supplier & use as advertising promo.
I don't want to be misunderstood, I have a lot of respect for our RCMP services, they do a commendable job, I just believe they need more help, or we need to find solutions to homelessness and crime in our community.
My boys enjoyed several weeks of summer camp this year however it would be nice to see more than 2 weeks of half days available for 4/5 year old's.
I realize I don't know anything about disaster or emergency preparedness in regards to the city. That is important information that I don't think is commonly known and should be.
City employees caught standing around with their hands in their pockets should be wrote up! 3 strikes, you are fired. See far to many standing around doing nothing. Particularly new employees. Grrr
New business
I needed to ask by law for advice and the response was very slow. I am not aware of the court system and felt I was treated poorly. When asking questions he talked down to me due to my not knowing and needing to ask how things worked. This man was in charge of by law.
Counsel seems to be consumed with making "native" issues always in the forefront of matters that effect all people of Wetaskiwin. Native culture is being forced in the school system as well. ALL cultures should be dealt with equally; this is leading to people (young and old) becoming bitter.
Spend less on beautification in one area and fix the rest of the town...i.e., streets, old abandon buildings, etc. Encourage more businesses into town.

There should be more Peace Officers working in the City because the 2 that are here can't cover everything and there are days when no one is working at all. 2 people can't cover all the days of the week. The RCMP don't seem to have much of a presence in the City although they have lots of members.
Planning and rollout of road replacement as a local improvement tax (on people on affected streets) is a major issue that the city seems to want to ignore or steamroll through.
Hard to comment on protective services unless you have needed that service or have been provide some statistics to compare too. Not very appropriate questions. What are the plans to encourage people not to use plastic bags?
With the railway tracks running through the city, how prepared is our emergency services and how much training has the community gotten if, for instance, a propane car exploded?
Thank you.
I'm opposed to local improvement taxes. I'd rather see all taxes across the city increased to pay for the improvement.
Please add and maintain bike paths. Stop raising our taxes it becoming hard to afford to live here. Create jobs.
why don't they promote more businesses to move to Wetaskiwin other than liquor stores and Chinese restaurants
compost pick-up
Property crime: need more ability to respond to calls and reported break- ins and thefts, especially at night.
Perhaps offer fire / emergency safety seminar open for questions & support those who maybe aren't prepared (explain 72 hour kit, what to do in apartment if no fire escape), get rent lowered in town for ppl to afford to live. Making Wetaskiwin more desirable place to live.
These polls are a good idea. Lets do that the next time BEFORE you spend millions.
My suggestion is to get a new counseling the new mayor that won't screw the citizens over in Wetaskiwin
I attended the information meeting at the memorial center. It was very clear that the people did not want the "pay for improvements" bill passed. The council totally ignored the people and did whatever they wanted to do anyway. If they don't listen anyway, what is the use of these surveys?
More traffic control/infractions being done Also see previous answers
Perhaps Protective Services could hold an information session on preparing for large scale emergencies/disasters.
Thank you for seeking our input. I recognize the need to continue to build bridges with the four bands but I hope that the decisions will be balanced and not made just to appease the native people as so often happens. I appreciate the way the mayor handles his FB comments.
I feel more information should be provided as to the banning of plastic bags, as to what to put garbage in , if we purchase plastic bags in another community will be able to use them in Wetaskiwin ? . If people don't want to use reusable bags or cant afford them will they have other options? Vote ?
I know it wouldn't be a "popular" decision but we need to do whatever it takes to reduce the city debt load over the next few years. The tax base doesn't increase to offset our debt so unless cuts are made things won't change. And it would be LUDICROUS to charge more taxes in this town.
Do not spend over our means. Do not borrow into the future generations.
Get a security guard at the public library there's a lot of crime happening there
I believe that there should be more enforcement for the new speed limits at school/playground zones. I live near one and there is always people driving

over the limit.
City meetings are difficult to attend, but should be more open to different times so people can attend. The current time is impossible for a lot of people to attend.
We need the council meetings and public meetings video streamed
Would prefer that the city peace officers are out and about more in marked patrol vehicles. Fire services need to look at cutting expenses. The training center that they needed to have under the understanding that it would generate some return by other departments use has not happened.
Change your policy with the city and go paperless for water bills.
Hopefully get a homeless shelter. Not cow sheds
We are still in need of a larger industrial businesses or more warehousing but tough to sell without water.
More public education or awareness needed to make citizens aware of what to do, where to go, etc. if there is a major disaster or emergency or natural weather event in our city
stop spending and lower taxes
Rather than banning plastic bags (big brother), the City could have a contest for businesses with the largest % reduction in bags being handed out. Leave it to the businesses to figure out and educate.
Is banning single use bags really going to make that big of an impact on the life of the landfill? Could not your energy be spent on reducing crime, the derelict population that frequents the town. Do not provide shelters for them that encourages them to stay here, make it uncomfortable for them.
Get off the "California-ban-straws" bandwagon and run the city with working people and the poor in mind versus some council member's left wing Eco freak green dream. Stupid and asinine how many questions were on this survey about plastic bags. Do your jobs!
I am concerned that the banning of plastic bags is a trendy band-aid project that the city is doing to appease people who want to ease there conscience. I believe educating the residents about reducing waste overall would be a better idea. Reduce and reuse should be thought of before banning.
The exchange of ideas between communities across Canada as well as communities in other countries broadens our available options to solve problems we know about and problems we don't even realize we have. Luckily the internet is a great resource for global exchange of creative solutions.
We appreciate all you do for Wetaskiwin. I know leading and making decisions are not easy jobs and you often hear any criticism but thank you for all you leaders do for us!
I DON'T FEEL SAFE IN MY BACK YARD IN THE DARK. WE HAD YOUNG PEOPLE JUMP THE BACK FENCE TRYING TO BREAK INTO THE CAMPER. HAVE HAD RANDOM PEOPLE SITTING AT PATIO TABLE-EVEN THOUGH YARD IS FENCED. HAVE INSTALLED SECURITY CAMERAS, SECURITY SYSTEM. DRUG DEALER LIVED ACROSS STREET
Don't use the local improvement tax for roads that require mandatory sewer & water replacement. Banning plastic bags won't solve anything with regards to Wetaskiwin. We have a fast food container litter problem, focus on working with the fast food restaurants to eliminate this litter.