



2016

Financial Update

from your

City by the Sea

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL

White Rock Council recognizes the challenges that cities face with increasing demands in service delivery and rising costs. We can assure you that Council is up for the task. We are working hard to balance those needs through prudently managing tax revenue, applying for provincial and federal funding where possible, and seeking partnership opportunities.

As members of Council and as residents of this great City, we, along with City staff, are committed to working together through public engagement to accomplish this.

The 2016 to 2020 Financial Plan for the City of White Rock was adopted by Council in March. We thank residents for participating in the budget feedback process. The Financial Plan reflects our commitment to provide you with the best value for your tax dollar.

We are pleased that in 2016, we were able to reduce your taxes by 2.2%. In addition, the water utility hydrant levy has been removed from your property tax notice, as it is now built into the fees on your water bill.

Recent major accomplishments include:

- the purchase of the water utility to address water quality issues more proactively and reduce the increased costs each taxpayer would have incurred under the previous operator;
- the purchase of property for the development of future parking at the waterfront;
- changes to multi-family solid waste services to comply with the Metro Vancouver ban on organics;
- unprecedented number of public processes of engagement through open houses and surveys; and
- partnering to offer new outdoor musical event series, "Concerts at the Pier" during the summer.

Recently, the City applied for federal and provincial grant funding to seek assistance with capital expenses associated with the implementation of arsenic and manganese treatment to our water supply.

In 2016, the City will work toward completing the Official Community Plan process, revitalizing Johnston Road, advocating for rail relocation, climate proofing our foreshore and working with the Province to enhance our waterfront.

You can also look forward to investments being made to improve the City's infrastructure and to increase the beautification of our parks and public spaces.

We will continue to set strategic goals through a common vision that supports and encourages economic growth and investment while promoting arts and culture and enhancing the natural beauty of our waterfront community.

We are committed to moving forward and shaping our City to be a more inclusive and welcoming environment for residents, business and visitors and remaining a community that our future generations can be proud of.

Mayor and Council would like to hear from you with any ideas or concerns you have. We look forward to working with all members of our community in making the best decisions for the City as a whole.

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2016

PROPERTY TAX HIGHLIGHTS & QUICK FACTS

- » The municipal tax levy decreased by 2.2%. This is largely due to the phasing out of solid waste collection from the general tax levy.
- » A 2.2% tax reduction equates to a savings of approximately \$67 on an average detached home and \$23 on an average strata property. The exact impact on an individual property depends on the assessed value of the property relative to others in the city.
- » Assessed values are determined by BC Assessment. For more information, please visit www.bcassessment.ca.
- » The sanitary sewer user fee increased by \$5 to \$261 for each detached home, apartment or condominium. An additional \$261 is charged for each self-contained secondary suite.
- » The drainage fee for your property depends on the size, type of land use, and the average amount of impervious area for that land use. On average, a typical detached home is charged \$396 and an apartment or townhouse is charged \$115.
- » The 2015 solid waste user fee is \$340. This is the first full year that this fee is being charged after being transitioned from the general tax levy. This only affects those properties currently serviced by the City.
- » The secondary suite service fee, which is charged to home owners with secondary suites, increased by \$10 to \$270.
- » The EPCOR White Rock Water Hydrant levy has been removed from your tax notice. Hydrant charges are now incorporated within fees on your water bills.
- » A 5% penalty will be applied to any current taxes and levies unpaid after July 4, 2016. An additional 5% penalty will be applied to 2016 taxes and levies unpaid after August 15, 2016.
- » Other levies on your tax notice, such as school taxes and Translink levies, are collected by the City on behalf of other agencies. Please contact these agencies directly if you have questions.

2016 Property Taxes and Home Owner Grant Applications are due on Monday, July 4, 2016

For information on the provincial property tax deferment program and the home owner grant program, please phone 1.888.355.2700. You can also find information online at gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferment and gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant.

Did you know?

The City offers a property tax Pre-Payment Plan. This plan allows you to make monthly payments towards your 2017 taxes. The plan starts in August. Visit www.whiterockcity.ca/taxes for more information.

Save time, go online!

Claim your home owner grant at www.whiterockcity.ca/hog and pay online through your financial institute's website.

Have Questions?

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