



2017

Financial Update

from your

City by the Sea

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL

2016 marked the first full year that the City owned the water utility. This brought with it many learnings and many successes. For example, the City was mandated by Fraser Health to provide a secondary disinfection throughout the entire distribution system. As a result, the City began a phased approach to secondary disinfection. To address our water quality concerns and provide a quality product, the City hired an in-house expert and partnered with a research group dedicated to finding solutions to water quality concerns.

As a Council, we are committed to keeping White Rock residents up-to-date and informed about the various projects and initiatives that are being worked on through engagement processes like open houses, public hearings, community forums, meetings, events, and surveys. We have heard from citizens on a variety of issues and have worked together to take White Rock in a direction for the future that will provide citizens with a great place to live, work and play.

We also look for ways to provide tax relief to White Rock residents, by applying for provincial and federal grants. For example, in 2016 we submitted an application, under the Clean Water WasteWater Fund (CWWF) for arsenic and manganese treatment processes. Thanks to the advocacy work by the City, we received grant funding to go towards capital expenses associated with the implementation of arsenic and manganese treatment processes to address our water quality. Through the CWWF, the City will receive 83% of the total project costs; a historic amount at \$11.8 million. We look forward to sharing more news with you regarding the next steps of this project soon.

In 2016, the City also worked towards completing the Official Community Plan process, consulted on concept designs for the revitalization of the Johnston Road Streetscape and Memorial

Park, continued advocating for rail relocation and climate proofing our foreshore, and worked with the Province to enhance our waterfront.

We will continue to set strategic goals through a common vision that supports and encourages economic growth and investment into the City's infrastructure while promoting arts and culture and enhancing the natural beauty of our waterfront community. We encourage you to read our Annual Report, which will be completed shortly, to learn more about accomplishments in the past year.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. We would like to hear from you with any ideas or concerns you have. As your Mayor and Council, we look forward to working with all members of our community in making the best decisions for the City as a whole.

Mayor Wayne Baldwin
wbaldwin@whiterockcity.ca
604.541.2124

Councillor David Chesney
dchesney@whiterockcity.ca
604.356.3791

Councillor Megan Knight
mknight@whiterockcity.ca
604.328.1657

Councillor Grant Meyer
gmeyer@whiterockcity.ca
604.345.1641

Councillor Helen Fathers
hfathers@whiterockcity.ca
604.345.1321

Councillor Bill Lawrence
blawrence@whiterockcity.ca
604.787.9076

Councillor Lynne Sinclair
lsinclair@whiterockcity.ca
604.328.1509

2017

PROPERTY TAX HIGHLIGHTS & QUICK FACTS

	2015	2016	2017
Municipal Tax Levy	↓ 2.89%	↓ 2.20%	↑ 3.65%

- » The municipal tax levy increased by 3.65% compared to 2016. 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 on property assessments, please visit www.bccassessment.ca.
- » Sanitary sewer user fees remain the same as in 2016. The residential fee is \$261 for each detached home, apartment or condominium. An additional \$261 is charged for each self-contained secondary suite. The commercial fee is \$274.
- » 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 \$415 and an apartment or townhouse is charged \$121.
- » The 2017 solid waste user fee is \$333 which incorporates a reduction of \$7 compared to the 2016 rate. This is only charged to 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 \$280.
- » A 5% penalty will be applied to any current taxes and levies unpaid after July 4, 2017. An additional 5% penalty will be applied to 2017 taxes and levies unpaid after August 15, 2017.
- » There have been changes made to the Provincial Home Owner Grant program. Examples pertain to the eligibility requirements for persons with disabilities, multiple home owner grant applications (usually cooperative housing buildings), retroactive Home Owner Grant applications and the ability of a person to apply for the grant on behalf of the applicant with their permission. For more information on Home Owner Grants and access to applicable forms, please visit the Province's website at gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant.
- » Other levies on your tax notice, such as Provincial (school) taxes and Translink levies, are collected by the City on behalf of other agencies. Please contact these agencies directly if you have questions.

2017 Property Taxes and Home Owner Grant Applications are due on Tuesday, July 4, 2017

For information on the provincial property tax deferral program and the home owner grant program, please phone 1.888.355.2700. You can also find information online at gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferral 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 2018 taxes. The plan starts in August. Visit www.whiterockcity.ca/prepay 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?

Visit us online at:
www.whiterockcity.ca/taxes
Phone: 604.541.2280
Email: finance@whiterockcity.ca
In person at City Hall
15322 Buena Vista Avenue