

Media Release



Town of Aurora Corporate Communications

communications@aurora.ca

For immediate release
Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Aurora Town Council adopts 2019 Operating, Capital and Water Budgets Council and staff work together to achieve target

Aurora, ON – Aurora Town Council has approved the 2019 Operating, Capital and Water Budgets, allowing the Town to continue delivering citizen-focused services, programs and infrastructure. The Town's operating budget was approved at \$67.5 million, the capital budget was approved at \$60.6 million and the water budget was approved at \$27 million.

Council and staff worked collaboratively to achieve Council's operating budget target of inflation, 2.3 per cent, plus 1 per cent for fiscal strategies to reduce reliance on unsustainable revenues and invest in infrastructure. The total 3.3 per cent increase to the tax levy translates to an additional \$79.71 of property tax on a home with an average assessed value of \$800,000.

"I am proud that staff and Council were able to work collaboratively to produce a budget that maintains the excellent level of service the Town provides to our residents while remaining fiscally responsible," says Mayor Tom Mrakas. "This budget also represents the first year of our phase in for operating costs related to the new Library Square and I am thrilled we've been able to accommodate this exciting project with minimal impact to taxpayers."

The Town's portion of the total tax bill includes funding for the Town of Aurora, Aurora Public Library, and Central York Fire Services and contributions to infrastructure rehabilitation and replacement. In addition to the Town, the anticipated increase for the Region and school board tax levy results in an expected overall combined tax increase of 3.1 per cent representing a \$202.28 increase to the average residential property tax bill.

Highlights of the 2019 Operating Budget include:

- Maintaining the Town's infrastructure such as roads, parks and community centres.
- First year of a three-year phase in for the new Library Square Operating Costs
- Continued phase in of Fire Services growth-driven costs
- Final phase in of Green for Life (GFL) waste management contract and impacts of provincial labour legislation
- Continued reduction of the Town's reliance on development driven revenues

Council approved the Town's new Strategic Asset Management Policy, the Town's updated Asset Management Plan, the 2018 10-year Capital Investment Plan and a 2019 Capital budget of \$60,563,760. The approval includes \$10,521,210 for repair and replacement of infrastructure, \$49,062,550 for growth and new capital and \$980,000 for studies and other projects.

Highlights of the 2019 Town of Aurora Capital Budget:

- \$410,000 for a new pumper truck for Central York Fire Services Fire Hall 4-5
- \$9,400,000 was earmarked for the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex (SARC) Gymnasium
- \$600,000 was earmarked for the repair of the skate park located at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex (AFLC)
- \$ 1,000,000 for the reconstruction of Vandorf Sideroad – Monkman Crescent & Carisbrook
- \$600,000 for the water meter replacement program
- \$250,000 to resurface the parking lot at Sheppard's Bush conservation area
- \$50,000 for backup generators for emergency evacuation centres



Media Release



Town of Aurora Corporate Communications

communications@aurora.ca

Council approved a retail water rate of \$2.18 per cubic metre, a wastewater rate of \$2.65 per cubic metre and a flat rate stormwater charge of \$5.44 per unit per month for residential and condominium properties and \$69.08 per unit per month for metered non-residential commercial/industrial and multi-residential properties. The new rates will be effective on all billings issued by the Town after April 30, 2019 and will be retroactive for the entire billing period.

A summary of the 2019 Operating budget can be found in the attached infographic and the full Council Report outlining details of the budgets can be downloaded [here](#). Videos of all 2019 Operating and Capital Budget deliberations are available on the Town's [YouTube channel](#). Information on the full cycle of the budget process is available at www.aurora.ca/2019budget.

-30-

Media contact:

Stephanie Mackenzie-Smith, Corporate Communications Manager | 905-727-3123 ext. 4238 | smackenzie-smith@aurora.ca

