

Media Release



Town of Aurora Corporate Communications

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For immediate release
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Aurora Town Council adopts its first multi-year Operating and Water Budget Council and staff work together to achieve a 3.4 per cent tax increase for 2020

Aurora, ON – Aurora Town Council has approved its first multi-year Operating and Water Budgets for 2020, 2021 and 2022, allowing the Town to continue delivering citizen-focused services, programs and infrastructure with greater budget impact certainty and coordination with the Town's strategic priorities. The Town's operating budget was approved at \$71.8M, \$75.0M and \$77.7M for 2020, 2021 and 2022. Over the same time period, water budgets of \$28.8M, \$30.5M and \$31.5M were also approved.

Council and staff worked collaboratively to achieve Council's operating budget target of inflation, 1.9 percent, plus 1 percent for fiscal strategies to reduce the Town's reliance on unsustainable revenues and invest in infrastructure for each of the next three years. A further 0.5% tax increase for 2020 and 2021 was approved to support the Town's Library Square project. The total approved 3.4, 3.4 and 2.9 percent increase to the tax levy for 2020, 2021 and 2022, respectively translates to an additional \$79, \$83 and \$73 of property tax on a home with an average assessed value of \$800,000 for each of these years.

"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. "The Town of Aurora joins a select group of Ontario municipalities who have approved a multi-year operating budget. Through our approval of future year budgets, we are able to more effectively manage the Town's operating budget impacts."

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 tax bill includes the levy for the school board and an anticipated increase for the Region which will result in an overall combined tax rate increases of 2.5, 2.6 and 2.4 percent representing a \$158, \$164 and \$157 increase to the average residential property tax bill for 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Highlights of the 2020-22 Operating Budgets include:

- Maintaining strong customer service in Access Aurora and Community Programs
- Maintaining the Town's infrastructure such as roads, parks and community centres
- Continuation of the three-year phase in for the new Library Square Operating Costs
- Phase in of the anticipated Library Square development's annual debt costs
- Continued phase in of Fire Services growth-driven costs
- Maintaining existing Town service levels to a growing community
- Modernization of the Town's information technology and financial frameworks

Council approved retail water rates of \$2.41, \$2.45 and \$2.48 per cubic metre, wastewater rates of \$3.11, \$3.11 and \$3.15 per cubic metre and a flat rate stormwater charge of \$7.09, 8.01 and \$9.32 per unit per month for residential and condominium properties and \$90.07, \$101.73 and \$118.31 per unit per month for metered non-residential commercial/industrial and multi-residential properties for 2020, 2021 and 2022. Each new rate will become effective on all billings issued by the Town after April 30th of each year and will be retroactive for the entire billing period.



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A summary of the 2020, 2021 and 2022 Operating budgets can be found in the attached infographic and the full Council Report outlining the details of each budget can be downloaded [here](#). Videos of all 2020-22 Operating Budget deliberations are available on the Town's [YouTube channel](#). More information on the budget is available at aurora.ca/budget.

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