

For Immediate Release

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Back to Basics, Building Neighbourhoods

City of Mount Pearl Budget 2018 at a Glance

MOUNT PEARL, NL – Today, the City of Mount Pearl presented its 2018 budget of \$58,200,000. The budget represents 1 per cent growth over the 2017 operating budget. It focuses on strict cost containment, while also ensuring the most effective delivery of municipal services.

“A priority for this budget was to get back to basics – to focus on the most important municipal programs and services, and provide them to our residents and businesses at the highest standard,” said Mayor Dave Aker. “To get back to basics means that we will remain committed to ensuring a healthy, safe and sustainable community through infrastructure improvements and environmental stewardship.”

In 2018, the City will focus on reinvesting in snow clearing operations and fleet to maintain the historical high level of service for which it is known. In addition, there are major infrastructure improvements planned for various streets throughout the City, including: Fourth Street, Glendale Avenue, Commonwealth Avenue, Blackmarsh Road, Topsail Road, Second Street, Bradley Place, St. David’s Avenue, Sunrise Avenue, Dunn’s Road, and Roland Drive. This brings the total cost of ongoing capital and infrastructure projects to \$34,000,000; \$12,200,000 of that will be spent in 2018.

Another key priority for this budget is on building strong neighbourhoods where people feel a sense of belonging.

“We recognize the importance of reinvesting in recreation sites and trails. In 2018, we will replace and provide new playground equipment throughout various parts of the City. We will also revamp a number of walking trails and bridges, as well as upgrade and add pedestrian lights and crosswalks. We will invest in more neighbourhood signage to increase curb appeal and build on our sense of home. To minimize water main breaks and ensure all homes are provided with the cleanest and safest water possible, we will remain focused on improving our underground infrastructure.

“This is a status quo budget – one that is prudent, focused and fiscally responsible,” said Mayor Aker.

In 2018, mil rates will remain unchanged, as well as rates and fees for municipal development permits, licenses, and recreational programs. Additional highlights of the budget include:

- A strong debt ratio of 7.5%, which continues to be one of the strongest in the province and sets the City in place for a resilient future;
- A capital project for sewer separation to guarantee that sanitary and storm sewer lines flow to appropriate areas. This has environmental advantages and also minimizes the cost of treatment for wastewater;
- The continuation of the watershed management plan for the Waterford River, in conjunction with the City of St. John’s and the Town of Paradise. Phase 2 of this plan will begin in 2018. The Rotary Club of Waterford Valley is a non-government partner in this project;
- The continuation of the senior citizens’ 20% property tax discount for those in need and the continuation of an interest exemption for all senior citizens who remain current with their tax payments. The low income earner deferral will be based on taxable income as opposed to net income, which will open up the program to more citizens who need help.

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