

BUDGET 2022

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As delivered by Councillor Jim Locke
(check against delivery):

Your Worship, fellow councillors, special guests -

Tonight, as co-chair of the Corporate and Community Services Committee, I am pleased to deliver the 2022 budget for the City of Mount Pearl.

As we bring forward a new budget and stay the course we have set for this great city, we must first reflect on the challenges and our accomplishments of last year.

This past year continued to test us. It tested our resiliency, our agility, and our focus.

In February, a coronavirus outbreak happened close to home with widespread reach in our community. The situation required swift action from the city, and we closed our buildings and facilities to slow the spread. We deployed all office staff to work remotely, and safely. I am proud to say our services continued uninterrupted and our residents came together to support health care workers and support each other. It was a true demonstration of the fundamental strength within our community.

While 2021 presented challenges, we are a resilient and nimble city, with solid vision and focus, and our unwavering commitment to build a path forward as a **smart city of engaged citizens, leading the way in sustainable growth is enduring.**

Tonight, we stand here knowing that we always put the best interests, health, and safety of our employees and our community first. We are proud of this city, and the future we are

building. I would like to highlight some of our accomplishments this year:

- In August 2021, the city announced its intention to build a new \$9 million civic centre located at the Team Gushue Sports Complex. The new centre will be a place for residents of all ages and abilities to come together for social, cultural, and recreation activities. Throughout fall 2021, in line with our strategic pillar of citizen engagement, public consultations were conducted. They included an online survey and series of focus groups with community members. We were encouraged by the high level of public engagement, which ensures we build this centre to properly meet the needs of our community. We look forward to sharing the final design in 2022.
- We also continued our commitment to urban renewal. In June, we were exceptionally proud to unveil *Find Your Centre* - a City Centre Revitalization Plan with a focus on the Waterford River. The plan outlines a long-term vision focused on making Mount Pearl a better city—for ourselves, and for future generations. It has the potential to evolve the City Centre into a model for urban development while encouraging investment through the creation of linkages, mixed-use development, and green space. It has a dedicated website, findyourcentre.ca, which you can visit for more information. In addition to *Find Your Centre*, we continued to invest in urban forestry through the completion of a 10-year urban forestry plan, designed in part with the Grand Concourse Authority, which sees a continued investment in tree and shrub planting throughout the city.
- In 2021, we were proud to announce upgrades to

St. David's Playground – evolving it into a modern smart, accessible playground; a place where children of all abilities can come to play and learn in a welcoming and safe space.

- This past year, the City of Mount Pearl continued our commitment to economic development, issuing over \$27,000 in façade improvement grants to businesses making improvements to the exterior of their public facing spaces. We hosted a *Kwick-Start Your Business* event for aspiring entrepreneurs, business owners, or start-ups. We were joined by business growth experts to deliver a one-stop speed-consultation session designed to provide professional support, feedback, and resources that business owners need. Lastly, we launched a rebrand for Donovans, following the Donovans Reimagination Plan developed in 2020, aiming to attract and retain businesses to our city.
- Our city is now home to a new trails wayfinding signage system, implemented across our trail network this past summer. Easy to read signs, developed with accessibility and inclusion in mind, now allow residents and visitors to navigate our extensive trail network.
- Our focus on climate change remains firm, evidenced by the over \$200,000 investment made this year in LED lighting at the Glacier, which has multiple proven benefits including a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and electricity cost savings. We launched a composting pilot project in May, helping combat food waste, improve waste diversion, and creating an option to allow residents to compost within our city. Lastly, we installed the city's first ever series of solar lighting in bus shelters, improving safety for our environmentally conscious mass transit users.
- We continue to assess our infrastructure, and effectively manage our assets. In 2021, we completed important road upgrades to Topsail Road, Bradley Place, Glendale Avenue, Old Placentia Road and St. David's Avenue. We also maintained our investment in fleet, purchasing two new flyers, a recycling truck, one rear loader and four standard loaders, a new municipal enforcement patrol car, a mower, and more. The continued investment in our fleet is paying dividends and has reduced our annual maintenance

budget by over \$300,000 since its inception.

- Over the last year we remained focused on ensuring safe delivery of municipal services, especially with the re-emergence of COVID-19 in our community. As a city, we revisited and refreshed our safe operating procedures to maintain our focus on public health guidelines and, with learned experience from the previous year, we delivered our core services, safely.
- In 2021, we were proud to continue with grassroot support to community groups, volunteers, and healthcare workers who came to our community when we needed it most – opening a testing site at Mount Pearl Senior High and, subsequently, a vaccination site at the Glacier. We worked to reciprocate with support and appreciation through organized food deliveries for those on the front line charged with keeping our community safe.
- In 2021 we maintained our focus on investing in our people through the completion of our employee engagement plan. This was developed by our team, with support from professionals experienced in workplace restoration and culture. This year we also hired a new City Clerk/Legislative Officer who will guide us as we prioritize sound governance and best policy practices as part of our ongoing efforts in continual improvement.
- This year we moved forward with the implementation of our core finance system upgrade, reaffirming our strategic commitment to digital transformation. We are happy to say our core finance implementation is complete, largely due to the commitment and dedication of our teams. We now have better access to real time data and improved reporting capabilities. Information is power and in this digital world we will continue to invest in ensuring we have access to reliable systems and reporting.

I speak on behalf of my council colleagues when I say, well done.

To our residents, businesses, volunteers, and employees, it is an honour to lead you. Look at what we have accomplished this year together, in another unprecedented time. We have again delivered, as only Mount Pearl can.

We have something special in Mount Pearl, steadfast support for one and another and, at the heart of it, a community that works together for success.

As we celebrate our success, we must turn our gaze forward to 2022.

Budget 2022 is reflective of the past, present, and future. If there was one positive outcome resulting from the pandemic, it is that many realized the importance of community and coming together to support each other. Now more than ever, we appreciate how important it is to have quality community services, and a diverse community that feels like home to all residents of all ages.

This budget is built on the acknowledgement that we must still be mindful of COVID-19, with a determination to guide ourselves back to economic recovery.

It is our hope for the continued return to a more familiar daily life.

And at its core, Budget 2022 is about community, and striking the right balance of investing for now and for what is next.

In 2022, overall city revenue excluding government grants for capital projects, is estimated to remain relatively flat. Several factors are contributing to this:

- In the annual assessment by the Municipal Assessment Agency, both residential and commercial property values fell by 2.1%. This decrease in property values directly effects taxation revenue, which is projected to decrease by \$533,632 next year.
- Municipal revenues are projected to decrease by \$347,000.
- Following public health guidelines, and implementation of the NLVaxPass authentication process, the city's recreation facilities have returned to normal capacities, which has resulted in a projected increase in goods and services revenue by \$742,000.

With no anticipated increases in revenue for 2022, our mandate was to maintain the current level of expenditure, while meeting the changing needs of our community.

Over the course of the last few years, our community priorities have begun to shift. As a council, with our senior staff, we must begin to make changes that ensure we are positioned to meet the needs and priorities of our residents and businesses, both current and prospective. We have listened, we have heard you, and we believe this budget is a step toward addressing what you have brought forward.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Budget 2022 brings into focus our continued investment in community safety. Mount Pearl has always been a community where residents feel safe to walk our trails, pass through our tunnels, and play in our parks.

This budget includes a \$20,000 investment in the presence of park patrol for our summer months, a \$20,000 allocation for enhanced community programming through our Municipal Enforcement team, and \$150,000 dedicated to the upgrade of our current surveillance system, which will allow increased visibility and support for enforcing safety in key locations around the city.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

As a municipality that is actively pursuing opportunities for growth, we are focused on sustainable development and re-development. The launch of our *Find Your Centre* plan this past year outlines a strategy for the re-development of our City Centre with a focus on the Waterford River. As a city, we will be investing in the implementation this year with the design work for both city centre gateway signage and mobile kiosks. We have also allocated over \$800,000 in the capital budget to advance important upgrades to Kenmount Hill, signaling our commitment to advancing this potential growth area soon. The old swimming pool location on Stapleton Road will be a priority for this council as we work on a long-term recommendation to leverage that space. An expression of interest will be issued in the new year, as the city seeks development partners who align with our community values. Lastly, Budget 2022 will also see important long-term planning for Mount Pearl with a \$70,000 investment allocated for the development of a renewed municipal plan.

POPULATION GROWTH

Family is at the heart of community, and Budget 2022 reflects our desire to attract young families to Mount Pearl. In 2022, our city has committed \$20,000 in the budget to explore best approaches to encourage and welcome young families. We have invested over \$110,000 in park upgrades and improvements, including \$84,000 in further enhancements to the St. David's Smart Accessible Playground such as the addition of an adult change table in gender neutral washroom facilities. Following public health guidelines, we have expanded our youth programming such as swimming lessons and day camps to pre-COVID capacities, ensuring as many families as possible can utilize our tier-one service. Lastly, this budget reflects a \$22,000 investment for diversity and inclusion initiatives, ensuring we dedicate time and resources to representing the needs of all our citizens.

MODERNIZATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE READINESS

We will continue our responsible focus on climate action in 2022 through the implementation of LED lighting at City Hall, helping drive down both greenhouse gas emissions and electricity costs. Climate action will be front and centre in the \$150,000 investment in urban forestry planned for next year; implementing a long-term plan for the planting of trees and shrubbery in key locations throughout our community. In addition, we have allocated \$70,000 for important preventative measures to protect Power's Pond from any future oil contamination with the investment in and installation of a stormceptor, allowing us to better protect our waterway from hazardous materials. And lastly, we have set aside a provision for the exploration of additional charging station incentives for the increased adoption of electric vehicles within our city.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

Our attention to asset management remains paramount in 2022, as we maintain an annual \$100,000 budget for ongoing condition assessments of public infrastructure; assets which have a combined value of over \$330 million dollars. Next year, we will advance over \$3.5 million dollars in important infrastructure upgrades made possible through major federal and provincial cost-sharing agreements. We will also spend \$2.1 million on fleet renewal. This

investment will ensure we can maintain service standards and public safety for important core services such as snow clearing of both roadways and sidewalks.

INVESTING IN OUTDOOR RECREATION

Over these last two pandemic years, more and more residents are out enjoying nature and the 60 plus kilometres of trails that our city has to offer. This has motivated our council to ensure we invest \$330,000 in one of our largest natural assets, our trail system. This important investment includes \$50,000 in trail maintenance throughout the city, \$30,000 for the design of a trail network connection within Donovans, \$50,000 to upgrade the Power's Pond washrooms for winter use, and a \$230,000 investment in boardwalk replacements for both Power's Pond and Branscombes Pond.

INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE

The City of Mount Pearl knows our people are our greatest asset. We deliver premier services because of their hard work. Just as they invest their efforts to ensure the wellbeing of our residents, we must invest in our team members, too. Next year, the city will allocate over \$70,000 in the implementation of initiatives stemming from the completion of an employee engagement report, and \$90,000 in city-wide training in the areas of conflict management, customer service, and diversity and inclusion.

OVERALL BUDGET

Your Worship, tonight our budget is reflective of the interests of the diverse group of residents and businesses that call our city home.

It demonstrates our responsibility to act on the concerns that our community brings forward, in a balanced and practical way.

It demonstrates our focus on keeping our community safe now, and it engages in steps to ensure it stays that way.

It is respectful to the challenges of budgeting in a "living with COVID" era, protecting for now and planning for what is next.

Your Worship, I am confident that the budget I am presenting tonight is balanced. It is practical. And, it demonstrates value for our community.

The total 2022 budget is **\$52,172,278**.

We understand that this budget is constructed on behalf of the hardworking residents and businesses in our city. So, we want to be clear on what it means to everyone.

FOR OUR RESIDENTS

Your Worship, I am pleased to bring forward a budget with no change to the residential mil rate or water rates established in 2021.

However, to offset the rising cost of operations (due in part to COVID-19 requirements), recreation rates and facility rental fees marginally will increase. Base Camp Fitness memberships will increase from \$49 to \$54 per month, Summit Centre pool party rentals will increase from \$207 to \$230, and day camp will increase from \$100 to \$115 per week.

In addition, other municipal fees will also increase. Residential permits for minor renovations or general repairs will increase from \$25 to \$30 per permit, and uncovered garbage clean-up fees will increase from \$45 to \$50.

FOR OUR BUSINESSES

In Budget 2022, we continue with commitments made to strengthen and support our first class business community. We continue to emphasize that focus with no increases to commercial tax rates in 2022.

In 2019, we launched a Façade Improvement Program, creating an incentive for businesses in key areas around our city to enhance and upgrade their exterior building. We are pleased to renew this strong program into 2022 with a \$45,000 investment allocated to fulfilling façade improvement grants. We are proud to announce that, given the program's popularity and successes, we will be expanding its scope to include environmental enhancements.

This important investment signals our commitment to continue support for the business community, and also reinforces the importance of lowering our community's overall greenhouse gas emissions.

In response to, and acknowledgement of, declining revenue, commercial rates and fees will increase slightly this year. Commercial building permits will cost \$200, up from \$150 previously, and municipal plan amendments will cost \$1,100 in 2022, up from \$1,000 this year.

The City of Mount Pearl prides itself in our business motto, *Consider it Done*. This motto underpins every interaction a business has with the city; we are here to help, and we are certain these modest fee increases will be offset by the exceptional value we provide to the business community.

A full summary of fee increases is available online at mountpearl.ca.

SUMMARY

Your Worship, Budget 2022 takes a balanced approach to protecting today, and planning for tomorrow. With significant investments in outdoor recreation, asset management, community safety, and sustainable development we will meet the needs of current residents and businesses while simultaneously implementing a plan to welcome new families and businesses to our community.

This budget restores our sense of community and positions us to properly maintain it as a place where people choose to live and work.

Now, your worship, as required by legislation, I am pleased to move the following motions:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Mount Pearl, in accordance with The City of Mount Pearl Act, establish the attached tax rates for the 2022 taxation year: (AND SO I MOVE)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Mount Pearl, in accordance with The City of Mount Pearl Act, approve the attached Schedule of Rates & Fees, to take effect January 1, 2022. (AND I SO MOVE)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Mount Pearl, in accordance with The City of Mount Pearl Act, approve an annual rate of interest of 10% to be levied on all past due taxes and accounts receivable. (AND I SO MOVE)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Mount Pearl, in accordance with The City of Mount Pearl Act, approve the 2022 Budget with operating Revenues and Expenditures totalling \$52,172,278. (AND I SO MOVE).

2022 SCHEDULE OF RATES AND FEES

TAX RATES

Property Tax - Residential (minimum \$200 per year)	7.1 mils
Property Tax - Commercial (minimum \$250 per year)	11.5 mils

WASTE COLLECTION FEES

Automated Waste Collection Fee	\$20 per annum per bin (maximum 2 bins per house)
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WATER AND WASTEWATER FEES

Water/Wastewater Fee - Residential	\$600 per unit
Water/Wastewater Fee - Commercial base (minimum \$600)	2.3 mils
Commercial Water Usage (per property):	
0 - 100,000 gallons	No additional charge
100,000 - 20 million gallons	\$6.00 per thousand
Over 20 million gallons	\$5.50 per thousand
School Boards - Water/Wastewater Fee	\$11.00 per student
Provincial Government Buildings - Water/Wastewater Fee	6.00 mils

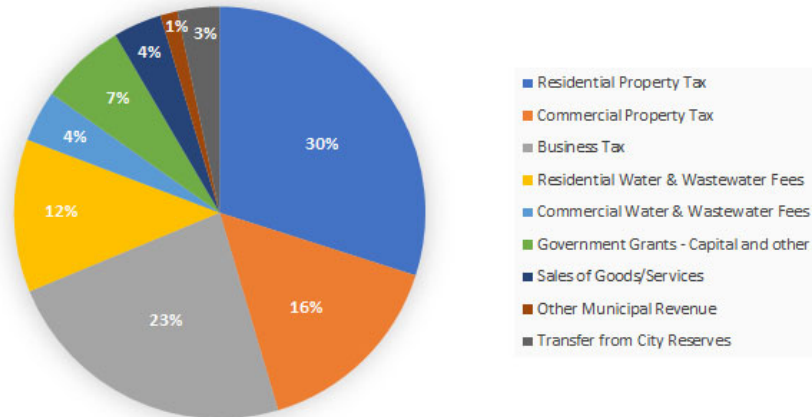
BUSINESS TAX RATES

General Commercial	16.8 mils
Banks and Financial Institutions	74.3 mils
Bulk Storage and Oil Companies	37.8 mils
Agricultural Operations	2.9 mils
Hotels and Motels	15.4 mils
Large Department Stores	20.0 mils
Oil and Gas Service Industry	20.0 mils
Private Schools	15.4 mils
Professional Operations	23.0 mils
Recreational and Non-profit Facilities	11.2 mils
Self-storage	60.1 mils
Billboards	\$100 per side per year
Personal Care Homes	Exempt
Daycares	Exempt
All businesses subject to taxation under the Taxation of Utilities and Cable Television Companies Act and commercial establishments without a fixed place of business within the City	2.5 % of annual gross revenue

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

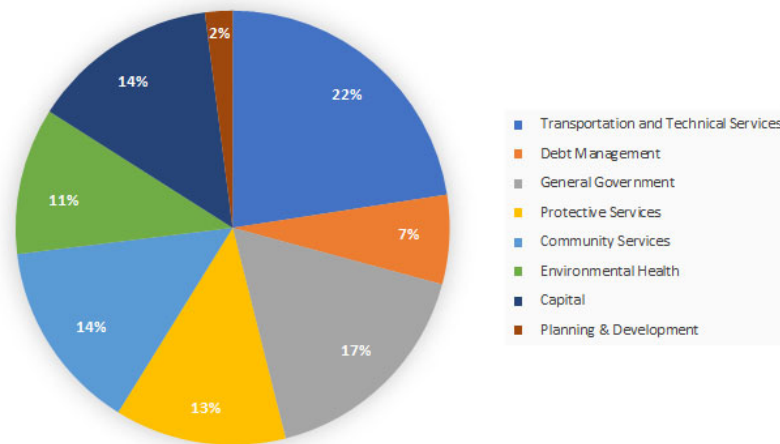
WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

Total Revenue: \$52,172,278



WHERE THE MONEY IS SPENT

Total Expenditures: \$52,172,278



CALCULATING YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

RESIDENTS

Residential Mil Rate: 7.1 mils
Water Tax: \$600

How to calculate your 2022 residential property tax:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\text{Your Property's Assessed Value} \\
 &\times \text{Mil Rate (0.0071 for Residential)} \\
 &+ \\
 &\text{\$600 for water tax} \\
 &= \\
 &\text{Total Property Tax for 2022}
 \end{aligned}$$

BUSINESSES

Commercial Mil Rate: 11.5 mils
Commercial Water: 2.3 mils*

How to calculate your 2022 commercial property tax:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\text{Your Property's Assessed Value} \\
 &\times \text{Mil Rate (0.0115 for Commercial)} \\
 &+ \\
 &\text{Your Property's Assessed Value} \\
 &\times \text{Mil Rate (0.0023 for Commercial)} \\
 &= \\
 &\text{Commercial Property Tax for 2022}
 \end{aligned}$$

*Up to 100,000 gallons

REVENUE 2022

EXPENDITURE 2022

Taxation and Utility Fees

Residential Property Tax	\$ 15,285,494	
Commercial Property Tax	8,078,150	
Business Tax	12,181,414	
Automated Waste Fees	199,920	
Water and Wastewater Fees	<u>8,363,426</u>	44,108,404

Other Transfers

Transfer from City Reserves	<u>1,707,610</u>	1,707,610
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Government Grants

Gas Tax Revenues	1,554,000	
Municipal Operating Grant	200,000	
Capital Cost Sharing Grants	1,824,987	
Grant in Lieu of Taxes	17,017	
Program Grants	<u>123,000</u>	3,519,004

Sales of Goods and Services

Recreational Programs	285,200	
Summit Centre	742,250	
Glacier	790,800	
Other	<u>168,385</u>	1,986,635

Municipal Revenues

Interest on Taxes	162,500	
Investment Income	106,000	
Residential Permits	60,500	
Commercial Permits	165,000	
Compliance Letters	40,283	
Tax Certificates	58,670	
Frontage Assessments	130,000	
Other	<u>127,672</u>	<u>850,625</u>

TOTAL REVENUE \$ 52,172,278

General Government

Governance	\$ 766,635	
Corporate Services	3,873,295	
Employee Benefits & Payroll Burden	3,826,694	
Tax Rebates and Other	<u>336,015</u>	8,802,639

Protective Services

Fire Protection	5,913,854	
Municipal Enforcement	652,819	
Animal and Pest Control	87,761	
Emergency Measures	<u>10,000</u>	6,664,434

Transportation Services

Snow and Ice Control	2,625,487	
Vehicle Fleet Management	2,308,424	
Street and Traffic Lights	1,243,071	
Roads and Streets	785,874	
Engineering	1,568,835	
Public Transit	1,650,236	
Administration	<u>1,581,841</u>	11,763,767

Environmental Health Services

Water and Wastewater	4,755,012	
Garbage Collection and Disposal	<u>948,413</u>	5,703,425

Community Services

Parks and Playgrounds	972,217	
Community Programs	1,057,150	
Recreational Facilities	4,420,790	
Assistance to Other Facilities	388,750	
Administration	<u>584,718</u>	7,423,625

Planning and Development

Planning and Inspections	587,959	
Economic Development	<u>479,071</u>	1,067,029

Fiscal and Capital Costs

Fiscal and Debt Servicing	3,469,521	
Capital out of Gas Tax	1,554,000	
Capital and Infrastructure	<u>5,723,838</u>	<u>10,747,359</u>

TOTAL EXPENDITURE \$ 52,172,278

