

Orillia Council starts 2019 budget process

For immediate release (Jan. 14, 2019) – Orillia Council kicked-off the 2019 budget process today with an overview of budget documents in advance of the upcoming deliberation process scheduled for January.

Staff presented a draft budget with a proposed 2.95% increase to the municipal tax levy for 2019. For a typical household with an assessment value of \$250,000, the increase would add approximately \$90 to their property tax bill in 2019.

“During budget deliberations, Council will take into consideration investing in core services and infrastructure, maximizing cost savings, identifying potential service enhancements, and providing contributions to our reserves which enable the City to save for future needs,” said Mayor Steve Clarke. “Council’s goal is to approve a 2019 budget that is forward-looking and fiscally responsible.”

During the Jan. 14 Budget Committee meeting, Council received an overview of the City’s 2018 financial position. A surplus is anticipated, including \$1.8 million from higher than anticipated tax growth, increase in building permit revenues, provincial funding related to the exception of non-profit long term care homes and a later opening date for the new recreation centre. Staff also highlighted current financial pressures on the City’s reserves that fund major construction projects and operations equipment.

The 2019 draft budget focuses on the maintenance and sustainability of Orillia’s infrastructure including the City’s water/wastewater system, information technology initiatives, winter control funding, fleet management, and additional reserve contributions to ensure funding for future projects and capital maintenance of new facilities.

“City staff work diligently to present a budget to Council that balances present and future needs with the financial pressures of today,” said Jim Lang, City Treasurer. “Council will now review and debate the budget in detail with a goal of approving a final 2019 budget in early February.”

Upcoming budget meetings:

Date:	Time:	Details:
Jan. 17	1 p.m.	Boards and agencies presentations
Jan. 23 and 24	9 a.m.	Operating budget deliberations
Jan. 28 and 29	9 a.m.	Capital budget deliberations
Feb. 4	7 p.m.	Budget ratification (televised and live streamed by Rogers TV)

The budget package and schedule is available on the City’s website at orillia.ca/budget.

The City of Orillia is a city of 31,000 people in the heart of Ontario’s Lake Country on the shores of Lake Couchiching and Lake Simcoe. Visit our website at orillia.ca.