

2017 Revised Budget

The City of Prince Albert's Budget Committee met on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 to address the sudden announcement of a \$2.110 million dollar shortfall in the City's budget following recent provincial government budget cuts. The committee has approved no additional increases to property taxes and no changes to funding for the City's external agencies.

What does this mean for City Employees?

The budget committee has approved holding wage increase to 1% which will apply to all management employees. By keeping wage increases to a minimum, we are able to maintain jobs and avoid property tax increases. The 1% for the union is a mandate that has been given to the negotiation team.

What does this mean for property tax increases?

There will be no additional property tax increases because of the recent budget cuts from the provincial government. The 1.5% increase approved last fall will still apply.

What else will change?

For the most part the City kept intact all existing programs and services for residents. The majority of cuts were made to operational items. One service level that was affected is the removal of a second street sweeping for the fall that was approved for the 2017 budget. Parking ticket rates and fines will also go up. Metered parking will go from \$1.00 to \$1.25/hour, monthly parking at Sask Polytechnic will go up from \$60 to \$65/month and early pay options for parking tickets will increase from \$10 to \$15. The Police Commission has been instructed to reduce \$200,000 from the budget.

What about City reserves?

To achieve a zero impact budget \$308,740 was not transferred to reserves this year which included \$258,000 for a Future Infrastructure Reserve which is dedicated to future capital infrastructure projects. The City also used \$1 million from the surplus achieved last year to balance this budget. These saving normally would have been put into fiscal stabilization for future projects. This is a one-time action done to survive the 2017 budget. The ongoing challenge for the City is to make further adjustments to account for the permanent and ongoing cuts to the budget. There is an even bigger challenge ahead in 2018 for City Administration.

What happens next?

The recommendations of the budget committee still require the final approval of City Council at its meeting held April 24, 2017. In the months leading up to the 2018 Budget, Administration will be tasked with taking another hard look at their operations to find efficiencies and identify expenses that can be cut. The City of Prince Albert has a significant challenge ahead to cover an ongoing \$2.8 million shortfall.