

From: ["Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)
To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
Date: 2/28/2023 10:26:19 PM
Subject: Info Bulletin -approved 2023 operating budget

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below information bulletin within the next half hour regarding the approval of the 2023 Operating Budget.

Best,

Paul

City of Vancouver
Information bulletin
February 28, 2023

Vancouver City Council approves 2023 Operating Budget

Vancouver City Council has approved an operating budget for 2023 totalling \$1.97 billion, and a property tax increase of 10.7 per cent.

The property tax increase is driven by 1% for additional infrastructure renewal, 1% for reserve replenishment for financial sustainability, 3% for Vancouver Police Department (VPD) services, and 5.7% for funding across all City services, as well as risks around uncertain costs for the whole city.

The updated final budget documents will be made available at vancouver.ca/budget2023. In the meantime, the [2023 Draft Budget](#) can be viewed online.

Projected average annual increases

The 10.7 per cent tax increase results in the following average property tax increases for 2023:

1. \$124 for a condo or strata unit (based on median assessed value of \$759,000)
2. \$213 for a residential property overall (based on median assessed value of \$1,301,000)
1. \$326 for a single-family home (based on median assessed value of \$1,997,000)

2. \$549 for a business property (based on median assessed value of \$1,098,700)

The actual tax notice for each property owner will differ from the above average amounts and will depend on the assessed value of the property, as well as the change in assessed value of that property relative to the average change in that property class. A property's assessed value is determined by BC Assessment.

These estimates reflect the City portion of taxes only. The amount due on a property owner's tax notice will also include utility fees, Provincial school taxes, and taxes levied by other taxing authorities including TransLink, Metro Vancouver, BC Assessment, and the Municipal Finance Authority.

Background

On November 29, 2022, the Draft Current State Operating and Capital budgets were presented to City Council for information as a starting point for discussion and engagement with Council to help align the multi-year planning with the new Council's priorities. On December 6, City Council approved the 2023 Capital Budget and deferred the 2023 Operating Budget to early 2023 for further consideration.

-30-

Note to editors: Please see amended motions below. This is a draft copy provided for your understanding and the published minutes are the official record of the meeting.

1. THAT Council approve the following increases to the Vancouver Police Board (VPB) Operating Budget, as outlined in the 2023 Draft Operating Budget section of Appendix A of this report:
 1. \$8.0 million additional funding for enabling the requisitioning and hiring new police officers, implementing Council's direction to hire 100 new police officers;
 1. \$7.8 million additional funding driven by estimated increases in fixed costs such as compensation and benefit expenses, fleet expenses and increases in recoverable overtime and other expenditures;
 1. \$7.3 million increase over the 2022 budget for permanent funding of 2021 VPD budget appeal, approved by the Province of BC, as well as new requirements from the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) recruit training; and
 1. \$5.1 million increase for third party costs related to non-emergency call taking services provided by E Comm 9-1-1.
 1. \$0.20 million for the Vancouver Police Department to fund a new Community Policing Centre in Mount Pleasant to be funded by an increase in property tax. (#12)

1. \$3.4 million for the Vancouver Police Department to provide funding to support the following items that were approved by the Vancouver Police Board as part of the provisional 2023 VPD Budget to be funded by additional property tax: (#13)

1. Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS) - \$747,500
1. Cell phones - \$415,500
1. Pilot for body-worn cameras – \$200,000
1. Community Policing Centres including establishing annual COLA adjustments – \$250,000
1. One-time Sworn overtime increase in recognition of the current unprecedented number of protests – \$969,468
1. One-time Statutory holiday pay for the new Truth + Reconciliation Day – \$670,000
1. Contract awards – \$100,000
1. Operating impacts of capital and other city adjustments – \$39,598

AND THAT the above constitutes Council's approval of the Vancouver Police Board 2023 Operating Budget of \$401,834,522 in expenditures and transfers and \$28,272,123 in revenues as outlined in the operating budget section of Appendix A of this report.

1. THAT Council approve the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation 2023 Draft Operating Budget of \$154,841,143 in expenditures and transfers and \$71,094,900 in fee and program revenues as outlined in the operating budget section of Appendix A of this report.
1. THAT Council approve \$0.11 million for the Vancouver Public Library to fund 1 position to provide training to build staff skills in crisis prevention and intervention, harassment, mental health and related areas, funded by an increase in property tax. (#8)

FURTHER THAT Council approve \$0.1 million for the Vancouver Public Library to provide ongoing funding for the conversion of branch materials-handling positions to public-service positions to be funded by an increase in property tax. (#9)

AND FURTHER THAT Council approves the Vancouver Public Library Board 2023 Operating Budget of \$58,868,739 in expenditures and transfers and \$4,310,300 in fee and program revenues as outlined in the operating budget section of the operating budget section of Appendix A of this report.

1. THAT Council approve the 2023 Property Endowment Fund (PEF) Operating Budget of \$57,471,717 in revenues and \$57,471,717 in expenses (including transfers) as outlined in Appendix A of this report.
1. THAT Council approve the 2023 VAHEF Operating Budget of \$12,821,399 in revenues and \$12,821,399 in expenses (including transfers) as outlined in Appendix A of this report.
1. THAT Council make the following investments and provide the following direction for the 2023 Operating Budget:
 1. To provide \$4.19 million to fund 33 new positions in 2023, to implement the recommendations for Year 4 of the VFRS growth plan to be funded by an increase in property tax.
 1. To request VFRS to commence the next external third-party-led operational review to be managed within the existing VFRS operating budget.
 1. \$0.3 million in ongoing funding for Engineering Services to increase the number of pothole crews from 5 to 6 (2 FTE) to increase road maintenance and pothole repair, and \$0.13 million in one-time funding for a vehicle and equipment, both funded by an increase in property tax.
 1. \$0.6 million for Engineering Services to increase horticulture service levels funded by an increase in property tax.
 1. THAT Council direct staff to include a dedicated line item for snow readiness and response within the Engineering Services budget by reallocating funding for that purpose within the existing budget (total \$1.8 million).
 1. THAT Council direct staff to report back at the end of Q2 on the increased street cleaning work directed by Council in Chinatown and the DTES to inform what ongoing funding will be required in the future to continue to improve street cleanliness.
 1. \$0.18 million for micro-cleaning grants to support plazas and parklets, funded by an increase in property tax.
 1. THAT Council direct staff to identify reallocations with the approved 2023 Planning, Urban Design, and Sustainability budget to provide \$0.2 million for a Seniors Planner.

1. \$0.3 million to ACCS to implement and address forthcoming Accessibility Legislation effective in 2023 and support work towards Vancouver becoming one of the world's most accessible cities, funded by an increase in property tax.
1. \$0.21 million to complete outstanding work on Council motions on Gender Equity and Safety relating to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and UN Safe Spaces, funded by an increase in property tax.
1. THAT Council direct staff to identify reallocations within the approved 2023 ACCS budget to continue the department's Anti-Black Racism and South Asian Cultural Redress work
1. \$0.1 million for a Language Access Specialist position to enable ongoing implementation of the City's Language Access Policy, funded by an increase in property tax.
1. Council direct staff to include options to reduce Chinatown on-street parking rates as part of a report back on parking, with the revenue impacts of reductions to be managed within the 2023 budget and incorporated into 2024 revenue projections.
1. THAT as part of the 2024 rate setting for development permit fees, staff provide options for a fee increase that would achieve 100% program cost recovery.
1. THAT as part of the 2024 rate setting for fees, including business licence fees, dog licence fees, food truck licence fees, permit parking fees, and on-street parking, staff provide options for increasing fee levels.
1. THAT Council direct staff to include options to increase service levels of washrooms in the City as part of the Washroom Strategy report back by the end of Q2 2023.
1. THAT, subject to approval of recommendations A to F, or as amended, Council approve the 2023 Draft Operating Budget of \$1,971,178,934 outlined in Appendix A, resulting in an overall property tax increase of 10.7%, and direct staff to bring forward for adoption by Council a resolution consistent with the above approval to authorize the 2023 General Purposes Tax Levy in accordance with the Vancouver Charter.
1. THAT Council direct Staff to develop strategies to address cost pressures in the multi-year financial plan through new revenue opportunities, process improvements to reduce costs or increase capacity, senior government funding and partnerships that will inform the multi-year property tax increases for Council's

consideration as part of future Budget processes.

1. That Council request the Mayor write the Premier and Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General to advocate for provincial investment in restorative justice initiatives in Vancouver and across Metro Vancouver.
1. That Council direct staff to report back in Q4 2023 with a Central Downtown Waterfront planning program and investment strategy and include funding in the draft 2024 operating budget for this planning program.

Media contact:

Civic Engagement and Communications

media@vancouver.ca

Paul Mochrie (he/him)

City Manager

City of Vancouver

paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.