

November 2020

City News

2021 Budget and Development



Have your say on next year's budget!

2021 Budget Consultation

Community input on the City's annual budget allows Staff and Council to align the budget with the community's priorities. The City utilizes the annual budget to provide quality services while maintaining an aging infrastructure with limited tax dollars. Each year, the City develops a detailed budget to determine how tax dollars are to be spent and looks for input from its citizens on developing priorities.

This year the annual budget survey includes questions about your satisfaction levels of the City's snow services, taxation, and will also gather information on housing and engagement within the community.

The survey will be accessible until November 30, 2020. It will be available online and communicated through the City's website and social media pages. Paper versions of the survey will also be available at City Hall, 410 Kinchant St, Monday to Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.

Why online surveys and not Town Halls?

In past years, the City has struggled to receive budget feedback from the public. Residents were invited to evening town halls to provide feedback on the City's budget, but only a few residents attended. Since the City introduced the online budget survey, the City has received more participation than the previous town halls. The City plans to keep using the survey process for budget feedback, but will always try to make improvements to it.

Please take the time to have your say. Watch our social media, and website for distribution of the survey and ensure that you read the introductory material provided in the survey so you can make informed choices. Your City, your budget!

Learn more: www.quesnel.ca/budget.

Frequently asked budget and tax question:

Q Are there alternative ways I can pay my property tax bill other than in one lump sum?

A You can be set up to pay your property taxes in 10 equal monthly payments from August through May to make the payments easier. Call the City's finance department at 250-992-2111 to have this set up.

You may also be able to apply for a low interest loan through the provincial tax deferral program to pay your current year property taxes on your principal residence. There are two programs to choose from depending on your living situation. For full program details, visit: <http://bit.ly/defer-taxes-2020>.

Did you know in 2020, the average municipal portion of the property tax bill for a residential house was \$1,080 a year or \$90 per month? For \$90 per month you get fire, police, parks, roads, bylaw, snow clearing, street lights, etc. This cost is similar to what people pay monthly for cell phones, internet or natural gas.

Budget Process - October 2020 - May 2021

The City follows this budget schedule every year. See where in the process the City is right now!

October	November	December	January
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Departmental staff prepare draft budgets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-budget public consultation Finance staff review departmental draft budgets Senior management review draft budgets Financial Sustainability and Audit Committee reviews and makes Recommendations on various budget components to Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present draft capital budget to Council Present draft operating budget to Council 	
February	March	April	May
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review five year financial plan and policies 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council sets final tax rates



Quesnel's need for housing development

The City of Quesnel offers a co-operative and friendly environment for housing development. Current demand is high and based on our Housing Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis, Quesnel requires a variety of housing for the near, medium and long-term.

The City of Quesnel and Council are aware of the housing need in our community and are working to address it. Because of this situation, we have developed a comprehensive housing strategy to start addressing this need while making significant changes to our Official Community Plan and Master Zoning Bylaw to ensure that they do not present roadblocks to the development of a full range of housing options in every neighbourhood in the City.

The City is actively supporting the development of legal secondary suites or lane-way houses as a way to address our land challenges and expand housing options for renters. Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's) help create a variety of housing options within our community. ADU's include secondary suites, carriage houses, and secondary dwellings.

Our whole community benefits when we have a diverse mix of housing options. If you are looking to invest in housing development, the City's Development Services offers assistance viewing properties on mapping software, navigating bylaws and codes and generally supporting your housing project.

Contact Development Services by calling 250.992.2111 or email devservices@quesnel.ca.

Learn more about housing development in Quesnel:

ADU's: www.quesnel.ca/getting-started-accessory-dwellings

Zoning bylaw: www.quesnel.ca/zoning-and-land-use

Official Community Plan: www.quesnel.ca/ocp

Housing Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis: www.quesnel.ca/housing-needs-gap-analysis

The future of the Quesnel Junior School (QJS) property

With the demolition of the QJS building now complete, many are curious about what the future holds for the property.

Council has engaged the Province in discussions on a number of occasions about how we would like to see the QJS property used. As stated in our Official Community Plan, the primary objective of the City would be to use the property for a mix of housing opportunities, where new housing demand is high, services are available and vacant land for development is limited.

For more information contact the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development bit.ly/2Hq4L5m.

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