



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF COURTENAY

MEMORANDUM

To: Council
From: Director of Finance
Subject: 2023-2027 Financial Plan Public Comments

File No.: 1705-20/1715-20
Date: April 26, 2023

ISSUE:

To summarize public comments received between April 7th and April 25th, 2023 regarding consultation and public comments on the 2023-2027 Financial Plan.

BACKGROUND:

At the April 12th, 2023 Council meeting, Council gave first consideration to the 2023-2027 Financial Plan bylaw. Per Section 166 of the Community Charter requires that “A council must undertake a process of public consultation regarding the proposed financial plan before it is adopted”.

The City of Courtenay informs and consults with the public about the 2023–2027 Financial Plan through regular council meetings, media webcasts, information posted on the City’s website and news paper advertisements. Public will have the opportunity for consultation and to make comment by emailing Budget@courtenay.ca or writing to City Hall at 830 Cliffe Ave, Courtenay BC V9N 2J7 prior to Councils anticipated adoption date of April 26, 2023.

As of the morning of April 26th the City has received two emails from the public and no other form of comments have been received. See appendix 1 – Public Comments 2023-2027 Financial Plan for detail.

SUMMARY:

By seeking and receiving public consultation on the 2023-2027 Financial Plan the City has satisfied section 166 of the Community Charter and is permitted to adopt the 2023-2027 Financial Plan bylaw.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Langenmaier BBA, CPA, CA
Director of Finance

Appendix 1 – Public Comments 2023-2027 Financial Plan

From: Lyle Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 22, 2023 10:41 PM
To: budget
Subject: 2023 Financial Plan

Hello,

I have the following feedback/questions:

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- Why does the public not have access to the financial plan until the bylaw is already going for the first three readings?
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- What sort of public engagement was there for this financial plan?
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- How does the 6th St bridge project align with Council's strategic plan and the transportation master plan? This bridge does not address the bottleneck on the 17th St bridge which is identified as an ongoing and increasing issue in the master plan.
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- There doesn't seem to be much of anything in the financial plan focused on improving roadways, vehicle congestion, or commuting times.
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- Is the debt for the 6th St bridge long or short-term debt?
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- What is driving the large increase in solid waste user fees?
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- If a clerk position was moved from Building Inspections to Planning and Zoning why is there still a 5.9% increase in BI? Do wage increases entirely negate the reduced expense of losing a position in BI as well as create the 5.9% overall increase?
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- How has the bridge budget gone from \$4.2M to \$5.85M

- and why has the grant % gone from 73% to 43%
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- Table 22 seems to indicate taxation will be \$31.2M
- but Table 26 presents a number of \$32.74 for taxation. What is creating the difference between these two amounts?
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- Schedule A has an amount of \$31.51M for property taxation
- while Schedule B has an amount of \$31.145M for Property Tax in the first table and then \$31.195M in the second. What is the difference between these three amounts?
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- In Table 26, how are investment and penalty revenue
- doubling? Are all investments maturing and rolling over in 2023?
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Thank you for your time. I look forward to your response.

[REDACTED]

From: FRODE HANSEN [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 9:09 AM
To: budget
Subject: Fwd: 2023 Property Tax Increase in Courtenay Feedback

I have just read about the **proposed** property 9.6% tax increase and this is only increasing the burden and pressures on myself and my wife. Living on a fixed income and disability just increases the anxiety of just getting by each day, never mind the increased costs of basic necessities. And I can probably assume there are many in Courtenay that have similar issues and feel the same way.

Can there not be more avenues of managing expenses rather than automatic compounding tax increases, each year getting larger?

So, I am passing along my thoughts as was suggested and hope that there is some consideration before adding close to a double digit tax increase.

Sincerely,

Frode Hansen

Long term Courtenay resident

Sent from my iPad