

## Council approves 2017 budget

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** **Dec. 16, 2016**

Innisfail Town Council approved the Town's 2017 operating and capital budgets on Monday. Funding was approved in the amounts of \$20,729,185 and \$6,722,000, respectively.

The budget was brought forward following two days of deliberation in November. Council cited a difficult economy as its biggest influence in the final product, which represents a restrained, yet responsible approach to municipal funding.

#### **Highlights**

- Phase 2 of Administration Building Upgrades
- Phase 2 of Sewage Lagoon Reclamation Plan
- Recreation Master Plan
- Asset Management & Analytics
- Cemetery Design
- Arena Plant Chiller
- Fire Command Truck
- 45 & 46 Avenue Design
- Arena Lifecycle Assessment Implementation

#### **Tax Rate**

Recognizing the economic challenges many of its citizens face, Council requested a zero per cent tax rate increase going into deliberations. Administration compiled the budget accordingly, and the zero per cent increase was approved.

With a projected decrease in property tax assessment (0.003 per cent for residential; 1 per cent for commercial), some residents will pay less money in taxes. As a result, the 2017 budget projects a \$100,000 shortfall in tax revenue.

#### **Services & Utilities**

The Town does not generate revenue on water, wastewater and solid waste services provided to the town. Residents are charged only for what these services cost the Town to operate, and for the maintenance of associated infrastructure.

- Water rates will increase from \$2.15 per cubic metre to \$2.20 per cubic metre (based on a \$0.05 increase from the Mountain View Regional Water Commission)
- Wastewater (sewer) rates will increase from \$2.85 per cubic metre to \$3.05 per cubic metre (based on a \$0.20 increase in accordance with the Town's 2020 Plan)
- Garbage and recycling rates will remain unchanged at \$17 and \$5, respectively.

**Example of a monthly utility bill based on consumption of 10 cubic metres**

**Messages:**

**Amount Due this Invoice:** 99.50

**Due Date:** Feb 31/17

**After Due Date Amount:** 104.48

Billing Period		# of Days:	Meter Reading		Read Code	Multiplier	Consumption	Consumption Type
From:	To:		Previous:	Current:				
Jan 01/17	Jan 31/17	31	296.0	306.0	A	1	10.0	Metric

**Current Charge Details:**

WATC WATER	<i>consumption x water rate (\$ 2.20) =</i>	22.00
WATF WATER FLAT		10.00
SEWC SEWER	<i>consumption x wastewater rate (\$ 3.05) =</i>	30.50
SEWF SEWER STAB/FLAT RATE		15.00
GAR GARBAGE		17.00
RECY RECYCLE		5.00

**Comparisons**

While 2017 water bill comparisons aren't yet available, Innisfail's 2016 rates sat around the middle of the pack. Here's a look at how the town fared among three nearby municipalities — all of which have a population over 3,000 and lie within 50 kilometres.

WATER BILL COMPARISON *2016*				
MUNICIPALITY	WATER FLAT RATE	WATER RATE	WASTEWATER FLAT RATE	WASTEWATER RATE
Innisfail	\$10.00/mo	\$2.15/m3	\$15.00/mo	\$2.85/m3
Olds	\$12.83/mo	\$2.64/m3	\$18.40/mo	\$4.03/m3
Didsbury	\$12.00/mo	\$2.20/m3	\$12.00/mo	\$1.32/m3
Penhold	\$8.20/mo	\$1.32/m3	\$9.50/mo	\$2.89/m3

**For more information, please contact:**

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