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For Immediate Release

### **Town of White City 2024 Annual Budget Adopted by Council**

White City, SK - The Town of White City's 2024 Annual Budget was adopted at the December 11, 2023 Regular Meeting of Council. With its approval, Council and Administration aim to maintain current services while supporting the development and maintenance of new and existing infrastructure within the community.

"I am proud to put forward a budget that reflects our commitment to building a thriving community," Mayor Brian Fergusson said. "In crafting this budget, Council faced tough financial choices, but each decision was made with the resilience of our community in mind. Embracing challenges, we've forged a path forward that prioritizes sustainability, equity, and the well-being of every resident. Council and administration strive to minimize any increases to residents and only do what is necessary to maintain the service levels while ensuring the enduring and future success of White City."

The 2024 Annual Budget includes a base tax increase of \$100.00 and mill rate increase of 1.0%. For 80% of properties in White City this will mean a tax increase of \$9.41 to \$10.36 per month.

Additionally, the 2024 Annual Budget includes an additional Wastewater Infrastructure Charge of \$33.58 per month per household related to the costs of the WCRM158 Wastewater Management Authority's Wastewater Expansion Project. The Wastewater Infrastructure Fee has been introduced due to the significant costs of the Wastewater Expansion Project required to accommodate the wastewater management for current properties and to accommodate growth within the White City.

"After much discussion, Council reluctantly chose to implement this Charge in its role as financial stewards to maintain sewer and water as self-funding utilities," said Mayor Fergusson. "Council is committed to reviewing this fee on an annual basis with the goal of reducing it as development continues in the Community."

Notable is that White City's partner in the WCRM158 Wastewater Management Authority, the R.M. of Edenwold, also introduced a similar infrastructure fee of \$58.08 per month per household in 2023.

The budget includes operating revenues of \$8.0M, operating expenditures of \$8.6M and \$7.5M for capital expenditures. Due to a conservative budgeting approach, the 2024 Annual Budget only includes a 1.0% overall increases to budgeted expenses from 2023.



In the upcoming year just a few of projects the Town will focus on includes:

- funding to the WCRM158 Wastewater Management Authority to continue the Wastewater Expansion Project and ensure sufficient effluent management and infrastructure to support growth in the region;
- a project led by the Town's Youth Advisory Committee to increase amenities for youth in the community;
- investment in the Town Centre with the development of Chuka Ponds which will serve as one of the main recreation features in the Town Centre and serve as a storm water outlet for future development;
- the asset renewal of equipment to ensure efficient, consistent and dependable services to residents; and
- increased communications and public engagement with residents.

The 2024 Annual Budget also continues to allocate a recreation portion from the base tax of \$100 per property. The funds collected from this portion are deposited into a specific Recreation Reserve where levy funds will be allocated for the planning, development, and construction of a Multi-Use Recreation Centre within the community.

Budget figures are now available via the Town's CivicWeb portal and the complete budget document will be publicly available on the Town's website in early 2024. From 2020 to 2023 the Town was the only municipality in Saskatchewan to receive the Government Financial Officer Association Distinguished Budget Award. The Town will again be applying for the award for the 2024 Annual Budget.

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