



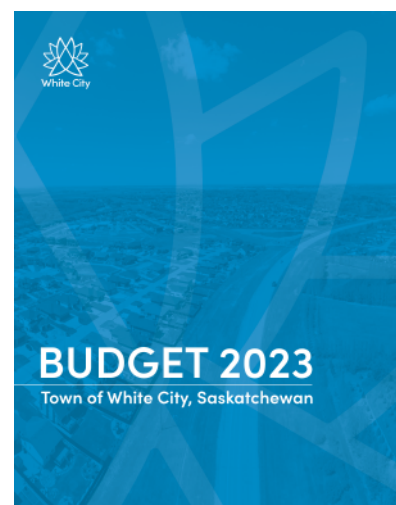
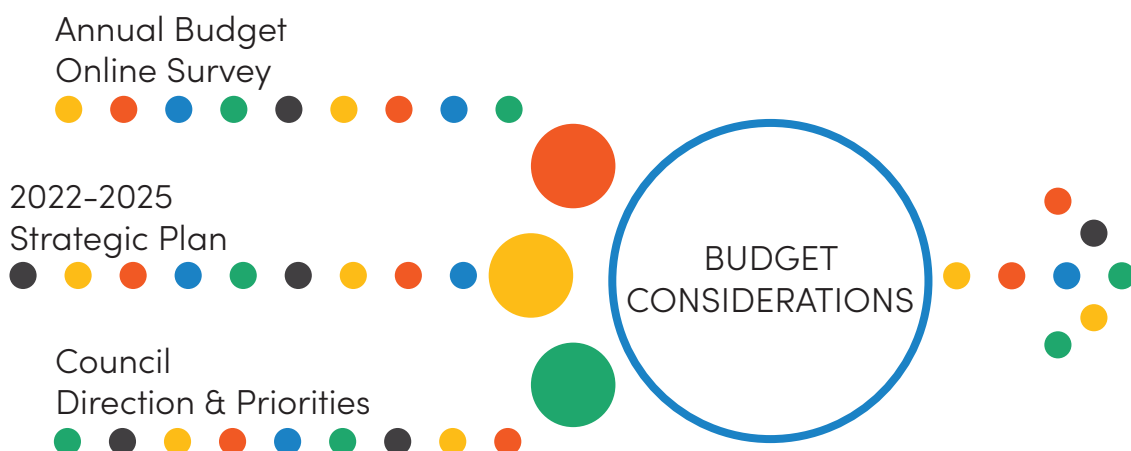
Councillor Blog April 2023

Welcome back fellow residents of White City (and those reading from the surrounding area) for the March 2023 edition of the White City Councillor Blog. This month's blog will focus on the 2023 Annual Budget Book! As you may recall this is a follow up to the December 2022 Blog that was published just prior to the adoption of the 2023 Annual Budget.

Every year the Town of White City (the Town) develops a new budget based on White City Town Council's (Council) direction and on what we have heard from our residents through public engagement. The budget provides a roadmap for our town and ensures Council and administration stay focused on what matters most to our residents: value for their taxes and continuing to protect and enhance our quality of life.

The 2023 Annual Budget aims to maintain the level and quality of our municipal services while resuming pre-pandemic recreation services and events for our residents. The Annual Budget is one of the most important items Council considers during the year. In 2023 there was a deliberate focus on maintaining municipal services, returning recreational events and programming to pre-COVID levels and minimizing tax increases while maintaining a fiscally responsible approach to debt, reserves and utility operations.

The development of the 2023 Annual Budget includes input from a number of sources that help shape the final product:



available for download online
whitacity.ca/p/budget

Over the course of creating the 2023 Annual Budget, Council had three working sessions prior to the first public presentation of the budget.



Turn the page for more info! →



Transparency and communication are a top priority for Council. We are dedicated to increasing public engagement and communication with our residents. Each year, Council and administration review the budgeting process to improve opportunities for residents to engage in the process. Some options we are considering implementing for the 2024 Annual Budget include:

- adding a Town Hall as one of the sources to help shape the budget considerations;
- more robust advertising of the Annual Budget Survey;
- more comprehensive public presentations of the budget; and
- making additional resources available to the public.

Overall, in 2023 we aim to focus on listening more and gaining valuable input from our residents to help support the decision-making process, in addition to finding new ways to share information. We are confident we have once again found a good balance to provide residents with value for their taxes while maintaining services and investing in the future of our community. Residents that have been here for twenty days or twenty years will see their interests reflected in the 2023 Annual Budget.

In 2023, the Town will continue to focus on the development of the Town Centre and demonstrating that future growth in White City will continue in an intelligently planned, sustainable and environmentally conscious manner. In addition to commercial and residential development moving forward in the Town Centre, the Town has dedicated lands for the Multi-Use Recreation Centre (Recreation Centre) and future high school site. This project is a major investment in the future of our community and is an opportunity to increase our quality of life, health and wellness and culture. It could also support economic development for our community and help realize a vibrant Town Centre, becoming the heart of our community.



If you have any questions, have a comment, want more information, or want to suggest a topic for a future blog please email townoffice@whitecity.ca or call 306-781-2355 – we look forward to hearing from you!

- Mayor Brian Fergusson