



Councillor Blog January 2022

Welcome back fellow residents of White City, and those reading from the surrounding area, for the January 2022 edition of the White City Councillor Blog.

This month's blog will provide a synopsis of the Virtual Town Hall held on December 15, 2021. Council was excited to host White City Residents and Property Owners with an opportunity to share information on current projects and answer questions from the public. Since the beginning of this term, we have had a strong focus on communications and public engagement. For Council, an important part of providing the best representation to our residents is to hear from our residents. Through a Virtual Town Hall we invited residents to join us and pre-submit questions on the following topics:

2022 ANNUAL BUDGET

The 2022 Annual Operating and Capital Budgets are currently being developed by administration. Council has received the preliminary information and will be further reviewing and discussing in early January.

Council and administration are being especially cognizant of developing an efficient budget that maintains municipal service levels and balances investment in growth and current infrastructure.

The current budget modeling includes an approximate tax increase of 3% - based on the current projections this will be less than, or close, to the Consumer Price Index changes in Saskatchewan for 2021.

TOWN CENTRE

The Town Centre idea was born as far back as 2002 when the future land use map that was adopted at that time included a proposed location for the development of the core area and for the community to transition from a bedroom community to a whole-serviced community.

Caverhill Developments Inc. and White City Investments Ltd. have made significant investments to move their proposed developments forward, while meeting the needs and requirements of the province, the region and the municipality.

The two development companies will kick start the development of the Town Centre with the following:

Picasso Pathways – Phase I with 39 Residential Parcels, 4 Large Condominium Parcels, 3 Home Care Parcel, and 1 Downtown Commercial Parcel

Royal Park – Phase I with 150 Residential Parcels and 2 Downtown Commercial Parcels

It is anticipated that both developments may be able to start construction in early 2022 with lots and potential homes for sale in late 2022 and early 2023.

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White City

BOUNDARY ALTERATION

The Town of White City and the surrounding area in the Rural Municipality of Edenwold No. 158 (RM) have, and will continue to, experience significant growth. This will require coordinated land use planning and control to ensure efficiency of infrastructure, appropriate and coordinated transportation routes, coordinated recreation facilities, education and municipal services.

The RM has developed several urban, country residential and rural commercial developments on the borders of White City. The amount of development and other barriers to growth now encompasses 55% of the Town's boundary. Based on the RM's Official Community Plan this will grow to encompass 85% of the Town's current boundary.

A jurisdictional hearing was held November 18th which included legal representatives from the Town and RM presenting legal arguments as to whether the Town's Boundary Alteration Application was submitted under the appropriate area of the legislation and if the Saskatchewan Municipal Board has the jurisdiction to make a decision on the Town's application.

On December 14 the town received the decision from the SMB that the application was properly made under the correct section of The Municipalities Act and the SMB has the jurisdiction to decide on the application without being referred to the Minister of Government Relations. A date will be set in the near future for the next SMB hearing.

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

MULTI-USE RECREATION CENTRE

The Multi-Use Recreation Centre is a major investment in the future of our community and our quality of life. White City's Town Centre Neighbourhood Plan would create a community and district hub for sports, recreation and culture. This is a huge 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.

We are currently focusing on Phase 1, Spectator and Community Arenas, and Phase 2, Fieldhouse.

Based on the feasibility and business cases undertaken we know some phases of the centre will cost more to operate and build than others. The phasing of this project has been designed so revenue from early phases will be an important source of funding for later phases of the project.

Council approved the next stage of the proposed Multi-Use Recreation Centre at the July 12, 2021 regular meeting of council. Stage 3 of the project will finalize the concept plans for Phase I and II, incorporate community feedback received during the public engagement held earlier this year and provide detailed design for Phases I and II of the project which currently includes two ice surfaces and community gathering spaces.

Council addressed 15 questions during our Virtual Town Hall, scan the QR code to learn more about the Town Hall topics and see the answers.



whitecity.ca/pages/town-hall