

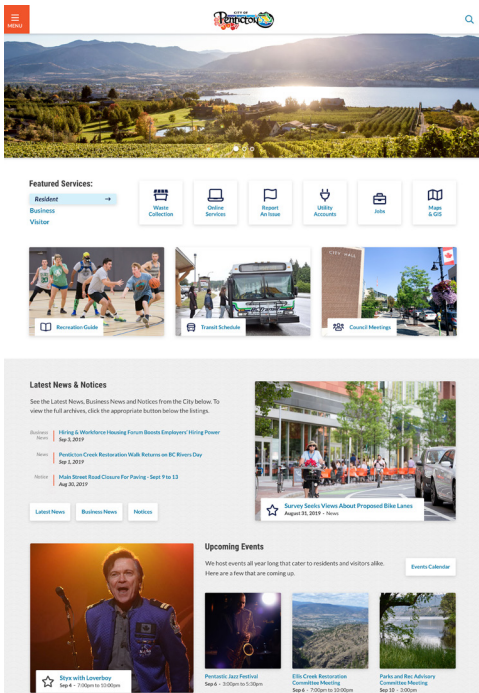
CITY NEWS

Monthly Utility Newsletter | FEBRUARY 2020



Photo credit: Kerry Wagner

Time to test out the new and improved pentiction.ca



The City of Penticton is nearing completion on its yearlong project to upgrade the current www.pentiction.ca into a modernized version with better functionality and features. The project kicked off in late 2018 with a survey asking residents to share their thoughts on the usefulness and thoroughness of the current website, as well as feedback on content.

The community can now enjoy a variety of different features with the new website, including better organization of content, mobile friendly layout and a persona feature that organizes the website to suit the needs of the visitor to the site. There will also be a launch of a pentiction.ca app that will allow residents to check their utility charges, garbage schedules and be alerted to any at risk activity that may occur in the city.

Residents are invited to submit their feedback on the updated version of pentiction.ca by navigating through the new website to review the changes that have been made and see the new features.

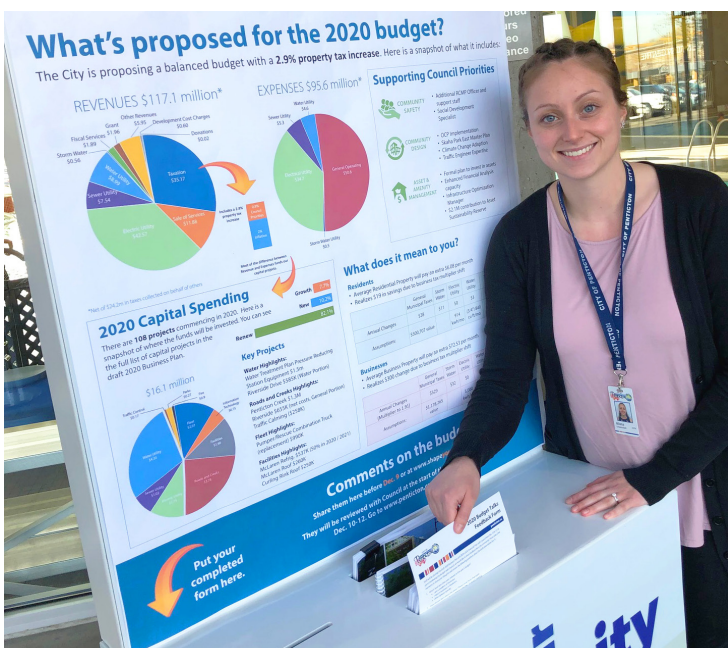
Those interested in providing comment are asked to visit the city's engagement platform, www.shapeyourcitypentiction.ca, during the month of February to participate.

New! Engagement Kiosks

Residents who have limited access to the internet now have an alternative to the shapeyourcitypentiction.ca website to get involved in City decisions.

Three engagement kiosks have been constructed and located in high traffic locations in the City to inform residents about key decisions and invite their feedback.

You can find the kiosks at City Hall, the Community Centre and the Library/Museum. The kiosks will only be available when the City is seeking input into an upcoming Council decision. Each kiosk will feature background information on the issue, a feedback form to gather resident input and a secure repository to collect the forms.



'Share the Love' with Recreation Penticton



February 14 is a day to celebrate love and Recreation Penticton wants to share the love! As a thank-you and appreciation of the many patrons who visit the Community Centre, Recreation Penticton is having a social media contest for the community to nominate someone they love to win a sweet Valentine's Day prize.

Follow Recreation Penticton on social media and look for the 'Share the Love' promotional post to enter your loved one into a contest to receive four drop-in passes. Continue checking out Recreation Penticton's Facebook and Instagram accounts for other promotions and to see the variety of programs offered through the Community Centre.

pentiction.ca



Council deliberations for 2020 budget completed

A three day process examining the City of Penticton's proposed 2020-2024 Financial Plan and 2020 Corporate Business Plans was completed Thursday, December 12, with City Council approving a budget for 2020. Council received individual budget presentations from 15 areas of City business, as well as presentations from the RCMP, Library, Travel Penticton and the South Okanagan Event Centre complex.

To support the Council priorities established earlier this year, many of the budget requests and department business plans directed attention and resources towards asset and amenity management, community safety and community design.

Impact on residents and businesses:

The approval of the 2020-2024 Financial Plan results in an overall tax increase of 2.9 per cent and an increase in the business tax multiplier to 1.91. Council will set the final business tax multiplier when the Tax Rate Bylaw is brought back for Council approval in April 2020.

These decisions result in an average annual increase for municipal taxes and utility fees of \$73 for a typical residential property valued at \$500,707 and an average annual increase for municipal taxes and utility fees of \$869 for a typical business property valued at



A snapshot of the 2020-2024 Financial Plan appear above. Residents can view the business and financial plans on www.penticton.ca.

\$1,178,265.

"Having been in office for one year, the review of this year's budget benefited from Council having a greater familiarity of City business, as well as clearly defined priorities established through community engagement", said Penticton Mayor, John Vassilaki. "During our deliberations, Council took a close look at the recommendations provided by staff to ensure the figures and direction being proposed met the needs of our residents. The outcome is a Financial Plan that provides funding for

essential and desired services and programs, attention and planning for long range needs like asset and amenity management and the continuation of efforts to ensure our residents and business are safe."

Full details on the 2020-2024 Financial Plan and 2020 Corporate Business Plans can be found on the City's website at www.penticton.ca.

The City thanks all residents who participated in the 2020 budget process by providing feedback at both open house events or by sharing their input through the budget survey hosted on www.penticton.ca.

Council Highlights

Council highlights are intended to provide a brief summary of recent Council meetings. To view the official meeting minutes and other council related information, visit penticton.ca/council.

Public Skating Rink Society

Drew Barnes provided Council with a presentation on a public skating rink in Penticton. Council directed staff to report back on the feasibility of the proposed outdoor public skating rink.



Development Cost Charges Reduction Bylaw No. 2019-46

Council directed staff to investigate options as part of the final public consultation process to revise the reduction rates attached to and forming part of the Development Cost Charges Reduction Bylaw 2019-46.

Community Child Care Planning Grant

Council directed staff to apply for funds through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) 'Community Child Care Planning Program', to complete a 'child care space inventory' and 'child care action plan' in 2020.