



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **A budget of \$86.6 million for the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion**

**Vaudreuil-Dorion, December 9, 2019** – During a special meeting on December 9, 2019, the Municipal Council of the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion, assisted by Olivier Van Neste - Director General, and Marco Pilon - Deputy Director General and Treasurer, presented the 2020 budget in the order of \$86.6 million, showing an average increase of 3% in the general residential property tax.

### **Budget Context**

The 2020 budget shows an increase of 6.3%, attributable, among other things, to major infrastructure projects carried out in 2019 and which impact the 2020 budget. Such projects include the replacement of the drinking water conduit using directional drilling under Highway 40, the redevelopment of the Lotbinière and Saint-Jean-Baptiste street intersection, and the construction of a drinking water conduit under the railroad track on Cité-des-Jeunes Boulevard, to name just a few. "We did a lot of major work in 2019, including the addition of several cycling links. Also to be taken into account is the acquisition of Vaudrin Academy in 2019, which will serve to increase available space over the coming years. Currently, the space is rented out to the Commission scolaire des Trois-Lacs. There was also the creation of the 24/7 Fire and First Responder service, which affects the 2020 budget in a substantial way. But for the citizens, this represents a significant improvement in the services offered", said Mayor Guy Pilon. In addition, it is important to know that the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion's irreducible expenses for 2020, which amount to more than \$77 million (operating costs, quota shares, removal and disposal of waste materials, snow removal contract, debt servicing, etc.) represent 89% of total expenses.

The City expects taxable values to rise by 1.8% compared to 2019. The property tax will increase from \$0.6069 to \$0.6251 per \$100 assessment. For example, for a home valued at \$324,400 (average residential valuation), homeowners will see a \$59 increase in their general property tax account in 2020. The water tax remains unchanged at \$275.

Despite the increase in the City's budget, property taxes remain reasonable and the impact on citizens is about the same as the consumer price index which reached 2.7% as of October 31, 2019.

"I wish to emphasize that spending is also increasing for a very obvious reason: our population is growing, and as a result we have more roads to clear, more materials to collect, more activities, and more municipal employees. For the City Council, offering quality services to citizens is a priority. In fact, in recent years, we have been recognized a few times among provincial and national rankings for the quality of our services, which we are very proud of," said Mayor Guy Pilon.

It should be noted that the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion's general property tax includes all services such as household garbage collection, recycling, Sûreté du Québec services and various quota shares.

## **Future Projects**

In 2020, major projects will be launched, including the assessment of external signage, including at the City's entrances. In fact, special attention will be paid to City entrances to the Harwood area, which will constitute Phase 1. In recent months, there has been much discussion about the strategic planning which included the participation of associations, organizations, partners and citizens. In the first months of 2020, a document which features the aspirations collected, as well as the key projects identified, will be unveiled to the public. An amount of \$250,000 has been set up to support the development of some of these projects.

Moreover, certain acquisitions will be used for outdoor services, such as the purchase of waste sorting stations, the installation of fountains serving as filling stations for water bottles, the construction of pergolas and gazebos. In connection with the services offered to citizens, the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion continues to promote the concept of a smart city and will proceed with the implementation of a citizen portal on the City's website. This portal will allow citizens to create their own file which will provide them with easy, fast and automated access to all the City's services and to all the information that concerns them. Information will be centralized in one single location. Citizens will be able to see all their transactions (permit applications, course registrations, book reservations and late fees at the library, etc.). "With this new tool, our goal is to establish a direct link with our citizens so that we can contact them as needed, obtain their comments, provide feedback and communicate our decisions. This platform will facilitate access to information and dialogue between the City and the community," added Mayor Guy Pilon.

As in previous years, the City Council will award a very significant sum to help the organizations and citizens of Vaudreuil-Dorion. More than \$1 million has been set up to support them financially.

Details of the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion's 2020 budget will be available shortly on the website under The City/Municipal Administration/Budget and Financial Documents section.