



Vaudreuil-Dorion

PRESS RELEASE

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## A budget of \$92 million for the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion

**Vaudreuil-Dorion, December 13, 2021** – During a special meeting held on December 13th, 2021, the City Council of Vaudreuil-Dorion, assisted by Olivier Van Neste - Director General, and Marco Pilon - Deputy Director General and Treasurer, presented the 2022 budget in the order of \$92,152,346. Interests and concerns

«The City of Vaudreuil-Dorion is in a strong financial position and it is in this spirit of sound management that the City Council decided on the main orientations for the 2022 budget,» said Mayor Guy Pilon.

In the 2021 budget, the City Council made the decision to use the financial assistance provided by the government due to the pandemic to reduce the tax burden for citizens. The 2021 residential tax rate was increased by 1.5% and the City used a portion of the financial assistance to offset the effect of the increase to benefit residential taxpayers. For 2022, there is a 4.3% rise in the tax burden for the average home due to the current increase, which is further affected by the non-recurring financial assistance in the residential sector (1.5%) and the freeze on residential water taxes (water and sewers).

«I realize that citizens may be surprised by this increase, but we clearly stated last year that the 2021 increase would be added to the 2022 rates. Despite this increase, we still have one of the lowest tax rates in the region at \$0.5116. The new three-year assessment roll, which comes into effect on January 1st, 2022, reflects the reality of the real estate market where we see a 28.2% increase for an average single-family home, which could have had a significant impact on tax accounts. For a house valued at \$419,000, which currently represents the average amount, we are talking about a \$100 increase in taxes. We lowered the residential tax rate from \$0.6345 in 2021 to \$0.5116 in 2022. Our budget therefore amounts to an increase in taxes that is below the CPI which, as of October 31st for the Montreal region, was 5.1%,» said Mayor Guy Pilon.

It is important to note that the general property tax for the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion includes all services such as household waste collection, recycling, Sûreté du Québec services and the various quota shares. Another important fact is that the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion's irreducible expenses for 2022 amount to more than \$86 million (operating costs, quota shares, removal and disposal of residual materials, snow removal, debt servicing, etc.) and represent 90% of total expenses.

With the significant investments made to upgrade our water and wastewater treatment facilities, water pricing was updated to reflect the true cost of using this resource. For example, this analysis allowed us to validate the rate of \$275 for a residence serviced by municipal water and sewers and to determine that the rate for a residence serviced only by water could be reduced

to \$165. The City will intensify its efforts to equip all industrial, commercial and institutional buildings with a water meter. A regulation will be adopted shortly to provide a framework for the management of water meters. Among the measures foreseen, and unless already done, all buildings affected will have to be equipped with a water meter within the one-year period following the coming into force of the regulation.

«Despite several major issues that required consideration and that were not under our control during preparation of the 2022 budget, both in terms of revenues and expenses, we managed to present a responsible budget for 2022 while maintaining the quality of services and a reasonable taxation rate. The increase in real-estate transactions, both in number and value, generated higher than expected transfer taxes in 2021. The City Council has agreed to use a portion of this budget surplus to accelerate certain non-recurring projects and complete them in 2022,» said Marco Pilon, Deputy Director General and Treasurer.

## **Future projects**

The Administration and the City Council prepared the 2022 budget based on the orientations identified in the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan entitled *Habité par ma ville* in which over 73 actions were prioritized to meet the expectations expressed by citizens and organizations during public consultations.

«We are following the roadmap defined by our Strategic Plan to provide our citizens with an exceptional living environment and a variety of quality services. In 2022, our goal is to broaden our subsidies towards the renovation of heritage buildings, update our environmental policy and introduce a Citizen Eco-Project program, plan and begin the development of Harwood Nature Park, design a program for Parc Le 405 and review the sports facilities in four of our parks. We also wish to embellish the entrance to the city in the Boulevard Harwood sector and adopt a signage master plan. Lastly, we wish to reintroduce a participatory budget, still from the viewpoint of promoting citizen involvement, and continue to improve our cultural offerings. In short, providing our citizens with high quality services remains a priority whether at the library or in activities related to leisure and culture. We simply want our citizens of all ages to have access to a multitude of services in our city, and at very little cost, « added Mayor Guy Pilon.

As in previous years, the City Council will contribute a substantial sum to help organizations and citizens of Vaudreuil-Dorion. Nearly \$1.5 million has been set aside to provide this financial support.

## **Highlights**

- Decrease in the residential tax rate from \$0.6345 in 2021 to \$0.5116 in 2022 to reduce the impact of the new 2022-2023-2024 assessment roll
- The average valuation of a single-family home increased from \$327,000 in 2021 to \$419,000 in 2022, a difference of \$92,000
- Review of water pricing and adoption of a regulation for the management of water meters to be more equitable and encourage responsible consumption of this resource
- Consumer Price Index on the rise at 5.1% for the Montreal region
- An increase of 6.8% in the operating budget

- Irreducible expenses (Sûreté du Québec, snow removal, etc.) represent 90% of the total budget
- Nearly \$1.5 million in financial assistance to help organizations and parents in Vaudreuil-Dorion
- Budget made in consideration of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan

Details of the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion's 2022 Budget are available on the website under The City / Municipal administration / Budget and financial documents.