

For Immediate Release

December 13, 2016

## **Rates and Fees Remain Constant**

City of Mount Pearl Budget 2017 at a Glance

**MOUNT PEARL, NL** – Today, the City of Mount Pearl presented its 2017 budget of \$49,730,000 with no new borrowing.

The balanced budget represents 0.4 per cent growth over 2016. It is fiscally responsible and guarantees the historical levels of service for which the City is known. The debt ratio remains strong at just under seven per cent.

“Our focus for this budget was to look into the future, focus on sustainability, and wisely reinvest in our existing assets and infrastructure,” said Mayor Randy Simms.

In 2016, the City adopted a Lean management approach to delivering services and running operations. As a result, the City has been able to mitigate rate and fee increases for taxpayers by finding efficiencies within the organization.

“We recognize the economic challenges faced by our province, and have taken actions to guard against further financial strain for our taxpayers. We are proud to say that our budget ensures we provide the high quality services for which we are known, with no increase in fees for our residential or business community,” said Councillor Lucy Stoyles.

Mil rates remain constant, as well as rates and fees for municipal development permits, licenses, and recreational programs. Key highlights of the budget include:

- \$9.4 million in transportation services (excluding public transit), which includes reinvestment in Commonwealth Avenue and a reconfiguration of the Blackmarsh Road intersection to meet increasing traffic volume.
- \$2.5 million in federal funding, under the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund, to better deal with wastewater and storm water, and to better protect waterways.
- A mandatory clear garbage bag program to enable waste audits, with a goal of lowering tipping fees and increasing recycling.
- Continuation of a Lean management approach to delivering services and running operations. This philosophy will streamline City activities and further improve citizen service.
- A municipal plan review and a review of the recreation master plan to ensure that community reinvestment relates directly to the needs of citizens. This will take into account all existing facilities, as well as possible uses for open space remaining at the Team Gushue Sports Complex.

-30-

**For comment:**

**Mayor Randy Simms**  
709-748-1030 or 709-368-7265  
[rsimms@mountpearl.ca](mailto:rsimms@mountpearl.ca)

**Councillor Lucy Stoyles**  
709-364-1916  
[lstoyle@mountpearl.ca](mailto:lstoyle@mountpearl.ca)

**Councillor Andrew Ledwell**  
709-748-2012  
[aledwell@mountpearl.ca](mailto:aledwell@mountpearl.ca)