

April 22nd, 2024

Special Council Meeting - Budget Presentation

Kerri Borne, Chief Financial Officer, provided a presentation to Council and residents of the 2024 proposed final budget, the proposed property tax rate, and an update of the 2024 capital projects.

2024 Final Operating and Capital Budget

Council approved the 2024 final operating and capital budget. A copy of the report and budget can be found on the District Website.

Council Report and Final Budget – Administrative Report 8.9

2024 Property Tax Revenue and Tax Rates

Tax Revenue

The table below shows the breakdown of the municipal tax revenue per property class:

Property Class	2024 Municipal Tax Revenue	2023 Municipal Tax Revenue	Tax increase/decrease per property class	% of increase/decrease
1 – Residential	2,007,426	1,838,287	169,139	9.20%
2 – Utilities	908,832	873,474	35,358	4.05%
4 – Major Industry	2,059,512	1,889,460	170,052	9.00%
5 – Light Industry	296,722	272,222	24,500	9.00%
6 – Business & Other	604,221	554,332	49,889	9.00%
8 – Recreation	214	196	18	9.00%
Property, Non-Profit				
Total	5,876,927	5,427,971	448,956	8.27%

*These figures do not include collection of taxes for other governments

The Table below shows the increase on a residential property with an average assessment of \$165,200 in 2024 compared to the average assessment value of \$154,321 in 2023:

Taxes	2024	2023	Increase
Property Tax	\$1,191.88	\$1,090.97	\$100.91
Water*	\$457.11	\$408.13	\$48.98
Sewer*	\$290.54	\$266.55	\$23.99
Garbage*	\$199.75	\$187.56	\$12.19
Total	\$2,139.28	\$1,953.21	\$186.07

* Rates based on fee schedules found in water, sewer and garbage bylaw. Garbage rate based on weekly service.

The final consideration of the 2024-2028 Financial Plan and 2024 Tax Rate Bylaws will be at the next Special Council Meeting on May 6, 2024.

Petitions and Delegations - Enbridge

Representatives from Enbridge's Community and Indigenous Engagement team presented an update to Council on Enbridge's BC operations and an introduction to the Sunrise Expansion Program. They encourage community members to visit their virtual open house to learn more and submit any feedback they have here: www.sunrise-program.com

Request for Letter of Support – Mackenzie Autumn Lodge Society

Council received a request from the Mackenzie Autumn Lodge Society that Council provide a letter of endorsement for the Mackenzie Autumn Lodge's grant application to the South Peace Mackenzie Trust towards improvements to their new location. This request was approved.

Invitation to MSS Capstone Gallery Walk

Council received an invitation from Mackenzie Secondary School to attend the Captstone Gallery Walk on May 9, 2024 at the Mackenzie Secondary School Gym, from 9:30 am – 2:00. Council moved that staff respond that all of Mayor and Council may attend.

Request for Engagement – Regional Agricultural Strategy

Council received a request from the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George to meet with Mayor and Council to discuss the goals of the new Regional Agriculture Strategy, determine potential opportunities for collaboration and meaningful partnerships. Council moved that staff schedule a meeting with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George to discuss and collaborate on opportunities.

Fencing Amendment Request

Council received a letter from resident Jaimie Coulton requesting that Zoning Bylaw 1368 - 4.14 Fences be amended to increase the maximum height of fences in Residential zones to 2.4 meters. Council moved that staff bring back a report on this issue.

MLMCF AGM and Appointment Notification Letter

Council received a letter from the McLeod Lake and Mackenzie Community Forest inviting Mayor and Council to their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday June 28, and requesting that Council appoint a Director for the three year term of June 20, 2024 – 2027. Council tabled the item for further information from staff.

Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee 2024 1st Quarter Activity Report

The Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee provided a report on their activities. Council received this report for information.

Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee appointment

Council appointed Amy Coates to the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2025.

Purple Bicycle Natural Foods Patio – Licence to Use

Council amended the Licence-to-Use Agreement with Purple Bicycle Natural Foods for the patio area located on District property to allow the serving of alcohol, pending approval of appropriate Provincial permitting.

Business Façade Improvement Program 2024

Council approved the applications from Mackenzie Community Arts Centre, Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce, and Legion Branch #273, to the Business Façade Improvement Program to a maximum amount of \$13,375.38.

Community Grants – March 2024 Second In-Take

Council approved the recommendations of the Grant Adjudication Committee for the second intake of the 2024 Community Grants Program. Council approved the recommended funding allocation to the groups totaling \$46,218.39. The following community groups will receive support from the District:

Banshee Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron
Mackenzie Community Arts Council
Mackenzie Fish & Game Association
Mackenzie Nature Observatory
Mackenzie Autumn Lodge
Mackenzie & District Hospital Auxiliary Thrift

Mackenzie Minor Lacrosse
Mackenzie Figure Skating Club
Mackenzie Community Garden
Mackenzie Rocky Mountain Riders
Mackenzie and District Museum

\$231,579.89 in cash and in-kind grants have been awarded to community organizations in 2024. For details please see this [Council Report](#) and [March 2024 Community Grant In-Take Summary](#).

2024 Council Liaison Appointments

Council approved Councilor Wright's liaison appointment to the Williston Lake Elders Society.

Community Garden – Licence of Occupation and Expansion

Council approved the Licence-of-Occupation for the Mackenzie Community Garden Society and determined that the new licence includes the expanded area as requested by the Mackenzie Community Garden society.

New Wildland Type 5 Fire Truck – Capital Purchase

Council awarded the purchase of a New Wildland Type 5 Fire Truck to Commercial Emergency Equipment Co. for a price of \$244,987.20 plus GST.

Bylaws

Council moved to give 2024 – 2028 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 1515 and the 2024 Tax Rate Bylaw No. 1516 their first three readings.

Coming Events

Emergency Preparedness Community Meeting

A presentation for the public to learn what to do in an emergency from Mackenzie's Fire Department and Mackenzie Community Services.

When: 11:00 am, May 11, 2024

Where: Mackenzie Recreation Centre

First 50 people get stocked with go-bags with essential items included.

Community Forest PAG

A presentation from Roy Rea to present his work on moose ecology and the effects of timber harvesting practices

When: 6:30 pm. Thursday May 2, 2024

Where: The Sas Da' Ghe room at the Mackenzie Recreation Centre.

Wildlife Awareness Training

What: Training session led by Kale Ericson, Health & Safety Manager for Conuma Resources Ltd. on the types of wildlife in our area, warning signs, encounters, how to use bear spray & mor!

When: 12:00 pm, May 4, 2024

Where: Mackenzie Secondary School Gym

Adults & Children 12+ are welcome! No fee required. Sessions are 1-2 hours long with no registration required.