

For Immediate Release

Cambridge Budget Task Force Concludes

Cambridge, Ontario. January 27, 2011... Two days of public budget talks have concluded today with final tax increases recommended at 3.55 per cent for Cambridge. This would represent \$35.71 per household with a market value of \$225,000.

Task Force Chair and City Councillor Gary Price says the budget maintains the integrity of base services for the Cambridge citizens. "No new services or new jobs are part of the recommended budget, however, we are pleased to say that our base services remain and there will be no staff layoffs."

Price notes that earlier Service Review efforts by staff resulted in the corporation trimming \$5.4 million from the proposed City budget. "This proved instrumental in supporting the belt tightening needed for today's outcome." Some 19.08 positions were also eliminated during these first two phases of Service Review.

Budget Task Force also approved phase three of the Service Review that will be conducted this year. This means that staff will come back with strategies to address unfunded capital projects into the next decade.

"We are in a good financial position going into 2011 and the initiatives we have made today and during service review have helped us address short falls in revenue associated with a slower economy."

The Operating and Capital budgets will go before council on March 7th for final approval.

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About Cambridge

The City of Cambridge is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. It is strategically located astride highway 401 in Southwestern Ontario, part of Canada's Technology Triangle. In 2010, the population reached over 130,000 people.

With a multicultural mix and a strong foundation of support services, Cambridge has a diverse economic base with leading industries in advanced manufacturing, automotive, high technology, pharmaceutical, business and financial services and hospitality/retail. The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is an employer with a progressive work environment that offers the opportunity to provide service to the community through creativity and innovation, and with opportunities for career growth and advancement.

About the Corporation of the City of Cambridge

The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is a dynamic organization filled with dedicated people who deliver vital municipal services to you. Services that residents, businesses, visitors and people like your family and friends enjoy. We're a comprehensive team of professionals: engineers, financial specialists, skilled trades, administrative experts, customer service, communications - and the list goes on.

We're proud to be part of the systems that bring you the array of services that citizens in Cambridge need:

- Parks and recreation
- Activities and programs like pools, seniors' centres, community centres, arenas and other facilities
- Sports programs and all the needs related to playing fields, like indoor soccer, baseball diamonds and other amenities
- Events
- Farmers' Market
- Cemetery services
- Road programs
- Leaf pick up services
- Winter maintenance services
- Water and sewer services
- Fire, emergency and related services
- By-laws and enforcement
- Tax administration
- Licensing for businesses, lotteries, marriage, dogs, and other services like applications for birth, death and marriage certificates, notarizing or commissioning of documents
- Archival research
- Economic Development and business support programs
- Tourism support to share opportunities to showcase the festivals and help bring visitors in to support retail and other elements of the economy
- Administration of committees, steering groups and advisory groups
- Planning and development services
- Traffic and parking services
- Ensuring the best security, police, transit, garbage, water processing service, utilities, animal control are in place.
- Libraries and galleries
- Centre for the arts
- Accessibility matters
- Council services including things like supporting the up coming needs of our residents for the Oct 2010 municipal elections

It's a multitude of services and we continue to refine and review them to ensure we deliver the services in the most effective, efficient, and proactive ways. In 2009 the corporation began the service review process. This is a further check and balance system seeking improvements - like better technologies to simplify processes or realigning how the organization operates. The comprehensive review will help address the 2011 budget.

The City of Cambridge press room is located at www.cambridge.ca/pressroom

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