



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 3, 2017

Council Passes 2017 Budget

MARTENSVILLE, SK – Managing reduced revenue streams due to provincial budget cuts, along with prioritizing the current needs of the City, and planning for the future were the focus of City Council budget meetings over the past number of months. The budget was discussed and reviewed at previous meetings and approved by City Council at the May 2, 2017 Regular Council meeting.

“I would like to truly thank the administration and staff for the countless hours that they have put into preparing this budget. I know it wasn't an easy process,” says Mayor Kent Muench. “In what are certainly very challenging times, we have come up with a balanced approach to manage our city's future. I am pleased to see important projects moving forward like the skate park, the completion of the 4th Street South renewal project and work on extending Main Street beyond 10th Avenue. 2017 is going to be another great year to live, work and invest in Martensville!”

Assessment notices were sent out earlier this year and since this is a revaluation year for all properties in Saskatchewan, it showed that most properties in Martensville had an increase in their values. Further, in 2016, the provincial government announced that the taxable percentage of value for residential properties would be increasing in 2017 from 70% to 80%. In order to reduce the burden that this increase in value would cause residential property owners, the City has reduced the municipal mill rate from 6.26 to 4.90.

The mill rate adjustment, combined with changes in assessed values will impact residential properties differently, depending on the value of their property. The average residential property owner will see a municipal tax increase of approximately \$48.35 for the year or approximately 2.20%. There will be no changes to the residential base tax levy, garbage and recycling fees, or the wastewater treatment levy as outlined below. However a new future recreation facility levy has been approved at \$25.00 per property in 2017.

Commercial assessments saw a significant increase in values. The City has also reduced the commercial mill rate factor to offset the impact of the revaluations to businesses. Further, in order to provide a more equitable property tax structure for the business community, the commercial base tax was increased to \$915 for 2017 and affects all businesses equally regardless of assessment value.

The Notice of 2017 Property Tax Levies will appear as follows (2016 levies are listed for comparison):

	2017	2016
Municipal Base Tax – Residential/Multi/Ag	615.00	615.00
Municipal Base Tax – Commercial	915.00	615.00
Garbage/Recycling Fees	180.00	180.00
City Residential Tax Levy (mill rate)	4.90	6.26
City Commercial Mill Rate Factor	1.1625	1.4229
City Commercial Tax Levy (mill rate)	5.70	8.91
Future Wastewater Treatment Levy	75.00	75.00
New Future Recreation Facility Levy	25.00	-

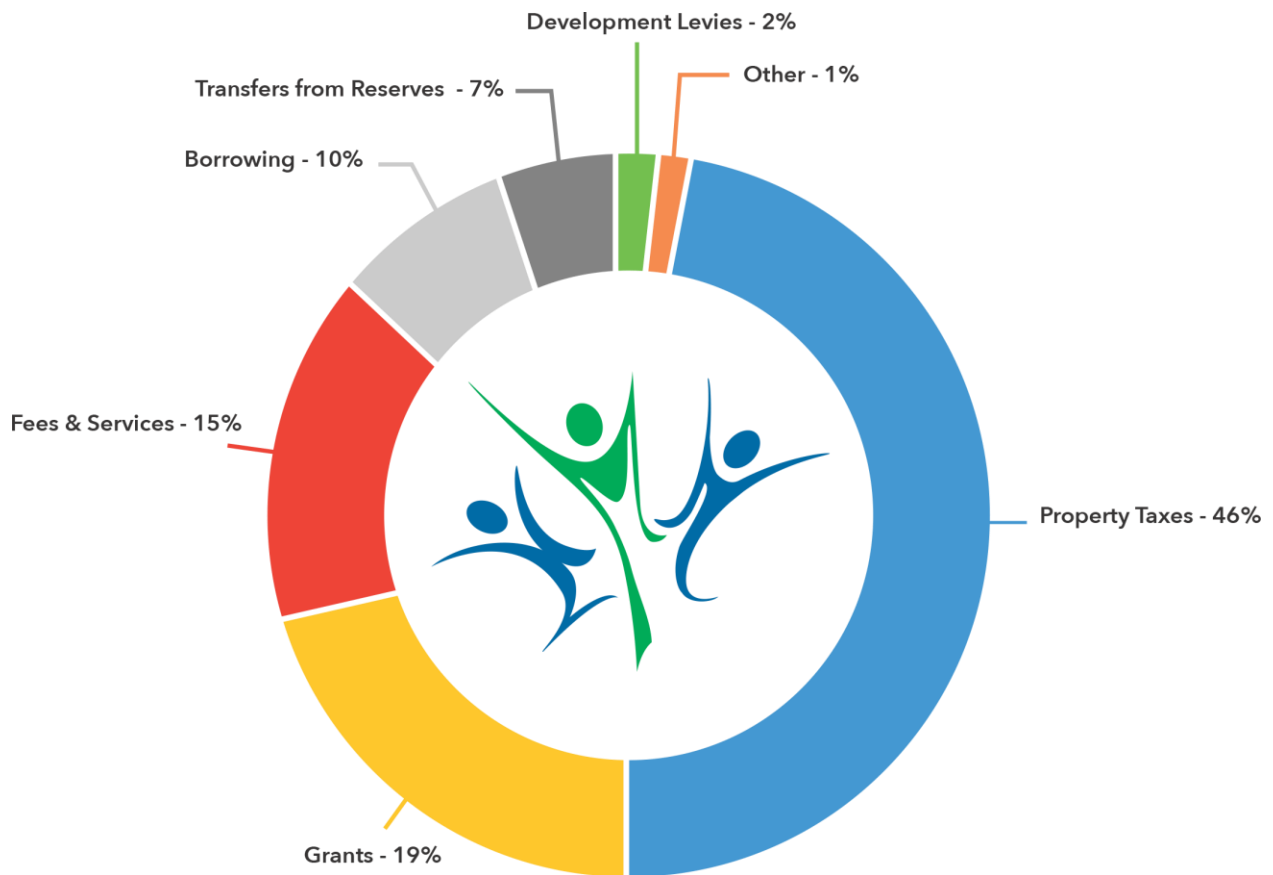
Note: Not included above is the School Tax Levy of 4.12 mills for residential and 6.27 mills for commercial/industrial.

For more information, contact:

Mayor Kent Muench or Leah Sullivan, Director of Corporate Services
City of Martensville
(306) 931-2166

How is Martensville Funded?

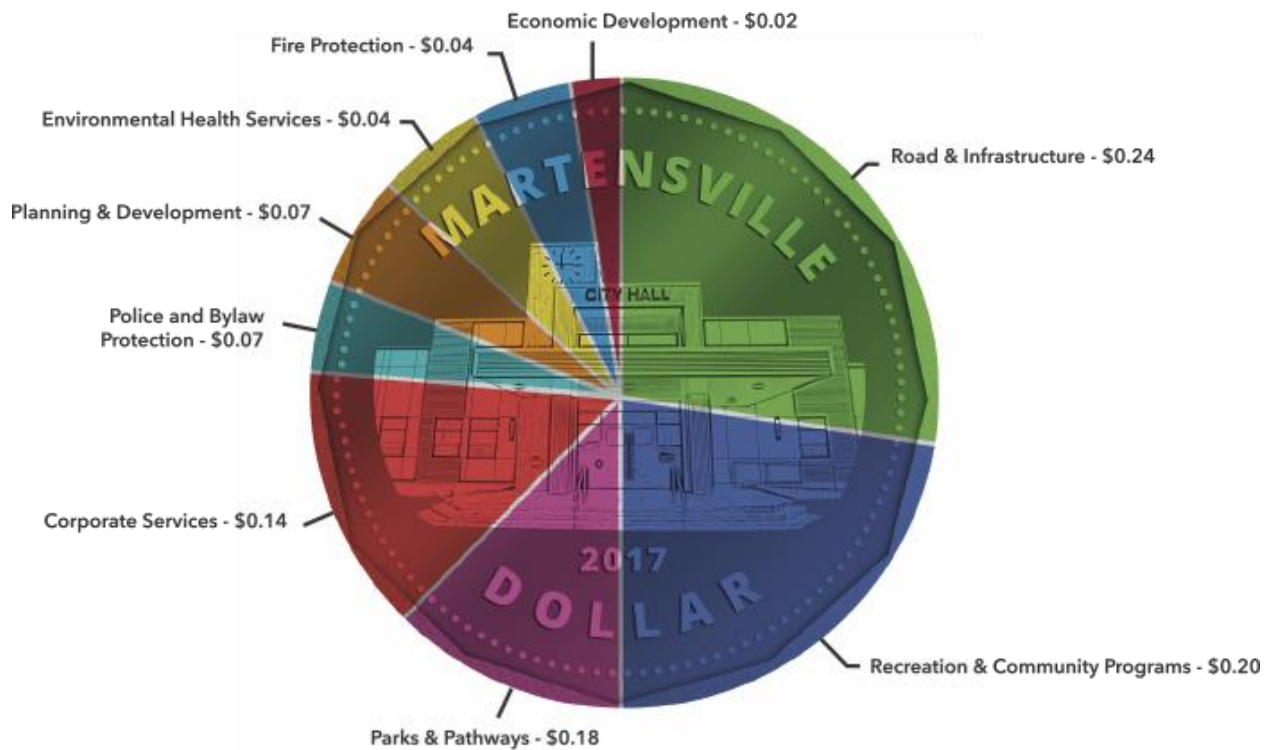
The City of Martensville collects the majority of its revenue through property taxes as shown below, however other revenue streams also help fund the infrastructure, programs, and services offered in the City. Another significant source of revenue is government grant funding at 19%, however the certainty of this funding in the coming years is unknown after the most recent provincial budget. Revenues from fees and services comprise 15% of the City's revenue stream. Examples include things like recreation programming user fees, the garbage & recycling program fees, facility rental fees and many others. The City continues to look for alternative funding opportunities to ensure that we can maintain and grow all that the City of Martensville offers. Note that we do not include the City's Water & Sewer Utility Department here as this department only funds the Water & Sewer infrastructure and operations.



Your 2017 Tax Dollar

Have you ever wondered how each tax dollar is spent? The image below shows the 2017 City of Martinsville Budget broken down into different functions in the City. Each dollar spent is put into essential infrastructure and service needs for the residents and businesses in Martinsville. For more detailed information on the 2017 approved spending, please refer to the 2017 Budget Highlights.

Note that this image does not include the Water & Sewer Utility Department as this is operated as a fee for service department and is not funded by general property taxation.



2017 Budget Highlights

Water & Sewer

Council will continue to fund a reserve for future waste water treatment. This will be required in the near future to meet the Ministry of Environment's regulations. The \$75.00 base tax amount will continue for 2017. The City continues work on a Joint Water and Waste Water Treatment project that will meet the needs of the growing community, improve the treatment process, and be economically efficient. In addition, the City continues to await notice of funding under the Building Canada Fund. If successful, the Federal and Provincial governments would contribute up to two-thirds of the funds required. The City will continue to explore all future requirements and funding options to ensure the best solution for Martensville's waste water treatment.

Emergency & Protective Services

RCMP

The RCMP detachment will remain at the current staffing level for 2017. This is the equivalent of 8 full time members. The RCMP Traffic Safety Enforcement Unit continues to lease the front portion of the newly renovated RCMP building. This partnership will result in a much higher visibility of the RCMP in and around Martensville.

Fire Department & Emergency Measures Organization (EMO)

The automation of the current generator at the Fire Hall is budgeted for 2017 and will ensure backup power is in place for operation of the Fire Hall and RCMP building in the case of a power outage. The purchase of a new radio system is also planned for 2017. The Fire Department and EMO will also work in partnership with the Firefighters' Association to bring back the Protective Services Fundraising Gala on October 21, 2017.

Infrastructure & Planning

Land Development & Land Use Planning

A Southeast Sector Plan project will be initiated continuing along the theme of creating an Innovative Growth plan and ensuring that we have the right infrastructure in place to support it at the right time.

Improvements to 4th Street South

Phase three of the reconstruction of 4th Street South will be completed in 2017. Phase three includes reconstruction between 3rd Avenue and Centennial Drive South and is budgeted at \$584,000.

Main Street Construction

The City will be tendering the paving project for Main Street from 10th Avenue North to 16th Avenue North. Council will make the final award based on tendering results. In 2017 a total of \$960,000 has been allocated to this project for a phase of the project dependent on pricing.

Road Rehabilitation and Maintenance

Council accepted the Pavement Assessment and Pavement Management Plan for information. This will be a great tool for furthering Council's agenda towards the principles of asset management when considering and planning future allocations towards roadway maintenance, repairs, and renewal.

Recreation & Community Services

The budget will continue to fund operating and capital costs, prioritize upgrades, and provide new facilities, parks, playgrounds, pathways and programs to serve the public. Plans for 2017 continue to focus on the development of outdoor spaces.

As part of the Kinsmen Park Master Plan, Phase One construction will continue with significant work on the pathways, including lighting, to be completed for a budgeted amount of \$500,000. There will be pathway grading and construction east of 10th Avenue and south of 3rd Street North. Some landscape development along 3rd Street North and 10th Avenue North will continue in 2017. The three ball diamonds that are located adjacent to the Martensville Sports Centre will have irrigation installed in 2017 after the ball/soccer seasons conclude.

Phase Two of the Kinsmen Park Master Plan will also commence in 2017 with the development and construction of a Skate Park. The City will be working with New Line Skate Parks as well as the Syrenne family on this project. The cost of the park is estimated at \$750,000 with a fundraising goal by the Syrenne family of \$150,000. Construction is scheduled to start in June with a completion date of September.

The completion of Rose Leaf Park situated north of the new schools will consist of a multi-purpose sports field complete with turf and irrigation as well as lit walking paths. The construction is expected to be completed by fall 2017. Total cost of this park for the City is budgeted at \$280,000.

Mocon Baseball Fields will undergo landscaping improvements as well as tree planting in 2017. Plans are also underway to bring water, sanitary, and power services to the fields.

Economic Development

The Economic Development Department will continue to focus on attracting and supporting commercial, industrial and residential growth. Highlighting the new Lake Vista subdivision will also be a priority as will continued commercial opportunities for investors.

The Department will also continue to assist entrepreneurs and small businesses to start-up and expand, build the profile of Martensville, and communicate the benefits of living, working and investing in the city.

The 2017 Budget also provides enhancing communications initiatives targeted at residents and business.