



The Council Highlights provide a snapshot of the progress made in Council decision-making. For more information on each topic, please visit the accompanying link where noted.

We welcome anyone who would like to receive Council Highlights to sign up for **City News & Public Notices** at [nelson.ca/notifyme](http://nelson.ca/notifyme).

March 2023

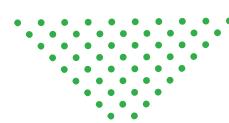
## **Message from Mayor & Council - A Welcoming Community For Everyone**

- *The City of Nelson is committed to creating a safe and inclusive community for everyone. We believe that our community should be a place where all members feel welcomed and accepted, regardless of their backgrounds or identities.*
- *Council appoints the library board and has confidence in the decisions they make including Drag Storytime. We value the expertise and experience they bring to this decision-making role.*
- *Council is committed to upholding standards that ensure the safety of our staff and community through the promotion of respect, civility, and inclusiveness and we will continue to foster freedom of expression for all in an environment of understanding and acceptance.*
- *In our commitment to creating a safe space, we strive to make sure our actions match our words in order for us all to enjoy a supportive experience together.*

## **Nelson Hydro Budget Update**

The Chief Financial Officer, Chris Jury, presented an update to Council on the Nelson Hydro capital budget for 2023. The original Nelson Hydro budget was approved in October 2022 to meet the regulatory timeline. Since that time Nelson Hydro has experienced significantly higher costs for major equipment and materials for the Mill St substation project. One of the transformers at this substation failed in 2021 and the full upgrade of the substation is critical in order to ensure the future reliability of the electrical distribution system for both urban and rural customers.

To offset the impact of the Mill Street Upgrade Project cost increases on the capital budget, Nelson Hydro has made some adjustments by delaying other proposed 2023 capital projects until future years. This includes reducing the scope of the Advanced Metering Project Feasibility Study this year. The net result is an increase in the Nelson Hydro capital budget of \$850,000 funded from capital reserves. These adjustments will not impact electrical rates for Nelson Hydro for 2023.



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# WHAT IS AN OCP?

An **Official Community Plan** describes the long-term vision of a community.

These plans:

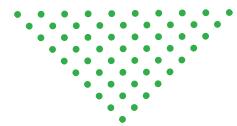
- Are a statement of objectives and policies that guide planning and land use management
- Impact a community's sustainability and resilience
- Outline long-term development plans for a community

In effect, they become a blueprint as to how a community will develop over the long term.

What gets built and where, this includes both residential and commercial buildings as well as parks, amenities and our transportation network.

## Review of the Official Community Plan (OCP)

- Development Services and Climate Leadership will lead the review of Nelson's Official Community Plan (OCP) over the next 24 months. Although the 2013 OCP has served the community well, an update is necessary to keep it relevant and reflect the diverse needs and aspirations of Nelsonites.
- The review process will integrate a framework that prioritizes equity, health, and climate, ensuring inclusivity, sustainability, and responsiveness to the community's needs. The OCP review will consist of five phases: background research, vision development, strategy development, drafting the plan, and public reviews and feedback. It's anticipated that the OCP will be presented at a Public Hearing for final consideration by Council in January 2025.
- The OCP review process is an exciting time for the community and City staff to update the OCP and ensure the collective vision that embodies the values of Nelson today and into the future. For any questions or to get involved, please get in touch with Natalie Andrijancic at [nandrijancic@Nelson.ca](mailto:nandrijancic@Nelson.ca). Click [here](#) to learn more. You can also view our current OCP [here](#).





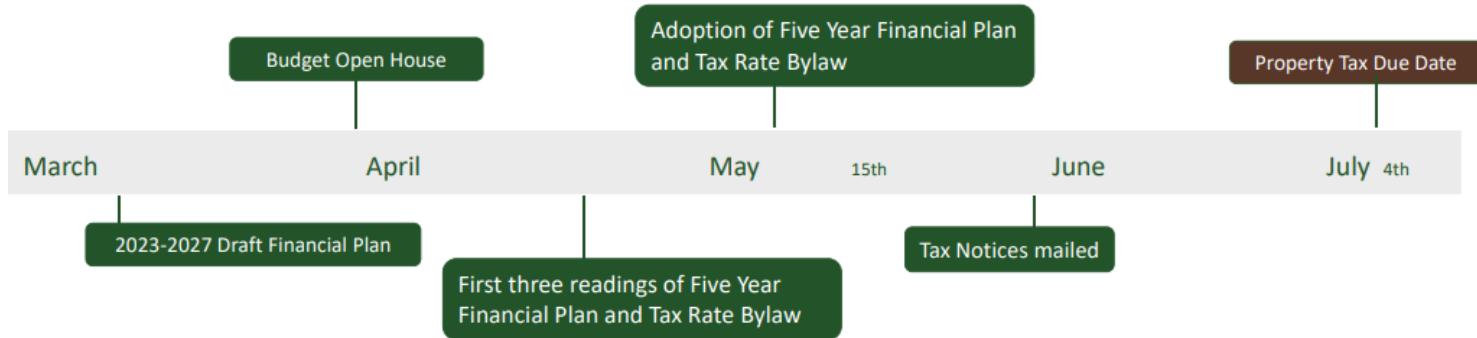
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## 2023 Operating Budget Update

The Chief Financial Officer, Chris Jury, presented to Council an updated draft operating budget for 2023 to 2027. Council directed staff to proceed with an Open House with the recommended general tax increase of 5.8%. This year's tax increase is being driven by a 3.3% increase for Police and a 2% inflationary increase for City Services. The typical Nelson home with an assessed value of \$674,000, will see an overall annual increase of \$106 per household or \$8.85 per month.

Nelson residents are encouraged to attend the Budget Open House on March 30th at 5:00pm at City Hall @310 Ward Street. The event will also be streamed online for those who are unable to attend in person. Stay up to date by following @city.nelson on Instagram or @thecityofnelson on Facebook.

## Financial Planning Process



Watch the Council Meeting from March 14, 2023



## DID YOU KNOW?

All regular Council meetings are live-streamed.

Click here to visit our live-stream City Council YouTube page.