

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Council sets new 2017 user rates for water, sewer and garbage collection**

#### **Summary**

During its meeting held December 19, 2016, Council set new water, sewer and garbage collection rates to support long-term asset management requirements as outlined in the City's 2016-2020 Financial Plan. Adopted by Council on May 2, 2016, the City's Financial Plan proposed annual increases to the water and sewer user rates on January 1st of each year. Revenues collected through these increases assist the City in paying for costs incurred during the long-term replacement of fixed assets, including water supply and distribution assets and sanitary sewer assets.

*Strategic Link:* Asset management is one of the six priorities identified of the City's Strategic Plan.

#### **Key Points**

- An increase of 7.5 per cent will be applied to water rates in 2017. This will be an increase of \$33.33 per single family home (based on an average consumption of 220 gallons/day). The annual cost of water for a single family home will become \$477.84.
- Sewer rates will increase by 5 per cent (equivalent to \$5.90 per single family home) in 2017. This will bring the annual cost for a single family home sewer fees to \$123.79.
- Solid waste collection rates will increase by 2 per cent (equivalent to \$2.00 per single family home) for residential units in 2017. The annual cost to a single family home will be \$102.75 for solid waste collections fees.

#### **Quotes**

"Asset management is one of the six priorities identified in the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan Update. Increased user fees are part of a long-term strategy to ensure there are adequate funds available to renew water and sewer infrastructure when it eventually reaches the end of its life cycle."

Diane Hiscock  
Manager, Revenue Services  
City of Nanaimo

#### **Quick Facts**

- The overall impact of these user rate increases amounts to \$41.23 for a typical single family home, an increase of 6.2 per cent over 2016. These new rates will come into effect January 1, 2017.

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