

COM88A

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## **Adoption of the 2019 Budget Spending Cuts Are Anticipated for the Coming Years**

**Châteauguay, November 27, 2018** – After a rigorous budget exercise, the City Council presented and adopted the Ville de Châteauguay's 2019 budget on November 26.

### **Extremely tight control of spending**

The City's 2019 budget provides for expenses of \$96M and revenues of \$94.2M, resulting in a deficit of \$1.8M to be absorbed by surpluses already generated. For 2018, expenses were budgeted at \$92M.

In order to achieve its objectives, the Council had to make the difficult decision of increasing taxes by 2.5% for the coming year. "Last year's tax freeze was almost a miracle, because we really wanted to give citizens a break. Tight control of spending remains a priority for us, but to ensure our city's continued good development, we need to make a minimum investment," explained Pierre-Paul Routhier, Mayor of Châteauguay. "Over the coming year, renovation work on the City's infrastructure will increase significantly and, at the request of many citizens, a number of parks will be upgraded," he added.

In fact, road habilitation work alone amounts to \$3.5M compared to \$1.3M in 2018. Commercial building owners will benefit from a tax break in 2019 to encourage commercial growth in the Châteauguay region.

The 2019 budget also includes the mandatory portion paid to the Régie sports et loisirs Beau-Château for the outdoor pool and the Sportplex. A decision by the previous administration to build these two infrastructures without any grants translates into expenses for every home of \$38 in 2019 and \$72 in 2020. These expenses considerably increase the amount of taxes payable by taxpayers.

### **Variation in rates**

For garbage collection, homeowners will see a \$21 decrease in rates per household mainly attributable to the frequency of collection to be reviewed with the addition of organic waste collection in fall 2019, which represents an additional cost of \$17. Wastewater treatment rates have increased by \$7, as have the recycling and treatment of drinking water (\$4 and \$9, respectively).

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### **Mandatory portions and costs that cannot be reduced**

This budget also takes into account the mandatory portions that Châteauguay must pay to various regional authorities, such as the Réseau de transport métropolitain (RTM), the municipalité régionale de comté (MRC) de Roussillon and the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM). In addition, there is the contribution to the École nationale de police du Québec, which is equivalent to 1% of the payroll of police officers

The signing of a new collective agreement with our blue collar workers in 2018, focused on the needs of residents and including greater flexibility for workers, provides the City with financial stability for the next five years, until 2023.

The City also intends to continue its economic development efforts, which were successful in 2018, to reduce the tax burden.

### **Even tighter management of public finances**

The Council did not adopt this 2019 tax increase with a cheerful heart. It is committed to reviewing every expense in the coming year as it is clear that the City cannot continue to increase its spending every year.

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