

2021 Budget Summary

Tax Levy increase at 0.94% meaning an increase of \$11.00 for the year or 91 cents a month for the average homeowner. Below the local rate of inflation.

Key Points

COVID-19 brought unprecedented challenges. Kitchener lost millions of dollars in revenue from closed facilities, reduced parking, and a variety of sources due to the pandemic.

A decade of paying down debt, funding reserves and planning infrastructure work over the long term had put the City of Kitchener in a relatively strong fiscal position heading into the pandemic.

The City took immediate action to mitigate the financial impacts including delaying \$21 million in capital projects that could be safely deferred, freezing discretionary spending across the corporation, and temporarily laying off a significant portion of its workforce – 43 per cent of all staff at its peak.

We were grateful for the Safe Restart Funding we received from the federal and provincial governments, which was extremely helpful to address the significant shortfalls in 2020

This budget maintains valued programs and services for our community and ensures we build back better through strategic priorities like our new Equity, Anti-Racism & Indigenous Initiatives team, investments in active transportation and our Make It Kitchener 2.0 economic development strategy.

Utility Rate Changes

Water: 0.9% or \$11 for the year

Sanitary: 0%

Stormwater: 6% or \$11 for the year

Gas: Increase of 1.5% or \$11 for the year

Combined with the Tax Levy increase, and the Gas decrease, the annual total impact was \$33.00.