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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2015 Operating & Capital Budget

On April 28, 2015, City of Welland Council approved the 2015 Operating Budget. The 2015 budget includes a 3.62% net tax levy increase, when combined with the Region and Education results in an overall tax levy increase of 1.65% for the average residential property assessed at \$194,000.

The City of Welland Council also approved the 2015 Capital Budget in the amount of \$8,449,515 and the 2016-2024 Capital Budget Forecast in the amount of \$94,447,473.

“There was a lot of debate, care and consideration for the use of taxpayer dollars in developing our 2015 budget. As budget chair, I was very pleased with the involvement of all members of the Budget Committee, the Finance Department, and senior leadership,” said Councillor David McLeod. “As a committee, I believe we established a full understanding of the financial challenges facing our City, and look forward to the work ahead of providing quality service to our citizens through strategic long-term investment decisions.” Council's 2015 strategic budget will now be executed by the eagerly awaiting and capable members of City staff.

The 2015 Operating Budget focuses on maintaining quality services while maintaining property taxes at a reasonable and affordable rate.

Highlights of the 2015 budget include:

1. Increase of \$195,150 for infrastructure funding for road resurfacing
2. Implement free 2 hr. Downtown parking year round
3. Increase funding of \$10,000 for snow removal at Bus Shelters
4. Funding in the amount of \$45,000 for Economic Development of Brownfield Lands
5. Settlement of 3 year Salary adjustments for Emergency Services
6. Increased funding for Downtown Redevelopment (Downtown Health & Wellness CIP Program)
7. Introduction of New Summer Concert Series in Downtown
8. State of the Art Lighting on the Historic Bridge; Funding provided by Regional Niagara and Welland Hydro

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