



Parkview

My name is Andrew Knack and I am fortunate to be serving as the City Councillor for Ward 1 which includes the community of Parkview. Although I have the opportunity to meet with residents while attending community events and meetings, I also like to go door-knocking to chat with people one-on-one. That gives me the opportunity to connect with those who are not able to attend the public meetings and gather a wide range of feedback. As you may have additional questions or comments not covered here, please feel free to contact me using the information in the page header.

2019 - 2022 Budget

After months of analyzing, asking questions, and debating, City Council has wrapped up debate on the 2019 – 2022 Operating and Capital Budget. This budget will shape the way Edmonton grows over the next four years. Council had the challenge of finding balance between community investment and fiscal savings. The final outcome of the budget will mean a 2.6% increase each year from 2019 to 2022. Although I believe more savings could have been realized during budget deliberations, I am pleased that the tax increase will be lower than the current inflation rate of approximately 3%. Also, each of the increases from 2019 to 2022 are the lowest increases in more than a decade.

That 2.6% tax increase is made up of the following:

- 0.6% goes to the Valley Line LRT construction.
- 0.3% is for the Back Alley Renewal Program.
- 1.2% will cover the increase in funding for Edmonton Police Service.
- 0.5% addresses the cost of growth and inflation for all existing city services.

During the 2017 campaign, I committed to striving to keep the 2019 tax increase at or below inflation and completed a thorough review of the proposed operating and capital budgets to ensure the City is investing in the most efficient and effective way possible. This is the main reason I put forward a motion back in September to examine what programs and services could be changed, reduced, or removed.

The motion asked our Administration to prepare a list of what cuts would look like at 1%, 2%, 3%, and 4%. This list was very informative and a number of the proposed reductions were approved. The reductions totaled approximately \$65 million of savings over four years. The savings were realized from items like reducing the amount we set aside for emergent items and a number of workforce strategies (ex: implementing flexible staff scheduling to reduce overtime, reducing the need for staff through implementation of new technology, etc.)





The City Plan

With the new 2019 – 2022 budget completed, I am excited to focus on developing a new City Plan. Edmonton is planning on becoming a city of 2 million people and we are creating a new City Plan to guide our city towards this goal. We are looking to have every person in the city answer, “what choices do we need to make to be a healthy, urban, and climate resilient city of two million people that supports a prosperous region?” The bulk of this plan creation will be happening in 2019, and will dictate how our city grows, moves, and thrives. I am excited to work on this plan more and encourage you to get involved during the public engagement process.

Calcium Chloride

In the past, the City of Edmonton has used salt as a means to melt ice on the roads and increase traction. This past year, administration started a pilot project using a substance called calcium chloride, in conjunction with salt, to maintain the roads. While the city has been using calcium chloride for many years, the increased use of calcium chloride and salt has garnered significant media and community attention,

as many Edmontonians have noticed a change on the roads. City Administration did clearly tell us that there is a risk with this solution. We need to finish the pilot project to fully understand the positive and negative impacts before making a final decision on its future use. More information is available on my blog at <http://www.andrewknack.com/calciumchloride/>



Community Conversations

My next Ward 1 Community Conversation is on January 24th from 5:30-7:30pm at The Orange Hub. Community Conversations are an opportunity to provide updates on current issues throughout Edmonton and ask for input on the topics that matter most to you. All are welcome to attend.

My next Facebook Live Community Conversation is on January 30th, 12:00-1:00pm.