

BUDGET AT A GLANCE

December 4, 2020

Edmonton

Public Hearing / Funding Facilities

What happened at the Public Hearing

The non-statutory public hearing for the 2021 budget was held December 3. Council heard from Edmontonians who were concerned about possible facility closures, removal of the City's spay and neuter program and changes to grant funding. They also heard from those who urged Council to move ahead with proposed budget cuts to keep taxes low.

Funding facilities

When Edmonton was a smaller city, it was served by small community recreation facilities and rinks. As the city has grown, we've added larger recreation centres that serve more people more efficiently and provide a wider range of services. Some of the smaller facilities aren't used as much as larger centres, which means they bring in less revenue. They become more expensive to operate and maintain as they age.

Fewer Users, Higher Costs.



**Includes unfunded capital costs*

Every admission sold to one of these facilities is supported by a cost to Edmonton taxpayers that can be as much as – or even greater than – the admission itself. As well, the potential costs to repair or rebuild these aging structures are significant. As we make difficult choices about how to prioritize taxpayer dollars, the City is considering closing some of these facilities, or offering them to new operators or owners. This is something Council will debate and a decision they could make through budget planning next week.

What's next for budget planning?

On December 7, Administration will bring forward projected COVID-related financial impacts for 2021, along with strategies to manage them. On December 9, Council will begin their budget debate. To watch online, visit edmonton.ca/meetings