

Cabinet du Maire  
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4333, rue Sherbrooke O.  
Westmount, QC H3Z 1E2



Office of the Mayor  
City Hall  
4333 Sherbrooke Street W.  
Westmount, QC H3Z 1E2

January 23, 2020

Dear Fellow Citizens,

On behalf of all Council members, I wish you the very best as we begin a new year and a new decade. Enclosed with this letter is your tax bill for 2020, as well as some details concerning the budget for the year. Delivering the best possible services to residents is our priority and at the core of what we do.

**The Council objectives regarding the budget continue to be the following:**

- Limit the increase in taxation for local services.
- Continue to innovate to improve the efficiency of our operations, the maintenance of parks, municipal buildings, streets and sidewalks.
- Continue to look for other sources of revenue and income other than property taxes.
- Keep the pace of our infrastructure investment in roads, parks, sidewalks, sewers, hydro and our buildings.

The breakdown of the tax implications is an overall 2.5% increase for the average single dwelling tax bill in Westmount. Had it not been for the 2.6% increase in our share that we must pay to the Agglomeration, the average single dwelling tax bill would have increased by 0.5%. We have worked hard on the Westmount portion of the tax bill to control costs while continuing to deliver high-quality services. We are not raising local taxes beyond the rate of inflation.

By law, municipal budgets must be balanced. The total revenue required to match Westmount's planned expenditures for 2020 is \$114.1 million. Of this amount, revenues from sources other than taxation, *in lieu of taxes* and Hydro Westmount revenues will total \$18.9 million. These non-tax revenue items include parking fees and fines, duties on transfers, recreational activities, and government transfers. The *in lieu of taxes* to be received from the federal and provincial governments is \$3 million.

**2020 Taxation rates (per \$100 of valuation):**

For residential properties containing 5 housing units or less	\$0.7092
For apartment buildings with 6 or more units	\$0.7187
For non-residential properties	\$2.8892

The value of the average single-family dwelling in 2020 will be \$1,952,698, with a residential rate of \$0.7092. The tax bill of the average single-family home will be \$13,849.06 compared to \$13,509.93 in 2019.

In this budget, you will find a continued commitment to delivering services to citizens. In 2020, we are going to spend \$26.9 million on capital works projects, of which \$13.5 million will be financed through pay-as-you-go, \$10.2 million from appropriated surplus and \$3.2 million from government grants. This will allow us to invest in roads, parks, sewers, buildings, sidewalks and hydro.

Public Works will see an increased workforce, which will enable the City to better deliver services pertaining to:

- snow clearing;
- maintenance of outdoor ice rinks, and;
- maintenance of our parks and our buildings.

The work with the Agglomeration is as crucial as ever, as we continue to send 50% of our budget to Montreal. We need to continue to be vigilant in ensuring our voice is heard and the needs of our citizens are met. I am hopeful that the work we have begun with Montreal and with the other mayors of demerged cities will result in a reformed Agglomeration and more control over the contribution we make.

Your tax bill may be paid in two installments. The first installment is due February 24, 2020 and the second installment is due on May 25, 2020. Please feel free to contact me or any other member of Council, should you have questions regarding the budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christina M. Smith'.

Christina M. Smith  
Mayor