



TOWN OF DIAMOND VALLEY

DIAMOND VALLEY VISTA

MUNICIPAL UPDATES AND INFORMATION

November / December 2024

Upcoming

Council Meetings

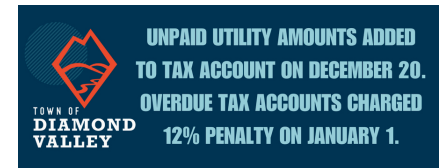
November 6 - Draft
Capital Budget

November 13 - Draft
Operating Budget

November 20 - Regular
(Budget, if required)

December 4 - Budget

December 18 - Regular
(Budget, if required)



MAYOR'S MESSAGE Mayor Barry Crane

Council is excited to share that we're embarking on a major step in shaping the future of our community with our first Municipal Development Plan (MDP). This plan isn't just a document—it's a vision for how we want to grow over the next 20+ years while staying true to the values that define our town. The MDP will guide decisions about where new homes, businesses, and community spaces will be located, shaping a thriving and responsible Diamond Valley.

Key focus areas include land use, transportation, housing, and environmental stewardship. As we plan for the future, we're committed to preserving our natural landscapes and heritage while committing to managing growth responsibly. From providing a range of housing options to enhancing parks and community services, this plan will reflect our shared aspirations. Most importantly, this is something we'll create together, and we look forward to hearing your input and feedback for a vibrant, resilient, and connected Diamond Valley.

On the budget side, we're facing some tough decisions this year. To keep tax increases as low as possible, we've undertaken a service level review, asking administration to reduce or eliminate some non-essential services from the budget. This could include scaling back certain annual events or reducing charitable donations to community organizations. Our budget is under pressure, with increasing costs such as an additional six-figures in RCMP services and infrastructure repairs. Unfortunately, these changes will lead to a tax increase in 2025, but we're working hard to minimize it by making reductions where we can.

Essential services, like water and sewer, are non-negotiable. However, utility rates will increase, as discussed in the recent Council meeting, with the goal of setting aside reserves for future infrastructure projects. Additionally, a \$2 fee will be applied to utility accounts requesting paper bills. You can avoid this charge by signing up for e-Services, where bills will be emailed directly. While e-billing simplifies things, it has no impact on how you choose to pay—though automatic payments are also available for added convenience.

The reality is that years of holding the budget down while inflation has risen have brought us to this point. No one on Council or in administration enjoys cutting services, but we've heard loud and clear that keeping taxes low is a priority. Rest assured, we will do our best to balance these needs. All budget meetings are open to the public, and you can observe them in person, live online, or watch them afterward. I encourage everyone to follow along and understand the tough decisions we're making. No one takes this responsibility lightly.

As we head into the holiday season, I wish you and your families warmth, joy, and peace. I look forward to seeing you at the Light Up Diamond Valley event on December 7 and at the Town's final New Year's Eve Celebration on December 31. Stay cozy, and as always, be safe, be kind, and be courteous.

Barry Crane