



BUDGET 2022 -2026

Timeline

When	What	Details
<p>October - January</p>	<p>Staff prepare budget requests (Water, Sewer, General)</p>	<p>Operating Budget: Some costs, like wages, road repairs, sewer treatment and other services are ongoing and similar from year to year. The cost of providing many of these services increases each year, due to the increasing costs of materials, wages, utilities and other factors. This is what we call the “base operating budget”. Changes to the base budget result in service-level changes and need to be approved by Council.</p> <p>Each year, staff submit their base operating budgets for Council’s consideration, as well as any new ongoing expenses or one-time operating expenses that may help to streamline existing processes or improve services for community members.</p> <p>Capital Budget: Capital budget requests include major infrastructure projects like maintaining our roads, buildings and sewers, as well as major studies or assessments that are often contracted to a consultant. Some of these projects are required to maintain assets and infrastructure. Some are things that may improve physical spaces or provide new opportunities to help meet Council’s strategic goals.</p>
<p>December - January</p>	<p>Council workshops and start of public engagement</p>	<p>Council workshop with staff, to gather input re: staff workplans and budget requirements for the coming year.</p> <p>Public engagement begins with an online community survey soliciting residents and businesses on what they think the Town’s top budget priorities should be.</p> <p>With a preliminary overview of where staff and the community would like to see the budget focused for the upcoming year, Council takes some time to look at the big picture, before moving forward with formal budget deliberations.</p>

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When	What	Details
January - February	Council reviews operational and capital budget requests and considers early approval for projects	Council will review and discuss proposed budget requests and input from community members. (See chart at the bottom of the page for various ways to engage.)
March	Online Community Meeting Ongoing Budget Deliberations	In addition to the opportunities available at ongoing budget meetings, where public attendance is encouraged, community members are invited to participate in a public discussion on the budget online. Council will review and discuss proposed budget requests and input from community members.
April	Ongoing Budget Deliberations	By the end of April, all operational and capital budget requests will have been approved by Council, deferred to a later year, or removed from the budget. The Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw is drafted for Council's consideration.
May	Three readings and adoption of 5-year financial plan	The Community Charter states that <i>"a municipality must have a financial plan that is adopted annually, by bylaw, before the annual property tax bylaw is adopted"</i> . The Community Charter also states that <i>"each year, after adoption of the financial plan, but before May 15th, a council must, by bylaw, impose property value taxes for the year"</i> .

Get engaged!

We encourage our community to follow the annual budget process, and to provide feedback to Council throughout. Opportunities to join the discussion include:

- Attend budget meetings (find current meeting schedule at gibsons.ca/budget-2022)
- Email Council at mayorandcouncil@gibsons.ca
- Attend online community meeting in March (see gibsons.ca/budget-2022 for date and time)
- View budget highlights as the process unfolds at gibsons.ca/budget-2022