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City already has plenty of projects on its plate: mayor

Posted By KEVIN LAJOIE

Updated 7 hours ago

CORNWALL -- City council will have to be "very prudent" about taking on any new projects as it enters the final year of its term, Mayor Bob Kilger said.

Thanks to the recent government funding handouts, city hall now has a series of big-ticket projects on its plate, and Kilger believes there won't be much room to add to that plate anytime soon.

"I think the pipeline is full," Kilger said. "We've got lots on our plate (already)."

Council will get a better sense of just how full that plate is on Thursday when its members receive a financial overview during a strategic planning session at the Best Western Parkway Inn.

All told, the city has secured funding for more than \$100-million worth of work. That figure includes the new multi-sports centre, an upgrade to the sewage treatment plant, a new gymnasium and multi-purpose room at the aquatic centre, a new ambulance headquarters and various watermain projects.

The city was successful in securing funding for the projects, Kilger said, but it will now have to take on some debt to cover its share of the work.

"The money's going to have to go along with it (the work)," he noted.

Kilger didn't completely rule out the prospect of taking on additional projects such as a new arts centre -- an idea which has been floating around for some time -- however he cautioned that the city's financial picture will have to be kept in mind.

"We're going to have to be very, very careful," he added.

Beyond the financial overview, council will use the two-day strategic planning session on Thursday and Friday to discuss a variety of other plans and priorities as it gets set to enter its final year in office before the next municipal election. It will also revisit its five main strategic priorities -- commitment to the environment, quality of life, transparency/ communication, accountability and fiscal afford-ability.

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I guess the Mayor is still trying to ensure the taxpayers municipal and provincial money goes to his own personal agenda of a new multipad arena. Will the mayor and other councillors disclose what conflict of interest there might be for them in regards to pushing this project foward?

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 No money for the arts. Very sad indeed as the astronomical costs of the arena suck the soul out of Cornwall. Music, drama, painting, drawing, dance, electronic. No wonder the city has to outsource for many of its tenders and contracts when the talented and skilled artisans and crafts people get so little support locally.....
I hope people remember that next election. It's up to citizens to tell City Hall what they want them spending money on. If enough people don't do that then can you really blame when the voices that do win out the day?
Jamie Gilcig
www.cornwallfreeneews.com

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