



News Release

May 15, 2020

Ponoka Town Council Approves Property Tax and Utility Relief Program Details

Property Tax and Utility Payment Deferrals for Citizens Most in Need

(May 15, 2020 – Ponoka, Alberta) – Ponoka Town Council approved the details of the Town’s new Property Tax and Utility Relief Programs at its regular meeting this week. The programs are intended to help residents and businesses that are struggling financially due to the COVID-19 pandemic by offering them extra time to pay their 2020 property taxes and utility bills.

Businesses and residents who are able to pay their property taxes and utility bills on time are still encouraged to do so. “Council knows the COVID-19 crisis has impacted many of our businesses and residents financially. That’s why the Town is offering these relief programs – to help those residents and businesses that need it most. However, we are still asking our citizens who can pay their bills on time to please do so to minimize the impact on cash flows needed to provide essential services,” said Ponoka Mayor Rick Bonnett.

Businesses and residents who need help are asked to contact the Town Office and apply for the relief programs.

Property Tax Relief Program

The details of the Property Tax Relief Program are as follows:

- The August 1, 2020 property tax penalty of 3% may be waived upon application for the program, giving citizens up to two months longer (until the end of September) to pay their property taxes without penalty.
- Citizens who are on the monthly TIPPS payment program can apply to defer their June, July and August property tax payments if needed. Their remaining monthly payments in 2020 will then be adjusted so their property taxes are paid in full by December 31, 2020.

Utility Payment Relief Program

The details of the Utility Payment Relief Program are as follows:

- Businesses and residents can defer payments on their Town of Ponoka utility bills until June 30, 2020. Late payment fees on those utility bills will be waived until the end of June 2020. Utility customers are encouraged to make full or partial payments as they are able to keep their utility accounts as current as possible.



- Upon application for the program, the outstanding balance of utility bill payments owing as of June 30, 2020 may be divided equally among customers' utility payments from July through December, bringing their account balance to zero by December 31, 2020.
- Utility customers who apply for the Utility Payment Relief Program must be willing to sign up for the Town's pre-authorized monthly payment plan.

Businesses and residents who have questions about the Utility Payment Relief Program are asked to please contact the Utility Department at 403-783-0111 or by email at utilities@ponoka.ca.

For questions about the Property Tax Relief program, please contact the Tax Department at 403-783-0127 or by email at taxes@ponoka.ca.

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