

impacted the city deeply, and that the city has had to be responsive to the financial fallout of the pandemic.



JENNIFER STOVER, DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES.

She shared that the 2019 audit is set to begin this month. The results of the audit will be presented to council in September and she expects the city will run a \$3 million surplus.

Stover stated that she has “no recommendations” regarding what to do with those funds, and believes council will make the appropriate decision at the appropriate time.

The director then segued into the 2020 budget year. Stover believes that the biggest problem the city has faced in 2020 “is not a shortage of funds, rather a shortage of funds at the exact times bills need to be

paid.”

Cash flow has been the real issue for the city this year.

Stover said that with the 60-day deferrals of property tax payments the city has had to be nimble in ensuring all bills are covered with the bulk of operating capital not coming in until much later this year. She said city staff were “both surprised and thankful that 50 per cent of tax payers paid their property tax installment in April as usual.”

To aid cash flow the city moved \$10 million out of investments in April, and will move another \$5 million out of investments in October to ensure all the city bills are covered before the last property tax installments are paid. Stover assured council that once all four installments of property taxes are paid, \$15 million will be returned to the city’s investment portfolio as it is only needed in the short term.

Stover told council that to limit the current municipal deficit to \$3.2 million dollars “a number of city projects are going to be deferred into 2021.”

The director added that the current deficit may grow slightly in the fall “if recreation programming and facilities don’t re-operate fully.” Stover mentioned that a reduction in arena revenues could certainly adversely affect the city’s current operating deficit.

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