

Report

City of Merritt
REGULAR Council Meeting
January 14, 2025

File Number: XXXX

To: Cynthia White, Chief Administrative Officer
From: Kevin Natkinniemi, Director of Finance
Date: January 9, 2025
Subject: 2025 – 2029 Financial Plan Update

RECOMMENDATION:

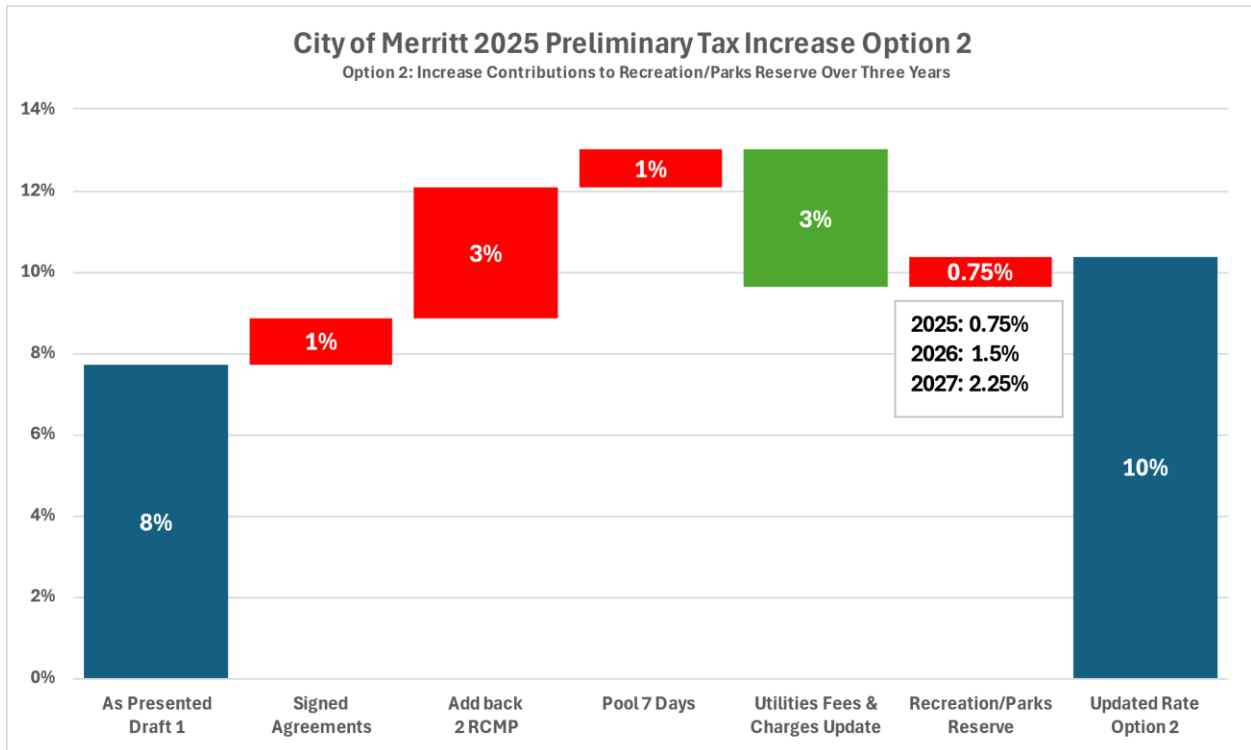
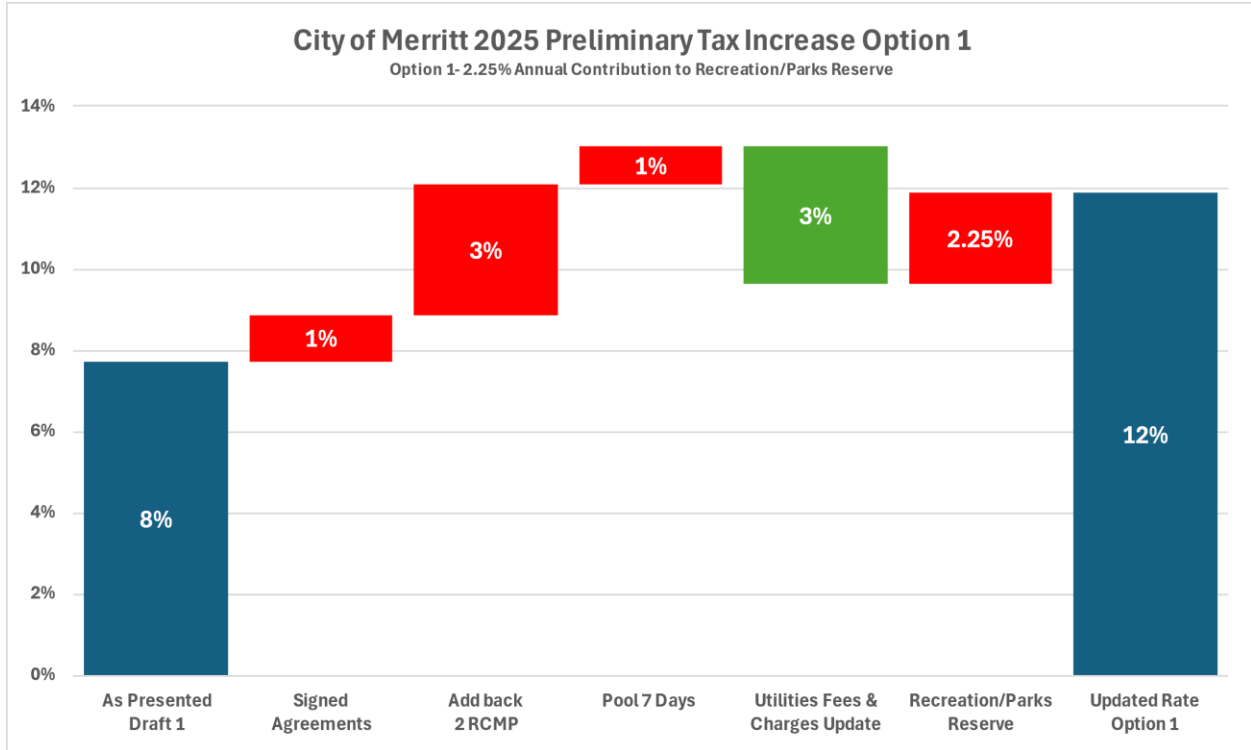
THAT Council receives the report for information and discussion purposes.

Background:

The preliminary financial plan for 2025 – 2029 was presented to Council on December 9, 2024. During that presentation, Council expressed interest in options that begin saving for recreation and parks capital investments. Following the presentation, Council adopted Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 2386, 2024. The City has also signed agreements that have financial implications beyond what was captured in the preliminary financial plan. Council also continues to consider the level of service changes in the preliminary plan. Prior to public engagement sessions at the end of January, this report provides updated paths for the 2025 municipal tax rate increase.

Financial / Risk Implications:

The 2025 municipal tax increase in the preliminary financial plan as presented on December 9, 2024, was 8%. Options for a 2025 municipal tax increase of 12% and 10% are presented below. These options differ in the pace at which savings begin for parks and recreation capital investments. In Option 1, savings begin at 2.25% of the municipal tax levy in 2025. In Option 2, savings begin at 0.75% in 2025 and grow to 2.25% by 2027.



Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Natkinniemi
 Director of Finance and HR & CFO