

We are proposing the lowest property rates increase in the City's history to assist residents in managing Eskom's 15% electricity increase.

We want your comments.

The compilation of the City's budget with the draft 2021/22 Medium-Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework (MTREF) was very challenging given the current economic environment and the challenges facing property owners and consumers, particularly when it comes to the payment of property rates and service charges.

The budget was prepared with the intention of keeping rates and tariff increases as low as possible through identified cost cutting and savings.

The City therefore took a firm decision to keep the increases within our control as low as possible. An increase of only 2% is proposed for property rates while refuse removal charges will increase by 4,1%. This property rates increase is the lowest in the City's history.

Of particular concern, however, was the steep increase of 15,63% in the cost of bulk purchases from Eskom, effective from 1 April 2021. The City has no other choice but to pass this cost increase on to customers. A tariff increase of 14,59% (effective from 1 July 2021) is thus proposed in the draft budget for 2021/22.

Similarly, the City is bound by the tariff increase for bulk purchases of water from Rand Water, compelling the City to increase the water tariff by 8% while sanitation charges will increase by 10%.

As the consumption of electricity, water, and by implication sanitation, can be managed by residents, I implore you to manage and track your consumption.

We will continue to scrutinise every budgeted expenditure category to identify further savings that could potentially further reduce increases, for example the property rates increase.

We will do all we can to ensure that Tshwane is an affordable place to live. I want to encourage residents to review the budget in more detail and provide comments. It can be accessed on the City of Tshwane website.

Comments on the tariffs can be emailed to stephanib@tshwane.gov.za.
Comments on the Property Rates Policy and By-law can be directed to samch@tshwane.gov.za.

