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Aldermanic grumbling doesn't stop mill rate from passing

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Property tax bills that will cost the average homeowner \$95 in 2009 will soon be in the mail after council approved the final mill rate yesterday.

Despite some last minute grumbling by some of council's fiscal hawks, aldermen voted 10-4 in favour of this year's 4.6 per cent hike, which will see the annual tax bill for the owner of a \$427,500 jump to \$2,138 when they arrive in mailboxes in June.

Mayor Dave Bronconnier, who accused some of his council colleagues of engaging in "political theatre," said Calgarians are still among the lowest-taxed residents in Canada.

"The city of Calgary has done a very good job keeping property taxes as low as they can be, and I don't know how you can go any lower than low," he said.

But Ald. Diane Colley-Urquhart, who voted against the mill rate, said it is cynical to continue increasing residential taxes on the same day Bronconnier pushed for a freeze on levies for developers.

"It's ironic that the same council meeting we're increasing property taxes we're giving a break to developers and giving them more time to pay," she said.

Metro Calgary



Dave Bronconnier