

Present: Mayor Mitchell (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Drumm (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Leahy (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Lee (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Mulcahy (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Newman (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Roy (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Shahid (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Yamada (Participating Virtually)

Also Present: M. Gaskell, Chief Administrative Officer
J. Romano, Commissioner of Community Services
R. Saunders, Commissioner of Planning and Development
D. Speed, Head of Operations & Fire Chief
F. Wong, Commissioner of Financial Services/Treasurer
S. Klein, Director of Strategic Initiatives
J. Long, Head of Organizational Effectiveness
H. Ellis, Executive Advisor to the Mayor
C. Harris, Town Clerk
K. Douglas, Legislative Specialist (Recording Secretary)

Regrets: None noted

1. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

1.1 There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

2. Presentations

2.1 F. Wong, Commissioner of Finance/Treasurer and A. McCullough,
Director of Finance/Deputy Treasurer
Re: 2022 Budget – Council Education Session

F. Wong, Commissioner of Finance/Treasurer and A. McCullough,
Director of Finance/Deputy Treasurer provided a PowerPoint
presentation regarding the 2022 Budget. Highlights of the presentation
included:

- a summary of the proposed 2022 Budget Target of 2.0%;
- the combined 2022 property tax bill increase of 2.0%, including education impact of 0% and Regional increase of 2.5%, and assuming the Town's proposed budget of 2.0%;
- key priorities when building the 2022 budget target, including the maintenance of existing service levels and programs as the Town grows;
- an overview of the operating and capital budget decision items that are included and not included in the recommended budget;
- the number of new full time equivalent (FTE) staff positions included in the proposed operating budget, including their financial impact on the 2022 and 2023 tax base;
- the need for additional FTE positions to accommodate population growth, offset the cumulative impact of FTE shortfalls since 2015, and operationalize the Town's approved master plans;
- an overview of the FTE positions that are not included in the recommended operating budget;
- an overview of the capital budget decision items included in the recommended budget, proposed to be funded by the long term finance reserve;
- the impact of funding contribution options on the Growth Reserve Fund and Asset Management Reserve Fund;
- recommended projects to be funded from the Long-Term Finance Reserve (LTFR);
- new and increased user fees proposed and approved as part of the 2022 Budget Target;
- next steps in the 2022 Budget process, including continued community engagement with the 2022 Budget Public Meeting on February 7, 2022 and a Special Council meeting on February 17, 2022 to consider and potentially adopt the 2022 Budget; and,
- the process for drafting motions to amend the proposed budget.

A question and answer period ensued between Members of Council and Staff regarding:

- the extent to which the Town's Treasurer collaborates with neighbouring municipalities, including the Region of Durham's Treasurer, to address common priorities such as climate initiatives and the financial impact of the pandemic;
- flexibility of the inflationary and operational assumptions considered when building the budget;
- whether residents may be offered the opportunity to contribute to climate related initiatives on a voluntary bases;
- clarification regarding the assumed contributions to the Growth Reserve Fund over the next 10 years;

- options for increasing Growth Reserve Fund contributions by greater than \$1.7 million in future years;
- the impact of inflation on future Growth Reserve Fund contributions;
- options that may be considered to offset particularly difficult budget constraints in future years;
- factors impacting the Town's ability to achieve the goals proposed by Zero Carbon Whitby by 2045;
- clarification regarding the current and proposed Growth Reserve Fund and Asset Management Reserve Fund contributions;
- the percent of the proposed 2022 budget that is allocated to the \$1.7 million Growth Reserve Fund contribution;
- whether the Town's Service Delivery Review identified the types of new FTE positions required in order to maintain services;
- clarification regarding the source of funding for FTE positions not included in the recommended budget that were temporary positions in previous years, such as the waterfront garbage crew and by-law enforcement summer student;
- whether resources may be re-allocated to address concerns with the waterfront garbage cleanup;
- clarification regarding the source of the operating surplus allocated to the reserve funds;
- guidance given to the Whitby Public Library and Station Gallery regarding their 2022 funding and expenses;
- the proposed 2022 property tax increases of comparator municipalities;
- clarification regarding the 2023-2031 forecasted grants; and,
- the impact of adding a new waterfront garbage crew and by-law enforcement summer student to the proposed budget, and whether existing staff fulfilling these functions collect overtime pay when working on weekends.

3. Adjournment

3.1 Motion to Adjourn

Moved By Councillor Mulcahy
Seconded By Councillor Newman

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Christopher Harris, Town Clerk

Don Mitchell, Mayor