

SPECIAL COUNCIL MINUTES
February 21, 2013 - 7:00 pm
Council Chambers
Whitby Municipal Building

Present: Mayor Perkins
Councillor Coe
Councillor Drumm
Councillor Emm
Councillor Hanson
Councillor Mitchell
Councillor Montague
Councillor Roy

Also Present: R. Petrie, Chief Administrative Officer
S. Beale, Commissioner of Public Works
M. Gerrard, Fire Chief
P. LeBel, Commissioner of Community & Marketing Services
K. Nix, Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer
S. Pohjola, Town Solicitor
R. Short, Commissioner of Planning
D. Wilcox, Town Clerk
L. Doughty, Deputy Clerk

Regrets: None noted

1. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

- 1.1 Councillor Drumm made a declaration of pecuniary interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act specific to items relating to the Town of Whitby Public Library and Iroquois Park Sports Centre as family members are employed at these locations. Councillor Drumm did not take part in the discussion or vote on the matter.
- 1.2 Councillor Emm made a declaration of pecuniary interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act specific to page 412 of the capital budget relating to Byron Street North Road Resurfacing. Councillor Emm did not take part in the discussion or vote on the matter.

Resolution No. 56-13

Moved By Councillor Montague
Seconded By Councillor Coe

That Council move into Committee of the Whole.

CARRIED

2. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

2.1 Opening Remarks

Councillor Roy, Chair of Finance made opening remarks regarding the 2013 Budget outlining the process leading to the staff recommendation for a 2.98% tax increase; and the procedures for reviewing the final budget.

The various areas of Taxation; Executive and Legislation; Chief Administrative Office; Corporate Services; Corporate Revenue; Special Events; Grants, Fire and Emergency Services and Planning were reviewed. Council asked specific questions of staff in a variety of areas including by-law enforcement, sporting facilities, heritage designation, special events seniors strategy, upcoming studies, and employment positions/vacancies.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

3.1 Email from J. Clark re: concerns regarding Emerald Ash Borer

3.2 Email from M. Black re: Ash Trees on Roan Drive, Whitby

The correspondence regarding Emerald Ash Bore Trees was received for information.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Delegations further to Public Notice, Re: Adoption of 2013 Current and Capital Budget

The Chair asked for submissions from the public.

Jim McGory, 18 Kimberley Street, Whitby made a delegation regarding the budget asking if the Town of Whitby would consider the same rate increase as the Region of Durham at 2.35%.

5. CONSIDERATION OF THE 2013 CURRENT AND CAPITAL BUDGETS

5.1 Current and Capital Budgets Review

Discussion ensued regarding the Capital budget specifically in the areas of Facilities and Parks; Roads and Road with related items of street lighting; bridges and culverts; fence replacement; storm water systems; vehicle purchase and winter maintenance control; bicycle shelters; as well as Master Studies and Initiatives; and way finding and signage.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE 2013 CURRENT AND CAPITAL BUDGETS

6.1 Overview by the Chief Administrative Officer

R. Petrie, Chief Administrative Officer provided an update on the evolution of the tax rate over the past ten years to 2012. The rate charged for assessed property with Town services has decreased 2.6% overall in comparison to previous mill rate calculations. Regional government is currently experiencing uploading in certain service areas to the Provincial government, which will allow for more revenue to regional government; however, local government is not experiencing uploading of services. Town of Whitby taxes are middle range to other municipalities in the Durham Region and below average across the GTA.

6.2 New Position Hires

Councillor Hanson made a proposal regarding the new position hires including eleven positions approved in 2012 of which only nine hires are complete, which has created a surplus of \$335K. This \$335K was proposed as a one time tax relief as well as the \$165K allocated for new positions in 2013 which would be struck from the current budget for a total savings of \$400K.

A question and answer period ensued. Staff confirmed that some of the proposed positions are revenue generating and will provide for expansion of customer services for the Town. Staff provided highlights on the newly proposed positions.

R. Petrie, Chief Administrative Officer provided clarification on the proposed \$350K gap savings which would include the surplus for vacant positions. Further gapping was not recommended as it could cause implications to operations of the corporation.

Discussion ensued on the matter. Each position was addressed individually by the Committee.

Moved By Councillor Hanson

That the savings from vacant positions which has caused a surplus of \$335K be used as a one time tax relief.

MOTION LOST

6.3 Harbour Day Event

Discussion ensued on the funding allocation for the Harbour Day event.

Staff provided an update on the planning of the event for the current year.

6.4 Station Gallery - Accessibility and Outreach Programming

Staff confirmed this program includes \$30K in Ontario Trillium Funding which will be replaced through increased levels of fundraising in future years. This is a one time contribution from a reserve fund and has no impact to the tax rate. The program will be reassessed in June 2013.

Moved By Councillor Coe

That a one-time contribution of \$20,000 from the Program Reserves Category, and specifically the Long Term Capital Financing Reserve Fund, be approved to finance the request of Station Gallery for one-time funding to continue their Accessibility and Outreach programming in 2013.

CARRIED

6.5 2013 Operating and Capital Budget

Moved By Councillor Montague

1. That the proposed 2013 Operating Budget in the amount of \$102,991,631 be approved, as amended to reflect a decrease of \$100,000 for savings related to the Shared Fire Dispatch Agreement effective February 1, 2013; and a decrease of \$73,000 in the transfer to the Growth Reserve Fund;
2. That the proposed 2013 Capital Budget in the amount of \$24,042,486 be approved, and the multi-year forecast be received for information; and that the following three capital projects,

Downtown Corridor Study (Capital Project number 40132304), Sidewalk – Anderson WS Juneau to Promenade (Capital Project number 40121830) and Ash Creek Enclosure (Capital Project number 40142002) where the revised total project cost is in excess of an inflationary adjustment to the amount identified in the 2012 Development Charge Background Study be funded by Development Charges and one-time reserves.

3. That the Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer be authorized to issue a payment of \$250,000 to Durham College representing the third instalment of the Town of Whitby's \$1,000,000 investment commitment over four years to the Durham College Whitby Campus Expansion project;
4. That the Capital Maintenance Reserve Fund be changed to the Capital Maintenance Reserve;
5. That the Short Term Disability Reserve Fund be renamed the Employee Related Benefits Reserve Fund;
6. That a one-time contribution of \$20,000 from the Program Reserves Category, and specifically the Long Term Capital Financing Reserve Fund, be approved to finance the request of Station Gallery for one-time funding to continue their Accessibility and Outreach programming in 2013.
7. That the Employee Related Benefits Reserve Fund continue to be utilized for funding the Short Term Disability benefit and that it also be utilized for the purpose of funding the cost of the benefits program for existing retiree's at December 31, 2012;
8. That the Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer be authorized to utilize the Program Reserves Category, and specifically the Long Term Capital Financing Reserve Fund, to address, if required, any 2013 Building Permit Revenue Reserve Fund shortfall; and
9. That the Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer be directed to set the 2013 property tax levy at \$68,541,885 representing a 2.98% tax levy increase; and
10. That the requisite by-law be brought forward for Council approval.

CARRIED, SAVE AND EXCEPT THE BYRON STREET NORTH ROAD RESURFACING AND THE ITEMS RELATING TO THE WHITBY PUBLIC LIBRARY AND IROQUOIS PARK SPORTS CENTRE

Moved By Councillor Montague

That the Byron Street North Road Resurfacing, as noted within the 2013 budget, be approved.

CARRIED

Moved By Councillor Montague

That the 2013 Current and Capital Budget items relating to the Whitby Public Library and Iroquois Park Sports Centre, be approved.

CARRIED

7. RISE FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

7.1 Rise from the Committee of the Whole

Moved By Councillor Coe

That Council rise from Committee of the Whole.

CARRIED

8. RATIFY RECOMMENDATION FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

8.1 Ratify Recommendations from the Committee of the Whole

Resolution No. 57-13

Moved By Councillor Roy
Seconded By Councillor Coe

That Council ratify the actions from Committee of the Whole.

CARRIED

9. BY-LAW TO ADOPT THE BUDGET

9.1 By-law No. 6704-13 to Adopt the Budgets

Resolution No. 58-13

Moved By Councillor Roy
Seconded by Councillor Hanson

That leave be granted to introduce a by-law and to dispense with the reading of the by-law by the Clerk to adopt the 2013 Current and Capital

Budgets and that the same be considered read a first, second and third time and finally passed and that the Mayor and the Clerk sign the same and the Seal of the Corporation be thereto affixed.

CARRIED

10. CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW

10.1 Confirmatory By-law No. 6705-13

Resolution No. 59-13

Moved By Councillor Emm
Seconded by Councillor Mitchell

That leave be granted to introduce a by-law and to dispense with the reading of the by-law by the Clerk to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Town of Whitby at its special meeting held on February 21, 2013 and that the same be considered read a first, second and third time and finally passed and that the Mayor and the Clerk sign the same and the Seal of the Corporation be thereto affixed.

CARRIED

11. ADJOURNMENT

11.1 Motion to Adjourn

Resolution No. 60-13

Moved By Councillor Coe
Seconded by Councillor Emm

That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Mayor Perkins extended thanks to Councillor Roy and Corporate Services staff for the excellent work on the budget.
The meeting adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

Debi A. Wilcox, Town Clerk

Patricia Perkins, Mayor