Special Council Minutes February 24, 2020 - 5:30 PM Council Chambers Whitby Town Hall

Present: Mayor Mitchell

Councillor Drumm
Councillor Leahy
Councillor Lee
Councillor Mulcahy
Councillor Newman
Councillor Roy
Councillor Shahid
Councillor Yamada

Also Present: M. Gaskell, Chief Administrative Officer

S. Beale, Commissioner of Public Works

W. Mar, Commissioner of Legal and Enforcement Services/Town

Solicitor

K. Nix, Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer

- J. Romano, Commissioner of Community Services
- J. Taylor, Senior Manager, Zoning and Regulation
- D. Speed, Fire Chief
- H. Ellis, Executive Advisor to the Mayor
- S. Klein, Director of Strategic Initiatives
- J. Long, Head of Organizational Effectiveness
- C. Harris, Town Clerk
- S. Davé, Legislative Specialist (Recording Secretary)

Regrets: None noted

1. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

1.1 Mayor Mitchell declared a pecuniary interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act regarding the proposed hospital site in North Whitby as well as the mid-block arterial road, as Mayor Mitchell and his family have an interest in 5455 Ashburn Road, which is a part of the proposed hospital site and the mid-arterial road.

2. Presentations

2.1 Opening Remarks by Councillor Lee, Chair of Finance

Councillor Lee, Chair of Finance, provided opening remarks regarding the 2020 Budget, acknowledging the public for their input into the process and Town Staff for their efforts.

3. Delegations

- **3.1** There were no delegations.
- 4. Consideration of the 2020 Operating and Capital Budgets
 - 4.1 Corporate Services Department Report, CS 08-20Re: Recommended 2020 Operating and Capital Budget

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

- The impact on the tax rate if reductions were made to the contribution to the reserve funds, in particular the dollar amount changes to the property tax bill;
- The amount of money currently in the reserve funds, what it had been used for in the past and future plans to utilize those monies;
- Whether there was an immediate need to contribute \$960,000 into the reserve funds, or could some of those monies be transferred in 2021;
- Addressing the range of challenges, being restricted sources of revenue, rising costs, rapid growth and the imbalance of residential growth versus commercial development;
- The need to balance the circumstances of Whitby homeowners with the needs of the Corporation;
- The reasoning for the increase in new Staff positions in the 2020 versus in the 2019 budget;
- The importance of prioritizing positions that are more front-line and customer facing;
- Impact if additional Staff are not hired, in particular increasing community engagement and the Customer Service Strategy;
- Impact if new Staff are not approved on ongoing strategies that were approved through the Town's business planning process;
- Details on the duties of specific positions included in the budget, and how they would contribute to the Town;
- The need for community engagement, including supporting Members of Council in their engagement efforts such as through Town Halls, and how the proposed Community Engagement Coordinator would manage this;
- Letting Town Staff determine which positions are crucial for advancing the strategies approved by Council, and which can be

- postponed for another year;
- Possibility of finding corporate sponsorships to refurbish the 316 Colborne Street property to offset the renovation costs;
- Details on the Colborne Street property refurbishment and future use of property;
- Current service levels at the Town and how the budget would impact ongoing and future projects;
- Dollar amount changes to the property tax bill as a result of budgetary amendments;
- Creating a community-friendly budget informed by residents, and ensuring that the budget is understandable and easy to access;
- Possibility of having a "rolling" budget document available on the Town website which would outline the impact of Council decisions on the budget so that residents are aware of how and why the Town is spending money; and
- Investing in the Town so that we can address growth and continue to provide the best possible level of service to Whitby residents.

Moved By Councillor Newman Seconded By Councillor Leahy

- 1. That the proposed 2020 operating budget in the amount of \$141,449,640 be approved with a tax levy of \$100,248,134.;
- 2. That the proposed 2020 capital budgeted expenditures and financing sources in the amount of \$82,319,115 including \$10,229,000 of debt financing for the capital projects outlined on page 238 be approved;
- 3. That in accordance with s.s. 5(1) of the Development Charges Act, and S. 5 of Ontario Regulation 82/98, it is Council's clear intention that any excess capacity provided by any of the capital projects will be paid for by future development charges;
- 4. That any donations, grants or subsidies applied in the 2020 capital program to projects with development charges funding are to offset the non-growth related costs of those projects;
- 5. That the 2021 to 2029 capital forecast in the amount of \$718,124,641 be received for information and subject to future annual reviews as part of the capital budget process; and
- 6. That the transfers to and from reserves and reserve funds as identified on pages 149 to 150 of the 2020 Proposed Budget be approved.

Carried later in the meeting [see following motions]

Moved By Councillor Leahy Seconded By Councillor Yamada

That the budget be amended to reduce the \$960,000 contribution to reserves by 50% by eliminating the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve contribution of \$332,000 and reducing the contribution to the one time reserve by \$148,000.

Carried later in the meeting [see following motion]

Moved By Councillor Newman Seconded By Councillor Leahy

That the amending motion be divided into two motions.

Carried

Moved By Councillor Leahy Seconded By Councillor Yamada

That the budget be amended to reduce the \$960,000 contribution to reserves by eliminating the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve contribution of \$332,000.

Carried unanimously on a recorded vote as follows:

	For	Against	Abstained
Councillor Drumm	Х		
Councillor Leahy	Х		
Councillor Lee	Х		
Councillor Mulcahy	Х		
Councillor Newman	Х		
Councillor Roy	Х		
Councillor Shahid	X		
Councillor Yamada	Х		
Mayor Mitchell	Х		
	9	0	0

Moved By Councillor Leahy Seconded By Councillor Yamada

That the budget be amended to reduce the \$960,000 contribution to

reserves by reducing the contribution to the one-time reserve by \$148,000.

Motion lost on recorded vote as follows:

	For	Against	Abstained
Councillor Drumm		Х	
Councillor Leahy	x		
Councillor Lee		Х	
Councillor Mulcahy		Х	
Councillor Newman	x		
Councillor Roy		Х	
Councillor Shahid		Х	
Councillor Yamada	x		
Mayor Mitchell		Х	
	3	6	0

Moved By Councillor Newman Seconded By Councillor Leahy

That the budget be amended by reducing the overall amount allocated to Staffing by 20%, or \$416,817, and that the CAO be authorized to make the final decision as to which positions will be affected by this reduction and that any associated capital, gapping, and/or reserve costs be eliminated.

Carried later in the meeting [see following motion]

Moved By Councillor Yamada Seconded By Councillor Leahy

That the amending motion be amended by replacing "20%, or \$416,817" with "\$770,000".

Motion lost on a recorded vote as follows:

	For	Against	Abstained
Councillor Drumm		Х	
Councillor Leahy	Х		
Councillor Lee		Х	
Councillor Mulcahy		Х	

Councillor Newman		Х	
Councillor Roy		Х	
Councillor Shahid		Х	
Councillor Yamada	Х		
Mayor Mitchell		Х	
	2	7	0

Moved By Councillor Newman Seconded By Councillor Leahy

That the budget be amended by reducing the overall amount allocated to Staffing by 20%, or \$416,817, and that the CAO be authorized to make the final decision as to which positions will be affected by this reduction and that any associated capital, gapping, and/or reserve costs be eliminated.

The main motion was then carried on a recorded vote as follows:

	For	Against	Abstained
Councillor Drumm		х	
Councillor Leahy	х		
Councillor Lee		Х	
Councillor Mulcahy	х		
Councillor Newman	x		
Councillor Roy	x		
Councillor Shahid	х		
Councillor Yamada	x		
Mayor Mitchell		Х	
	6	3	0

Moved By Councillor Yamada Seconded By Councillor Leahy

That the budget be amended to eliminate Decision Item #23: 316 Colborne Refurbishment.

Motion Withdrawn

The main motion, as amended, was then carried on a recorded vote as follows, save and except items related to the proposed Whitby hospital site and the mid-arterial road:

Resolution # 25-20

Moved By Councillor Newman Seconded By Councillor Leahy

- 1. That the proposed 2020 operating budget in the amount of \$140,700,823 be approved with a tax levy of \$99,499,317;
- 2. That the proposed 2020 capital budgeted expenditures and financing sources in the amount of \$82,319,115 including \$10,229,000 of debt financing for the capital projects outlined on page 238 be approved, save and except any associated impacts related to position changes;
- 3. That in accordance with s.s. 5(1) of the Development Charges Act, and S. 5 of Ontario Regulation 82/98, it is Council's clear intention that any excess capacity provided by any of the capital projects will be paid for by future development charges;
- 4. That any donations, grants or subsidies applied in the 2020 capital program to projects with development charges funding are to offset the non-growth related costs of those projects;
- 5. That the 2021 to 2029 capital forecast in the amount of \$718,124,641 be received for information and subject to future annual reviews as part of the capital budget process; and
- 6. That the transfers to and from reserves and reserve funds as identified on pages 149 to 150 of the 2020 Proposed Budget be approved, save and except the contribution to the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve in the amount of \$332,000 and any associated reserve transfers related to position changes.

Carried on a recorded vote as follows:

	For	Against	Abstained
Councillor Leahy	х		
Councillor Newman	х		
Councillor Drumm	х		
Councillor Lee	х		
Councillor Mulcahy	х		
Councillor Roy	х		
Councillor Shahid	х		
Councillor Yamada		х	
	7	1	

Having previously declared a conflict of interest, Mayor Mitchell did not

take part in the discussion or vote on matters pertaining to the proposed Whitby hospital site and the mid-arterial road within the Town of Whitby.

Resolution # 26-20

Moved By Councillor Mulcahy Seconded By Councillor Roy

That the budget items related to the proposed Whitby hospital site and the mid-arterial road be approved.

Carried

4.2 Corporate Services Department Report, CS 10-20Re: Reporting Requirement Per Ontario Regulation 284/09

Resolution # 27-20

Moved By Councillor Newman Seconded By Councillor Leahy

That Report CS 10-20 of the Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer be received as information.

Carried

- 5. By-law to Adopt the Budgets
 - **5.1** By-law # 7604-20, being a by-law to adopt the 2020 Operating and Capital Budgets.

Having previously declared a conflict of interest, Mayor Mitchell did not take part in the discussion or vote on By-law # 7604-20.

Resolution # 28-20

Moved By Councillor Leahy Seconded By Councillor Drumm

That leave be granted to introduce By-law # 7604-20 and to dispense with the reading of the by-law by the Clerk and that the same be considered read and passed and that the Mayor and the Clerk sign the same and the Seal of the Corporation be thereto affixed.

Carried on a recorded vote as follows:

	For	Against	Abstained
Councillor Drumm	Х		
Councillor Leahy	Х		
Councillor Lee	Х		
Councillor Mulcahy	Х		
Councillor Newman	Х		
Councillor Roy	Х		
Councillor Shahid	Х		
Councillor Yamada		Х	
	7	1	

6. Adjournment

6.1	Motion	to	Adi	iourn
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Moved By Councillor Leahy Seconded By Councillor Drumm

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Christopher Harris, Town Clerk Don Mitchell, Mayor