

Present: Mayor Mitchell
Councillor Alexander
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
A. McCullough, Manager, Financial Planning
K. Nix, Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer
M. Powers, Manager, Parks, Long Range Planning & Culture
R. Saunders, Commissioner of Planning and Development
D. Speed, Fire Chief
H. Ellis, Executive Advisor to the Mayor
C. Harris, Town Clerk
C. Bantock, 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 Ken Nix, Commissioner of Corporate Services / Treasurer and Ann McCullough, Manager, Financial Planning
Re: 2020 Budget Target

Ken Nix, Commissioner of Corporate Services / Treasurer, appeared before Council and provided a presentation regarding the Town of

Whitby's 2020 Budget Target. Highlights of the presentation included:

- the value of delivering services to taxpayers;
- growth of the Town's population being more than 40% over the next 12 years;
- key factors driving the budget target including maintaining services, asset management, and planning for the future;
- the Town's portion of the municipal property tax bill;
- taxation making up the most significant portion of revenue for the Town;
- salaries, wages, and benefits making up over 50% of costs for the Town;
- areas in which the Town invests revenue received through property taxes;
- the distribution of the Town's capital spending in 2020;
- the business plan themes within the Infrastructure Maintenance Program, Growth Program and Strategic Initiatives which make up the 2020 Ten Year Capital Program;
- funding for the Capital Growth Program and Strategic Initiatives over the next 10 years coming mostly from development charges and long term debt;
- the unknown impact of Community Benefit Charges on growth related capital costs;
- the Town's 2020 proposed tax impact on the average property tax bill being 1.99%;
- a comparison of Durham Region municipalities taxes on a home assessed at \$470,000;
- the projected Town impact on municipal property tax bills being lower in 2021 and 2022; and,
- next steps in the 2020 budget process.

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

- the proposed increase in contributions to the Growth Reserve Fund to avoid draining of reserves as growth occurs over the next ten years;
- taking on additional debt as an option to limit the increase in contributions to the Growth Reserve Fund;
- the opportunity for Council to ask Staff for an increase in investment to any category under the business planning process;
- comparator budget impacts for Durham Region Municipalities being slightly higher than they appear for those which receive waste management services from the Region;
- planned long term debt not being a significant impact on tax payers;

- determining the dollar impact on the current budget as it relates to capital growth;
- investigating the budget impact of salaries, wages, and benefits of other Durham Region municipal comparators; and,
- confirming the average home assessment value among Durham Region municipal comparators for review, in addition to western GTA municipalities such as Oakville and Milton.

3. Items for Consideration

3.1 Corporate Services Department Report, CS 02-20
Re: Long Range Financial Plan

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

- debt structuring strategies to reduce the tax rate increase;
- the Town's Debt Management Policy establishing the annual debt repayment limit;
- the prudent investor regime being considered in future long range financial plan updates;
- clarification on the amount of debt taken by the Town and how that impacts taxpayers at terms of 5, 10, and 15 years;
- avoiding the use of debt for smaller maintenance type projects and assets without a long useful life;
- the proposed tax impact of 1.99% being more easily reduced for future years than for the current budget; and,
- unknown and wide ranging impacts of Bill 108 that could result in taking on more debt.

Resolution # 01-20

Moved By Councillor Shahid
Seconded by Councillor Leahy

1. The alternative long range financial plan scenarios be received for information.

Carried

3.2 Corporate Services Department Report, CS 03-20
Re: 2020 Budget Target

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

- addressing the financial and legal responsibilities related to the increase in infrastructure ownership by municipalities;
- infrastructure growth costs for 2020 being lower due to unexpected assessment growth;
- the coverage for delivery of services in West Whitby being included in the 2020 budget;
- comparing assessment growth and asset management for budget impacts among Durham Region Municipalities;
- the Town's significant growth from the 1990's and the associated costs that are now required to maintain those assets;
- referring the report back to staff to review for further efficiencies;
- having already identified the most significant efficiencies in past years; and,
- more discussion being required once budget details related to the target are presented.

Resolution # 02-20

Moved By Councillor Lee

Seconded By Councillor Shahid

1. That report CS 03-20 be received for information.
2. That having regard for the information presented, the proposed budget include: \$3.6M to maintain service delivery; \$1.5M to maintain infrastructure in a state of good repair; and \$0.5M to address growth/future sustainability, representing an overall 1.99% on the Town's portion of the property tax bill or an additional \$8.90 per month for the average Whitby residential taxpayer, and that Council set this as the target.

Carried later in the meeting on a Recorded Vote as follows:

	For	Against	Abstained
Councillor Alexander	x		
Councillor Leahy		x	
Councillor Lee	x		
Councillor Mulcahy	x		
Councillor Newman		x	
Councillor Roy	x		
Councillor Shahid	x		
Councillor Yamada		x	
Mayor Mitchell	x		

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[See following motion]

Moved By Councillor Yamada
Seconded By Councillor Leahy

1. That Report CS 03-20 be referred to Staff to look for further administrative efficiencies to reduce the tax impact of the 2020 budget.

Motion Lost

The main motion was then Carried on a Recorded Vote.

4. Confirmatory By-law

4.1 Confirmatory By-law

Resolution # 03-20

Moved By Councillor Lee
Seconded By Councillor Leahy

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 January 20, 2020 and 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

5. Adjournment

5.1 Motion to Adjourn

Resolution # 04-20

Moved By Councillor Lee
Seconded By Councillor Yamada

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Christopher Harris, Town Clerk

Don Mitchell, Mayor