

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. Public Meeting - 2022 Operating and Capital Budget

Councillor Lee, Chair of Finance, provided opening remarks regarding the 2022 Budget and explained the purpose of the Budget Public meeting.

 - 2.1 Presentation - 2022 Budget Overview
F. Wong, Commissioner of Financial Service/Treasurer and A. McCullough, Director of Finance/Deputy Treasurer

F. Wong, Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer and A. McCullough, Director of Finance/Deputy Treasurer provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Budget. Highlights of the presentation included:

- a recap of the 2021 Budget, which was prepared amidst the COVID-19 pandemic;
- the 2022 budget process timeline, including the launch of the Citizen Budget Tool in June 2021 and the 2022 Budget Target Report presented to Council in October 2021;
- key considerations when building the 2022 budget, including community priorities, Council priorities, maintaining services and infrastructure, growth, and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;
- a summary of the Citizen Budget Survey results, which indicate that the majority of participants are comfortable with current taxation and service levels;
- top budget priorities according to Citizen Budget Survey participants, including local jobs for residents, revitalization of the Downtowns, and more green space;
- demographics of the Citizen Budget Survey participants;
- the impact of inflation on maintaining Town facilities and services, estimated using the Municipal Price Index (MPI) and Consumer Price Index (CPI);
- infrastructure investments impacting the 2022 budget, including the cost to keep existing infrastructure in a state of good repair and the Town's contribution to the growth capital program;
- Whitby's projected population growth and the resources required to extend services to growth areas;
- an overview of the action items included in the Town's Business Plan, such as progressing the Customer Service Strategy and Zero Carbon Whitby Plan;
- the impact of new full time equivalent (FTE) shortfalls on the Town's ability to deliver services and complete projects;
- the proposed \$0.8 million investment in additional staff resources to service growth areas and improve/introduce new services;
- assessment growth revenue and user fee increases that help offset budget pressures;
- a summary of the budgetary pressures, investments, and reductions that make up the proposed 2022 Budget;
- a summary of the proposed 2022 capital budget, funded by the Asset Management Reserve Fund, Growth Reserve Fund, development charges, long term debt, and other sources such as program reserves, the one time reserve, and external contributions;

- proposed investments in the waterfront and green space, roadways and transportation, revitalization of the Downtowns, and creation of jobs;
- proposed investments in Zero Carbon Initiatives, recreational facilities, grants, and low income tax rebate programs;
- the combined 2022 property tax bill increase and its financial impact on the average residential Whitby homeowner;
- the proposed and approved property tax levy increases of comparator municipalities; and,
- next steps in the 2022 budget process.

2.2 Delegations

2.2.1 George Gadanidis, Resident

Re: Public Meeting - 2022 Operating and Capital Budget

George Gadanidis provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding road culverts located under Anderson Street and Dryden Boulevard in relation to their inclusion in the budget capital forecast. Highlights of the presentation included:

- the proposed 2024 expenditure to upsize the Anderson Street culvert north of Darren Avenue, and a request from Pringle Creek residents to upsize the Dryden Boulevard culvert at the same time;
- a summary of the Pringle Creek MDP and Town Culvert/Bridge Master plan studies, which indicate the requested change is a high priority;
- the hydraulic capacity of the Dryden Boulevard culvert, which is susceptible to the effects of climate change;
- the risk of flooding caused by the existing culvert on Dryden Boulevard; and,
- a summary of actions taken by Anderson Street/Pringle Creek residents, including a Work Order initiated in September 2020 to upsize the existing culvert.

A question and answer period ensued between Members of Council and Mr. Gadanidis regarding:

- whether the land surrounding the Dryden Boulevard culvert is protected by Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA), and whether Mr. Gadanidis has consulted with CLOCA;
- clarification regarding Mr. Gadanidis' request concerning the expansion of the two culverts;
- the number of residents impacted by flooding caused by the existing Dryden Boulevard culvert; and,

- the average cost to repair water damage caused by the culvert.

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

- strategies to replace the \$0.9 million one-time transfer from the Asset Management Reserve fund that is used to maintain existing infrastructure;
- opportunities to modify the guiding principles and priorities of future budgets;
- whether new reserve funds may be created to allow voluntary contributions from the public;
- clarification regarding the proposed expansion of the Anderson Street culvert in 2024;
- strategies to mitigate flooding and the associated safety concerns caused by the Dryden Boulevard culvert;
- whether issues concerning Town culverts may be addressed in the 2022 budget, or a future budget;
- whether staff have engaged an external consultant to provide a report regarding Town culverts in the near future;
- the estimated cost of expanding the proposed Anderson Street culvert replacement to also include the Dryden Boulevard culvert; and,
- whether staff will be preparing a memorandum regarding the financial impact of the IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Anti-Racism) Project.

3. Adjournment

3.1 Motion to Adjourn

Moved By Councillor Newman
Seconded By Councillor Shahid

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Christopher Harris, Town Clerk

Don Mitchell, Mayor