



Budget Committee of the Whole Meeting

Minutes

BCW#02-23

Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

Council Chambers

225 East Beaver Creek Road

Richmond Hill, Ontario

A Budget Committee of the Whole meeting of the Council of the City of Richmond Hill was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 1:32 p.m. in Council Chambers via videoconference.

Council Members present in Council Chambers:

Mayor West
Regional and Local Councillor Chan
Councillor Davidson
Councillor Thompson
Councillor Liu
Councillor Cui
Councillor Cilevitz
Councillor Shiu

Council Member present via videoconference:

Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola

Staff Members present in Council Chambers:

D. Joslin, City Manager
S. Adams, Commissioner of Corporate and Financial Services
K. Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Infrastructure
T. Steele, Commissioner of Community Services
A. Dimilta, City Solicitor
B. Burbidge, Fire Chief
S. Huycke, Director, Legislative Services/City Clerk
D. Hearn, Director, Recreation and Culture
A. Ierullo, Director, Economic Development and Richmond Hill Center
G. Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer
J. Stewart, Director, Public Works Operations

D. Solomon, Chief Executive Officer, Richmond Hill Library
D. DiRuscio, Manager, Cultural Services
L. Hood, Acting Manager, Strategic Communications
J. Concepcion, Financial Management Advisor
S. Deshpande, Financial Management Advisor
H. Leung, Financial Management Advisor
A. Li, Financial Management Advisor
A. Chu, Recreation and Culture Business Analyst
T. Ghobrial, Executive Assistant to Members of Council
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
L. Sampogna, Council/Committee Coordinator
C. Connolly, Legislative Services Assistant

Staff Members present via videoconference:

A. Iannucci, Chief Transformation Officer
P. Masaro, Executive Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services
M. Flores, Director, Policy Planning
R. Jones, Director, Information Technology/CIO
N. Kalyvas, Director, Facility Management
N. Khan, Director, Building Division and Chief Building Official
D. Terzievski, Director, Infrastructure Planning and Development Engineering
C. Treacy, Director, Human Resources
L. Conde, Manager, Strategy and Government Relations
D. Selicean, Capital and Reserves Management Advisor
V. Malhotra, Financial Management Advisor
I. Treiger, Financial Management Advisor
B. Yu, Financial Management Advisor

Sina Akhavan, Treasurer; and Nicole Moore, Marketing and Events Manager, Village of Richmond Hill Business Improvement Area (BIA), were also in attendance in Council Chambers.

In accordance with Article 12.3 of the City's Procedural By-law 74-12, as amended, Mayor West chaired the meeting.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

That the agenda be adopted as distributed by the Clerk with the following additions:

a) Delegation - John Li, 206 Brookside Road, regarding the 2023 Draft Operating Budget - (Item 3.1)

b) Delegation - John Li, 206 Brookside Road, regarding the Municipal Elections Campaign Contribution Rebate Program - (Item 3.2)

Carried Unanimously

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest by members of Council under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.

3. Delegations

3.1 John Li, 206 Brookside Road, addressed Council regarding the 2023 Draft Operating Budget. He displayed various tables and shared his opinion on the changes to Richmond Hill's 10-year Operating Budget from 2013 to 2023. He shared his belief that staff salaries and benefits were prioritized over essential city services, and compared the changes with the City of Markham's 11-year Operating Budget from 2011 to 2022.

3.2 John Li, 206 Brookside Road, addressed Council regarding the Municipal Elections Campaign Contribution Rebate Program. He shared his opinion regarding staff's request for one new full-time employee titled Coordinator of Legislative Services and Special Projects, and commented on the contract position of the Elections Coordinator. J. Li requested that the proposal for the Election Rebate Program be amended to reflect a more cost effective approach, and concluded by reviewing a comparison of Richmond Hill and Markham's staff compensation and services for residents.

4. Scheduled Business

4.1 SRCFS.23.007 - 2023 Draft Operating Budget

Darlene Joslin, City Manager, provided opening remarks regarding the 2023 Draft Operating Budget, noting that it was the first of two Operating Budget meetings to address the City's levels of service, and extended her appreciation to Gigi Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer, and staff for their input into the budget process.

Gigi Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer, provided introductory remarks regarding the 2023 Draft Operating Budget, acknowledged the

cross-organizational exercise that required extensive collaboration, engagement and participation from all departments, and extended her appreciation to the Fiscal Planning and Strategy team and staff for their involvement and input to the 2023 budget process.

G. Li, provided a high-level overview regarding the 2023 Draft Operating Budget of the detailed content included in staff report SRCFS.23.007. She reviewed background information to the 2023 budget process and Council direction; economic and growth indicators; 2023 draft operating budget; 2024 to 2026 financial outlook; and concluded by highlighting staff's recommendations as outlined in the staff report.

Darlene Joslin, City Manager, presented the Office of the City Manager, 2023 Draft Operating Budget. She reviewed the responsibilities and divisions reporting to the Office of the City Manager; 2022 accomplishments; budget pressures, challenges and other considerations; draft budget overview by budget category and division; departmental budget highlights; identified efficiencies, savings, and additional revenues; and concluded by highlighting the 2023 priorities for the department.

Tracey Steele, Commissioner, Community Services, presented the Community Services Department, 2023 Draft Operating Budget. She reviewed the divisions and services provided within the Community Services Department; 2022 accomplishments; budget pressures, challenges and other considerations; draft budget overview by budget category and division; departmental budget highlights; identified efficiencies, savings, and additional revenues; and concluded by highlighting the 2023 priorities for the department.

Darren Solomon, Chief Executive Officer, Richmond Hill Public Library, presented the Richmond Hill Public Library, 2023 Draft Operating Budget. He provided background information about the Library and extended appreciation to City staff for their support during the budget process. D. Solomon, reviewed the Library's role and services it provided to the community; 2022 accomplishments; budget pressures, challenges and other considerations; draft budget overview by budget category; departmental budget highlights; identified efficiencies, savings, and additional revenues; and concluded by highlighting the 2023 priorities for the Richmond Hill Public Library.

Motion to Defer:

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola

a) That Staff Report SRCFS.23.007 regarding the 2023 Operating Budget be received;

b) That the following staff recommendations be deferred to the February 14, 2023 Budget Committee of the Whole meeting for approval:

1. That the 2023 City Operating Budget:

i) With a recommended budget increase of \$4,674,300 and a total tax levy of \$126,291,200 (excluding supplementary taxes), summarized in Appendix “A” to staff report SRCFS.23.007, be approved;

ii) That the 2023 Senior Tax Assistance Grant increase to \$420, be approved;

iii) That the draft By-law 23-23, attached as Appendix “D” to staff report SRCFS.23.007, be referred to the February 22, 2023 Council meeting for adoption.

2. That the Capital Asset Sustainability Fee 2023 budget increase of \$1,216,000 and total fee levy of \$8,984,500, be approved;

3. That the draft By-law 24-23, attached as Appendix “E” to staff report SRCFS.23.007 for the 2023 Water, Wastewater & Stormwater Budgets, be referred to the February 22, 2023 Council meeting for adoption;

4. That the Financial Outlook (attached as Appendix “C” to staff report SRCFS.23.007) be received for information; and

5. That, as required by Ontario Regulation 284/09, Municipal Act 2001, the compliance report attached as Appendix “G” to staff report SRCFS.23.007 for expenses that have been excluded from the 2023 Draft Operating Budget, be approved.

Carried Unanimously

4.2 SRCFS.23.009 – 2023 BIA Proposed Budget

Sina Akhavan, Treasurer; and Nicole Moore, Marketing and Events Manager, Village of Richmond Hill Business Improvement Area (BIA), presented the 2023 BIA Proposed Budget. N. Moore highlighted the 2021 and 2022 successes to promoting the Richmond Hill business area, and reviewed the 2023 plans for events participation, marketing, collaborations

and volunteer development. S. Akhavan concluded by presenting the 2023 BIA Proposed Budget.

Moved by: Councillor Cui

- a) That the 2023 gross operating budget of \$168,458 for the Village of Richmond Hill Business Improvement Area as provided within staff report SRCFS.23.009, be approved;
- b) That \$100,000 be levied upon the rateable properties in the improvement areas.

Carried Unanimously

4.3 SRCFS.23.005 – Municipal Elections Campaign Contribution Rebate Program

Motion to Defer:

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

- a) That staff report SRCFS.23.005, regarding a Municipal Elections Campaign Contribution Rebate Program, be received; and
- b) That Council defer its decision to provide direction on the implementation of a Municipal Elections Campaign Contribution Rebate Program for Richmond Hill to the February 14, 2023 Budget Committee of the Whole meeting.

Carried Unanimously

4.4 SRCFS.23.010 – Reinstatement of Community Bulletin Board in the Liberal Newspaper

Motion to Defer:

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola

- a) That staff report SRCFS.23.010 regarding reinstatement of the community Bulletin Board in the Liberal Newspaper, be received for information; and
- b) That Council defer its decision to provide direction based on the options presented in staff report SRCFS.23.010 to the February 14, 2023 Budget Committee of the Whole meeting.

Carried Unanimously

5. Adjournment

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

That the meeting be adjourned

Carried Unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.