



Budget Committee of the Whole Meeting
Minutes

BCW#07-23
Tuesday, November 28, 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, November 28, 2023 at 1:36 p.m. in Council Chambers via videoconference.

Council Members present in Council Chambers:

Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola (Chair)
Mayor West
Regional and Local Councillor Chan
Councillor Davidson
Councillor Thompson
Councillor Cilevitz
Councillor Shiu

Council Member present via videoconference:

Councillor Cui

Regrets:

Councillor Liu

Staff Members present in Council Chambers:

D. Joslin, City Manager
S. Adams, Commissioner of Corporate and Financial Services
G. Galanis, Acting Commissioner of Planning and Building Services
T. Steele, Commissioner of Community Services
P. Masaro, Executive Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services

M. Flores, Director, Policy Planning
D. Giannetta, Director, Development Planning
G. Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer
L. Chen, Manager, Fiscal Planning and Strategy
A. Li, Supervisor, Operating Budgets
I. Treiger, Financial Management Advisor
J. Concepcion, Financial Management Advisor
H. Leung, Financial Management Advisor
S. Huycke, City Clerk
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
S. Dumont, Council/Committee Coordinator
C. Connolly, Legislative Services Assistant

Staff Members present via videoconference:

D. Solomon, Chief Executive Officer, Richmond Hill Public Library
A. Dimilta, City Solicitor
B. Burbidge, Fire Chief
C. Debi, Director, Strategic Communications
M. Flores, Director, Policy Planning
D. Hearn, Director, Recreation and Culture
N. Khan, Director, Building Division and Chief Building Official
A. Ierullo, Director, Economic Development and Richmond Hill Centre
A. Iannucci, Chief Transformation Officer
N. Kalyvas, Director, Facility Management
F. Quarisa, Director, Public Works Operations
B. Yu, Financial Management Advisor

1. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

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

a) Memorandum from Gigi Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer, dated November 28, 2023, regarding the 2024 Draft Operating Budget - Budget Mitigating Options – (Item 4.4).

Carried

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

There were no delegations.

4. Scheduled Business

4.1 SRCS.23.26 - South Richvale Greenway Winter Trail Maintenance

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

a) That staff report SRCS.23.26 regarding the provision of winter maintenance to the trails within South Richvale Greenway be received;

b) That winter maintenance of trails within South Richvale Greenway not be enhanced beyond the current level of service that is now being provided;

c) That a Trails Level of Service Study, as contemplated and recommended in the forthcoming 2023 Transportation Master Plan Update, be completed to comprehensively assess the City-wide trail system and make recommendations for trail design standards, categorization and maintenance service levels.

Carried Unanimously

4.2 SRPBS.23.046 - Proposal to Hire Contract Staff to Coordinate the City's Affordable Housing Mandate

Moved by: Mayor West

a) That staff report SRPBS.23.046 regarding Proposal to Hire Contract Staff to Coordinate the City's Affordable Housing Mandate be received;

b) That Council endorse the hiring of contract staff to help advance and accelerate the building of affordable housing in Richmond Hill as outlined in staff report SRPBS.23.046;

c) That Council approve an operating budget of \$560,000 from the 2023 Operating Surplus to hire contract staff in accordance with staff report SRPBS.23.046.

Carried

4.3 SRCFS.23.052 - 2024 Draft Operating Budget

Darlene Joslin, City Manager, thanked Gigi Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer, and her team for their efforts in assembling the budget package, and recognized the Commissioners, senior management and all staff for their work towards achieving the City's goals, as well as Mayor West and Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola for their guidance and leadership through the process.

D. Joslin acknowledged the challenges facing the community and the budget's emphasis on supporting the City's economic vitality with investments in infrastructure and service delivery areas. She remarked on the City's effort to improve and maintain excellent service delivery and commitment to affordable housing, the significant planning underway, and the change in direction that resulted from the *More Homes Built Faster Act*. She advised of the post-Covid economic climate, the impact of high inflation and interest rates on the City's finances, and noted supply chain, labour shortages and recruitment challenges. D. Joslin shared her belief that the proposed budget responded to the growing demands on the City's resources.

D. Joslin reviewed the priorities of the 2024 Draft Budget, continuous improvement results from Lean projects, and highlighted initiatives that improved external and internal customer satisfaction.

Gigi Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer, reviewed the progress made toward the endorsement of the 2024 Budget, purpose of Budget Committee of the Whole (BCW) meetings, and noted the presentations coming forward today and at the December 5th BCW meeting. She provided a high-level overview of the 2024 Draft Operating Budgets, the budget pressures influencing the proposed 2024 tax rate increase, the Operating Budget by department, and the tax impact on the average residential property. G. Li provided highlights on the 2024 Draft Rate-Supported Budgets, and advised of the total annual impact per residential household, the 2025 to 2027 financial outlook and concluded by outlining BCW considerations and next steps.

D. Joslin presented the Office of the City Manager 2024 Draft Operating Budget. She reviewed this year's accomplishments and 2024 priorities by division, draft budget overview by category and division, and highlighted budget changes in the Office of the City Manager.

Paolo Masaro, Executive Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services, provided an overview of the Infrastructure Engineering Services Budget, and identified efficiencies and savings that were reflected in the Draft Operating Budget.

Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola transferred the Chair to Mayor West between 2:28 p.m. and 2:37 p.m.

Gus Galanis, Acting Commissioner of Planning and Building Services, presented the Planning and Building Services 2024 Draft Operating Budget. He reviewed this year's departmental accomplishments and priorities for 2024, and provided an overview of the draft budget by category and division. He reviewed departmental budget pressures, and identified the efficiencies, savings and revenues within the budget.

Tracey Steele, Commissioner of Community Services, presented the Community Services 2024 Draft Operating Budget. She reviewed this year's departmental accomplishments and priorities for 2024, the draft Budget by category and division, and highlighted budgetary changes to maintain the 2023 service levels in 2024. She concluded by reviewing the efficiencies, savings and revenue generating opportunities for 2024.

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

- a) That the presentation from Darlene Joslin, City Manager, regarding the City Manager Budget Message, and the presentation from Gigi Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer, regarding the 2024 Draft Operating Budget Overview, be received.
- b) That the presentation from Darlene Joslin, City Manager, and Paolo Masaro, Executive Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services, regarding the 2024 Draft Operating Budget - Office of the City Manager, be received.
- c) That the presentation from Gus Galanis, Acting Commissioner of Planning and Building Services, regarding the 2024 Draft Operating Budget - Planning and Building Services, be received.
- d) That the presentation from Tracey Steele, Commissioner of Community Services, regarding the 2024 Draft Operating Budget - Community Services Department, be received.

Carried

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

- a) That consideration of the recommendations contained in staff report SRCFS.23.052 regarding the 2024 Draft Operating Budget be deferred to the December 5, 2023 Budget Committee of the Whole meeting.

Carried

4.4 Memorandum from Gigi Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer, dated November 28, 2023, regarding the 2024 Draft Operating Budget - Budget Mitigating Options

Moved by: Mayor West

a) That the Memorandum from Gigi Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer, dated November 28, 2023, regarding the 2024 Draft Operating Budget - Budget Mitigating Options, be received.

Carried

5. Adjournment

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor Chan

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.