



Budget Committee of the Whole Meeting
Minutes

BCW#08-23
Tuesday, December 5, 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, December 5, 2023, at 1:30 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
D. Solomon, Chief Executive Officer, Richmond Hill Public Library
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

C. Debi, Director, Strategic Communications
R. Jones, Director, Information Technology/CIO
G. Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer
C. Traecy, Director, Human Resources
D. Dumrath, Manager, Human Resources
L. Chen, Manager, Fiscal Planning and Strategy
A. Li, Supervisor, Operating Budgets
A. McArthur, Manager, Human Resources and Organizational Development
C. Beatty, HR Business Partner
S. Huycke, City Clerk
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
S. Dumont, Council/Committee Coordinator
C. Connolly, Legislative Services Assistant

Staff Members present via videoconference:

A. Dimilta, City Solicitor
B. Burbidge, Fire Chief
M. Flores, Director, Policy Planning
D. Hearn, Director, Recreation and Culture
A. Ierullo, Director, Economic Development and Richmond Hill Centre
A. Iannucci, Chief Transformation Officer
F. Quarisa, Director, Public Works Operations
L. Conde, Manager, Strategy and Government Relations
D. Oliveira, Manager, Water, Wastewater and Roads
I. Treiger, Financial Management Advisor
D. Selicean, Financial Management Advisor
B. Yu, Financial Management Advisor

1. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Mayor West

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

- a) Correspondence from John Li, 206 Brookside Road, dated December 4, 2023, regarding the 2024 Draft Operating Budget - (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 SRCFS.23.052 - 2024 Draft Operating Budget

Sherry Adams, Commissioner of Corporate and Financial Services, presented the 2024 Draft Corporate and Financial Services Operating Budget. She reviewed the department's 2023 accomplishments, and next year's priorities, including the 2024 Draft Budget by category and division, and highlighted budget changes. She also identified efficiencies, savings and revenues within the budget.

Moved by: Mayor West

a) That the presentation from Sherry Adams, Commissioner of Corporate and Financial Services, regarding the 2024 Draft Corporate and Financial Services Operating Budget, be received.

Carried

Gigi Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer, presented the 2024 Draft Corporate Accounts Budget. She reviewed this year's accomplishments and priorities for 2024, the 2024 Draft Budget by category and division, and highlighted the Corporate Accounts budget changes. She also noted efficiencies, savings and revenues within the budget.

Moved by: Mayor West

a) That the presentation by Gigi Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer, regarding the 2024 Draft Corporate Accounts Budget, be received.

Carried

Darren Solomon, Chief Executive Officer, Richmond Hill Public Library, and Sadra Nasser, Chair, Library Board Finance Committee, presented the 2024 Draft Richmond Hill Public Library Operating Budget. S. Nasser remarked on the importance of the Library to the community and provided examples of how the Library keeps residents connected and resilient.

D. Solomon reviewed the Library's 2023 accomplishments, and priorities for 2024 as they related to their Strategic Plan. He provided an overview

of the 2024 Draft Budget by category, highlighted budget changes, and advised of the allocation of Library expenses by services and functions.

Moved by: Councillor Shiu

a) That the presentation from Darren Solomon, Chief Executive Officer and Sadra Nasser, Chair, Library Board Finance Committee, regarding the 2024 Draft Richmond Hill Public Library Operating Budget, be received.

Carried

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

- a) That the Budget Committee of the Whole recommends that the Mayor submit for Council's review, a 2024 Operating Budget that proposes:
- i. A 2024 Operating Budget increase of \$6,087,200 and a total tax levy of \$133,887,100 (excluding supplementary taxes), as summarized in Appendix "A" of staff report SRCFS.23.052, to be adjusted subject to the following adjustments:
 - (a) The Richmond Hill Public Library (RHPL) 2024 Operating Budget be adjusted as follows:
 - (i) Removal of the RHPL Non-Union Salary adjustment (\$108,700)
 - (ii) Addition of the 2024 Cost of Living Adjustment for non-union employees (\$56,800)
 - (iii) Removal of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy Initiative (\$25,000)
 - (iv) Removal of the small Business and Entrepreneur Initiative (\$10,000)
 - ii. A 2024 Senior Tax Assistance Grant increase to \$432;
 - iii. A 2024 Capital Asset Sustainability Levy budget increase of \$1,917,600 and total fee levy of \$10,902,100;
 - iv. As required by Ontario Regulation 284/09, Municipal Act 2001, the compliance report of expenses excluded from the 2024 Draft Operating Budget, as attached to Appendix "C" of staff report SRCFS.23.052;
 - v. The Reserve and Reserve Fund allocations, as summarized in Appendix "D" of staff report SRCFS.23.052; and

- b) That Budget Committee of the Whole recommends that Council receive for information purposes the Financial Outlook attached as Appendix “E” staff report SRCFS.23.052.

An Amendment was:

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor Chan

That the following clauses be added to clause ‘a) i’ of the main motion:

- (b) Item 5 - Investment Income Strategy – reduce transfer to Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve (\$644,000).
- (c) Item 6 - Use of remaining SRA Grant Funding (\$348,000).

A recorded vote was taken on Clause (b):

In favour: (3): Councillor Shiu, Councillor Cui, Regional and Local Councillor Chan

Opposed: (5): Mayor West, Councillor Cilevitz, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Davidson, Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola

Absent: (1): Councillor Liu

Clause (b) Failed to Carry (3 to 5)

A recorded vote was taken on Clause (c):

In favour: (4): Councillor Cui, Regional and Local Councillor Chan, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Shiu

Opposed: (4): Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola, Councillor Davidson, Mayor West, Councillor Cilevitz

Absent: (1): Councillor Liu

Clause (c) Failed to Carry on a Tie Vote (4 to 4)

Main Motion:

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

- a) That the Budget Committee of the Whole recommends that the Mayor submit for Council’s review, a 2024 Operating Budget that proposes:
 - i. A 2024 Operating Budget increase of \$6,087,200 and a total tax levy of \$133,887,100 (excluding supplementary taxes), as summarized in Appendix “A” of staff report SRCFS.23.052, to be adjusted subject to the following adjustments:

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 - (iii) Removal of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy Initiative (\$25,000)
 - (iv) Removal of the small Business and Entrepreneur Initiative (\$10,000)
- ii. A 2024 Senior Tax Assistance Grant increase to \$432;
 - iii. A 2024 Capital Asset Sustainability Levy budget increase of \$1,917,600 and total fee levy of \$10,902,100;
 - iv. As required by Ontario Regulation 284/09, Municipal Act 2001, the compliance report of expenses excluded from the 2024 Draft Operating Budget, as attached to Appendix "C" of staff report SRCFS.23.052;
 - v. The Reserve and Reserve Fund allocations, as summarized in Appendix "D" of staff report SRCFS.23.052; and
- b) That Budget Committee of the Whole recommends that Council receive for information purposes the Financial Outlook attached as Appendix "E" staff report SRCFS.23.052.

A recorded vote was taken on Clause a) i) - Items (a) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv):

In favour: (8): Mayor West, Councillor Davidson, Councillor Shiu, Regional and Local Councillor Chan, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Cui, Councillor Cilevitz, Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola

Opposed: (0): None

Absent: (1): Councillor Liu

Clause a) i) - Items (a) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) Carried Unanimously (8 to 0)

A recorded vote was taken on Clause a) i) ii), iii), iv), v), b)

In favour: (8): Mayor West, Councillor Davidson, Councillor Shiu, Regional and Local Councillor Chan, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Cui, Councillor Cilevitz, Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola

Opposed: (0): None

Absent: (1): Councillor Liu

Clause a) ii), iii), iv), v), b) Carried Unanimously (8 to 0)

The complete motion to read as follows:

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

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 - (a) The Richmond Hill Public Library (RHPL) 2024 Operating Budget be adjusted as follows:
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 - (ii) Addition of the 2024 Cost of Living Adjustment for non-union employees (\$56,800)
 - (iii) Removal of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy Initiative (\$25,000)
 - (iv) Removal of the small Business and Entrepreneur Initiative (\$10,000)
 - ii. A 2024 Senior Tax Assistance Grant increase to \$432;
 - iii. A 2024 Capital Asset Sustainability Levy budget increase of \$1,917,600 and total fee levy of \$10,902,100;
 - iv. As required by Ontario Regulation 284/09, Municipal Act 2001, the compliance report of expenses excluded from the 2024 Draft Operating Budget, as attached to Appendix "C" of staff report SRCFS.23.052;
 - v. The Reserve and Reserve Fund allocations, as summarized in Appendix "D" of staff report SRCFS.23.052; and
 - b) That Budget Committee of the Whole recommends that Council receive for information purposes the Financial Outlook attached as Appendix "E" staff report SRCFS.23.052.

Carried Unanimously

4.2 SRCFS.23.060 - 2024 Draft Rate Supported Operating Budgets

Gigi Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer, provided introductory remarks regarding the 2024 Draft Rate Supported Operating Budgets. She reviewed this year's accomplishments and priorities for 2024, the 2024 Draft Water and Wastewater Budget by category, budget highlights, and identified efficiencies and savings within the budget.

G. Li provided an overview of the 2024 Draft Stormwater Budget by category, highlighted budget changes and identified the 2024 proposed Stormwater rates. She concluded by advising of the total annual impact per residential household.

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor Chan

a) That the Budget Committee of the Whole recommends that the Mayor submit for Council's review, 2024 Rate Supported Operating Budgets that propose:

- i. The Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Management Rates, as identified in Appendix 'C' of Staff Report SRCFS.23.060;
- ii. A Water and Wastewater Budget, with a total expenditures budget of \$100,423,800, as summarized in Appendix 'A' of Staff Report SRCFS.23.060; and
- iii. A Stormwater Management Services Budget, with a total expenditures budget of \$5,901,200, as summarized in Appendix 'B' of Staff Report SRCFS.23.060.

Carried

4.3 SRCFS.23.061 – 2024 Village of Richmond Hill Business Improvement Area (BIA) Proposed Budget

Sina Akhavan, Treasurer and Nicole Moore, Marketing and Events Manager, BIA, presented the 2024 Village of Richmond Hill Business Improvement Area Proposed Budget. N. Moore highlighted 2023 BIA events, Shop Local campaigns, 150th Anniversary celebrations, and events held in conjunction with the City, Economic Development Team, and other organizations. She highlighted the BIA's sponsorship and marketing efforts and ideas being considered for 2024.

S. Akhaven reviewed the BIA's 2024 proposed budget, and advised that they are requesting the same Tax Levy as 2023.

Moved by: Councillor Thompson

a) That SRCFS.23.061 regarding the 2024 draft BIA budget and funding be received.

b) That the Budget Committee of the Whole recommends that the Mayor submit for Council's review, a 2024 Village of Richmond Hill Business Improvement Area Budget that proposes:

i) A 2024 Operating Budget of \$172,072 as summarized in Appendix "A" of staff report SRCFS.23.061; and

ii) That \$100,000 be levied upon the rateable properties in the improvement area.

Carried Unanimously

4.4 Correspondence from John Li, 206 Brookside Road, dated December 4, 2023, regarding the 2024 Draft Operating Budget - (refer to Item 4.1)

Moved by: Mayor West

a) That the correspondence from John Li, 206 Brookside Road, dated December 4, 2023, regarding the 2024 Draft Operating Budget, be received.

Carried

5. Adjournment

Moved by: Mayor West

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.