



Budget Committee of the Whole Meeting

Minutes

BCW#06-24

Monday, November 25, 2024, 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 Monday, November 25, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. in Council Chambers via videoconference.

Committee Members present in Council Chambers:

Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola (Chair)
Mayor West (Vice-Chair)
Regional and Local Councillor Chan
Councillor Davidson
Councillor Cilevitz

Committee Member present via videoconference:

Councillor Thompson
Councillor Liu
Councillor Cui
Councillor Shiu

Staff Members present in Council Chambers:

D. Joslin, City Manager
S. Adams, Commissioner of Corporate and Financial Services
G. Galanis, Commissioner of Planning and Building Services
P. Masaro, Commissioner of Infrastructure and Engineering Services
T. Steele, Commissioner of Community Services
B. Gorman, Chief Executive Officer, RHPL
D. Hearn, Director, Recreation and Culture
S. Huycke, Director, Legislative Services/City Clerk
A. Ierullo, Director, Economic Development and Richmond Hill Centre
R. Jones, Director, Information Technology/CIO
G. Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer

F. Quarisa, Director, Public Works Operations
L. Chen, Manager, Financial Planning and Analysis
J. Concepcion, Financial Management Advisor
H. Leung, Financial Management Advisor
A. Li, Financial Management Advisor
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
K. Hurley, Council/Committee Coordinator
C. Connolly, Legislative Services Assistant

Staff Members present via videoconference:

A. Dimilta, City Solicitor
J. Dyer, Director, Content and Community Engagement, RHPL
M. Flores, Director, Policy Planning
R. Fribance, Director, Strategy and Service Innovation, RHPL
D. Giannetta, Director, Development Planning
Y. Hwang, Director, Branch and Customer Experiences, RHPL
A. Iannucci, Chief Transformation Officer
N. Khan, Director, Building Division and Chief Building Official
B. Levesque, Director, Infrastructure Delivery
T. Raeburn, Deputy Fire Chief - Support Services
D. Terzievski, Director, Infrastructure Planning and Development Engineering
C. Treacy, Director, People and Culture
D. DiRuscio, Manager, Cultural Services
S. Dillon, Finance and Administrative Assistant, RHPL
B. Osler, Senior Economic Development Officer
B. Yu, Financial Management Advisor

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Mayor West

That the agenda be adopted as distributed by the Clerk.

Carried

3. Disclosures 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*.

4. Delegation(s)

There were no delegations.

5. Scheduled Business

5.1 SRCFS.24.060 - 2025 Budget - Village of Richmond Hill Business Improvement Area

- Presentation by Nicole Moore, Manager, Marketing and Events, Village of Richmond Hill Business Improvement Area

Nicole Moore, Manager, Marketing and Events, and Sina Akhavan, Treasurer, Village of Richmond Hill Business Improvement Area (BIA), presented a report of the BIA's 2024 Activities and 2025 Budget. N. Moore provided background information about the BIA and its membership; and highlighted economic development initiatives, marketing and promotion activities, as well as events and community engagement throughout 2024. S. Akhavan presented the BIA's 2025 proposed budget and advised of the requested Tax Levy.

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor Chan

a) That staff report SRCFS.24.060 regarding the 2025 Budget for the Village of Richmond Hill Business Improvement Area be received;

b) That the Budget Committee of the Whole recommends that the Mayor submit for Council's review:

- i. That the 2025 gross operating budget of \$182,540 for the Village of Richmond Hill Business Improvement Area as provided in staff report SRCFS.24.060 be approved;
- ii. That \$120,000 be levied upon the rateable properties in the improvement area.

Carried Unanimously

5.2 2025 Richmond Hill Public Library Board Budget

- Presentation by Mona Shahnazari, Board Chair, and Bruce Gorman, Chief Executive Officer, Richmond Hill Public Library

Mona Shahnazari, Board Chair, provided introductory remarks regarding the Richmond Hill Public Library and Library Board, shared some of their key accomplishments in 2024, and spoke to the proposed 2025 operating budget. Bruce Gorman, Chief Executive Officer, Richmond Hill Public

Library, highlighted the various programs and services offered through the Library, outlined the 2025 priorities, and presented the 2025 draft Operating Budget for the Richmond Hill Public Library by category.

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

a) That the presentation by Mona Shahnazari, Board Chair, and Bruce Gorman, Chief Executive Officer, Richmond Hill Public Library, regarding the 2025 Richmond Hill Public Library Board Budget, be received.

Carried

5.3 SRCFS.24.058 - 2025 Draft Operating Budget

- Presentation by Gigi Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer

Gigi Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer, presented the 2025 draft Operating Budget. She reviewed funding sources and various budget pressures, and provided an overview of the 2025 draft Operating Budget by Category. G. Li explained the impact of the draft Operating Budget on the tax rate, the annual impact per residential household as well as other financial impacts, and concluded the presentation with an overview of next steps.

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

a) That the Budget Committee of the Whole recommends that the Mayor submit for Council's review, a 2025 Operating Budget that proposes:

- i. A 2025 Operating Budget increase of \$4,046,300 and a total tax levy of \$138,921,200 (excluding supplementary taxes), as summarized in Appendix "A" to staff report SRCFS.24.058 and;
 1. Additional \$321,700 through Mayoral decision 21-24 regarding confidential staff report SRCFS.24.057 regarding the City's IT Security Program.
- ii. A 2025 Senior Tax Assistance Grant increase to \$445;
- iii. A 2025 Capital Asset Sustainability Levy budget increase of \$2,023,100 and total fee levy of \$12,925,200;
- iv. As required by Ontario Regulation 284/09, *Municipal Act 2001*, the compliance report of expenses excluded from the 2025 Draft Operating Budget, as attached to Appendix "C" to staff report SRCFS.24.058; and

v. The Reserve and Reserve Fund allocations, as summarized in Appendix “D” to staff report SRCFS.24.058.

b) That Budget Committee of the Whole recommends that Council receive for information purposes the Financial Outlook attached as Appendix “E” to staff report SRCFS.24.058.

Carried Unanimously

5.4 SRCFS.24.059 - 2025 Draft Rate Supported Operating Budgets

- Presentation by Gigi Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer

Gigi Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer, presented the 2025 draft Rate Supported Operating Budgets. She reviewed 2024 accomplishments, priorities for 2025, and the Water and Wastewater Financial Plan and Stormwater Management Financial Plan; and provided an overview of each budget by category including budget highlights, rates and total annual impact per residential household.

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

a) That the Budget Committee of the Whole recommends that the Mayor submit for Council’s review, 2025 Rate Supported Operating Budgets that propose:

- i. A Water and Wastewater Budget, with a total expenditures budget of \$104,151,300, as summarized in Appendix ‘A’ to staff report SRCFS.24.059:
- ii. A Stormwater Management Services Budget, with a total expenditures budget of \$8,038,300, as summarized in Appendix ‘B’ to staff report SRCFS.24.059: and
- iii. The Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Management Rates, as identified in Appendix ‘C’ to staff report SRCFS.24.059.

Carried Unanimously

5.5 SRCS.24.19 - Community and Cultural Grant Program and Community Enhancement and Economic Vitality Reserve Fund

Moved by: Mayor West

a) That staff report SRCS.24.19 regarding the Community and Cultural Grant Program and Community Enhancement and Economic Vitality Reserve Fund be received;

b) That changes to the Community and Cultural Grant Program as outlined in staff report SRCS.24.19 be approved including:

- i. An expansion to the program to include funding for annual programs,
- ii. An increase to the annual operating budget for the program to \$100,000;
- iii. Use of the Community Enhancement and Economic Vitality Reserve Fund as the program funding source.

Carried Unanimously

5.6 SRCM.24.14 - Economic Development Mission to Hannover Messe

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

a) That staff report SRCM.24.14, regarding the planned investment attraction mission to Hannover Messe, be received;

b) That the Mayor's participation in the Hannover Messe Conference in April 2025 be approved;

c) That up to two (2) staff from the Economic Development Division accompany the Mayor at the Hannover Messe Conference in April 2025;

d) That the Budget Committee of the Whole recommends that the Mayor submit for Council's review that \$25,000 be added in the 2025 Operating Budget, to be funded from the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve to support the planned Investment Attraction Mission to Hannover Messe.

Carried Unanimously

6. Adjournment

Moved by: Councillor Davidson

That the meeting be adjourned

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.