



Budget Committee of the Whole Meeting

Minutes

BCW#01-25

Tuesday, May 6, 2025, 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, May 6, 2025 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 Thompson
Councillor Liu
Councillor Cui
Councillor Cilevitz
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
S. Huycke, Director, Legislative Services/City Clerk
R. Jones, Director, Information Technology/CIO
G. Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer
L. Chen, Manager, Financial Planning and Analysis
M. Raza, Manager, Fiscal Strategy and Long-Term Planning
J. Concepcion, Financial Management Advisor
H. Leung, Financial Management Advisor
A. Li, Financial Management Advisor

S. Wang, Financial Management Advisor
B. Yu, Financial Management Advisor
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
K. Hurley, Council/Committee Coordinator
C. Connolly, Legislative Services Assistant

Staff Members present via videoconference:

B. Burbidge, Fire Chief
D. Hearn, Director, Recreation and Culture
A. Ierullo, Director, Economic Development and Richmond Hill Centre
F. Quarisa, Director, Public Works Operations
N. Khan, Director, Building Division and Chief Building Official
A. McArthur, Director, People and Culture
F. Suppa, Director, Infrastructure Planning and Development Engineering
D. Oliveira, Manager, Water, Wastewater and Roads

1. Call to Order

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

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

That the agenda be adopted as distributed by the Clerk.

Carried Unanimously

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.25.018 - Year-End Operating Results as of December 31, 2024

Gigi Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer, made a presentation to Committee regarding the Year-End Operating Results as of December 31, 2024. She provided a detailed overview of the 2024 operating budget results and final operating surplus, the positive and negative variance contributors including accelerated programs, and budget carryforwards.

G. Li also presented the 2024 Water and Wastewater budget results and Stormwater Management budget results and concluded the presentation by reviewing the staff report recommendations.

Moved by: Councillor Cui

a) That the 2024 Operating Results be received for information purposes;

b) That the 2024 Operating Budget carryforward items of \$255,000 listed in Appendix “B” to staff report SRCFS.25.018 be approved and carried over to the 2025 Operating Budget;

c) That the 2024 Library deficit of \$136,600 be funded through a one-time supplementary Municipal Grant in 2024 to support leadership transition planning;

d) That the surplus allocation and deficit funding as detailed in Appendix “C” to staff report SRCFS.25.018 be approved:

i. 2024 Operating Fund surplus of \$1,843,000 be allocated as follows:

- o \$929,200 transferred to the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve
- o \$913,800 transferred to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) Reserve Fund

ii. 2024 Water and Wastewater Fund deficit of \$2,428,200 be funded from the Water Rate Stabilization Reserve.

iii. 2024 Stormwater Management Fund surplus of \$197,500 be transferred to the Water Quality Protection Reserve Fund.

Carried Unanimously

5.2 SRCFS.25.020 - 2024 Investment Portfolio Results

Moved by: Councillor Cui

a) That staff report SRCFS.25.020 regarding 2024 Investment Portfolio Results be received for information purposes.

Carried Unanimously

5.3 SRCFS.25.017 - 2026 Capital and Operating Budget Strategy

Gigi Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer, made a presentation to Committee regarding the 2026 Capital and Operating Budget Strategy and advised that in accordance with the Strong Mayor Powers in Part VI.1 of

the *Municipal Act 2001*, the Mayor directed staff to commence the 2026 budget process in Mayoral Decision 04-25. She provided an overview of the 2026 budget timelines; highlighted the online budget engagement that was undertaken; and reviewed the 2026 Capital Budget considerations, funding sources and potential challenges. G. Li reviewed the 2026 Operating Budget outlook including budget considerations, mitigating measures and Rate Budget Strategy and concluded the presentation by reviewing the staff report recommendations.

Moved by: Mayor West

a) That staff report SRCFS.25.017 regarding the 2026 Capital and Operating Budget Strategy, be received;

b) That Budget Committee of the Whole recommends the Mayor directs staff to present a 2026 Draft Capital Budget that:

- i. Continues to manage the City's capital program reflective of the City's Strategic Priorities;
- ii. Maximizes all funding from external sources, development charges and reserve funding;
- iii. Does not exceed the proposed funding envelopes, including project management and overhead costs:
 - a. \$34.5 million from Tax Supported Reserve Funds.
 - b. \$33.3 million from Development Charges Reserve Funds.
 - c. \$8 million from Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland Reserve Fund.
 - d. \$34.1 million from Water and Wastewater Reserve Funds as per the Council Approved Financial Plan.
 - e. \$15.2 million from Water Quality Protection Reserve Fund for Stormwater Management projects as per the Council Approved Financial Plan.

c) The Budget Committee of the Whole recommends the Mayor directs staff to prepare a 2026 Draft Operating Budget that:

- i. Recognizes and responds to the financial pressures affecting residents, with particular attention to tariffs, the rising cost of living, and ongoing affordability challenges;

- ii. Balances financial pressures on the City including the need to build and maintain growth related infrastructure and continuing to deliver important services that make our City a premium community in which to live;
 - iii. Reviews spending and find efficiencies to ensure financial prudence and sustainability;
 - iv. Supports and aligns with the City's Strategic Plan and its three pillars of growing a livable, sustainable community; focus on people; strengthening our foundations;
 - v. Utilizes the budget considerations outlined in staff report SRCFS.25.017 as a guideline;
 - vi. Proposes a Capital Asset Sustainability Levy in the operating budget equivalent to 1.5% tax rate increase.
- d) The Budget Committee of the Whole recommends the Mayor directs staff to present a 2026 Draft Water and Wastewater Budget that follows the principles of the 2024 Water and Wastewater Financial Plan;
- e) The Budget Committee of the Whole recommends the Mayor directs staff to present a 2026 Draft Stormwater Management Budget that follows the principles of the 2024 Stormwater Management Financial Plan;
- f) The Budget Committee of the Whole recommends the Mayor directs staff to proceed with the 2026 Budget process in accordance with the timelines outlined in Appendix "A" and guidelines described in staff report SRCFS.25.017.

Carried Unanimously

6. Adjournment

Moved by: Councillor Cui

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m.