



Budget Committee of the Whole Meeting

Minutes

BCW#04-25

Tuesday, November 18, 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, November 18, 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
D. Hearn, Director, Recreation and Culture
S. Huycke, Director, Legislative Services/City Clerk
G. Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer
A. McArthur, Director, People and Culture
F. Quarisa, Director, Public Works Operations
L. Chen, Manager, Financial Planning and Analysis

D. DiRuscio, Manager, Cultural Services
L. Hood, Manager, Strategic Communications
M. Raza, Manager, Fiscal Strategy and Long-Term Planning
S. Samad, Manager, Strategy and Architecture
K. Davey, Communications Consultant to the Mayor
H. Leung, Financial Management Advisor
A. Li, Financial Management Advisor
S. Wang, Financial Management Advisor
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
S Dumont, Council/Committee Coordinator
C. Connolly, Legislative Services Assistant

Staff Members present via videoconference:

M. Flores, Director, Policy Planning
D. Giannetta, Director, Development Planning
D. Guy, Director, Community Standards
A. Ierullo, Director, Economic Development and Richmond Hill Centre
N. Kalyvas, Director, Facility Management
N. Khan, Director, Building Division and Chief Building Official
B. Levesque, Director, Infrastructure Delivery
F. Suppa, Director, Infrastructure Planning and Development Engineering
T. Raeburn, Deputy Fire Chief - Support Services
J. Concepcion, Financial Management Advisor
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: Councillor Davidson

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

a) SRCFS.25.13 - 2026 FIFA World Cup Viewing Events - (Item 5.4)

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.25.038 - 2026 Budget – Village of Richmond Hill Business Improvement Area

- Presentation by Sina Akhavan, Board Director and Treasurer, and Lena Guirguis, Board Director and Events and Accounting Coordinator, Village of Richmond Hill Business Improvement Area

Sina Akhavan, Board Director and Treasurer, and Lena Guirguis, Board Director and Events and Accounting Coordinator, Village of Richmond Hill Business Improvement Area (BIA), presented a report on the BIA's 2025 activities and 2026 Budget. L. Guirguis began by noting that 2025 marked one of the most successful years for the BIA since the pandemic. She outlined the BIA's mandate and membership, explained its funding model, and highlighted key 2025 milestones, events, and community engagement initiatives. S. Akhavan continued by presenting the BIA's 2026 proposed Budget, explaining the variance from the 2025 Budget, and advising Council of the requested tax levy.

Moved by: Councillor Cui

- a) That report SRCFS.25.038 be received;
- b) That the 2026 gross operating budget of \$168,275 for the Village of Richmond Hill Business Improvement Area as provided within this report be approved; and
- c) That \$100,000 be levied upon the rateable properties in the business improvement area.

Carried Unanimously

5.2 2026 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, offered introductory remarks regarding the Richmond Hill Public Library (RHPL) and highlighted its 2025 accomplishments, emphasizing that the library's relevance and impact on the community were stronger than ever.

B. Gorman, Chief Executive Officer, Richmond Hill Public Library, began by commenting on the importance of public libraries to communities and their role as central gathering places that bring people together. He highlighted many of the RHPL's accomplishments and key performance indicators for 2025, and outlined priorities for 2026. This included updates to the children's corner at the Oak Ridges Branch, re-imagining the third floor of the Central Branch, integrating the Central Branch with Dave Barrow Square, and working on the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan. B. Gorman presented the proposed 2026 Operating Budget, providing an overview of the base budget and the proposed service enhancements.

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

a) That the presentation by Mona Shahnazari, Board Chair, and Bruce Gorman, Chief Executive Officer, Richmond Hill Public Library, regarding the 2026 Richmond Hill Public Library Board Budget, be received.

Carried Unanimously

5.3 SRCFS.25.040 - 2026 Draft Budget

- Presentation by Mayor David West

Mayor David West presented the 2026 draft Budget, opening with acknowledgements to Chair DiPaola and City staff for their commitment to the budget process, followed by his introductory remarks on the budget. Mayor West reviewed key budget considerations, external pressures facing the City and how the City has adapted to those pressures. Mayor West outlined the organizational goals within the Strategic Plan, highlighted the City's 2025 accomplishments related to each goal, and reviewed the productivity efficiencies that have resulted from the Continuous Improvement Program.

Mayor West outlined the purpose of the City's various budgets, including the Operating, Capital, Water and Wastewater, and Stormwater Management budgets, and reviewed the 2026 Operating Budget, including the tax rate impact on the average single family home in Richmond Hill. Mayor West highlighted the 2026 budget initiatives associated with each organizational goal, reviewed how the 2026 Budget was built, how tax dollars are allocated, and presented the Rate-Supported Operating Budgets.

Mayor West reviewed the 2026 Capital Budget, outlining Capital Budget investments in the community, and summarizing spending by service area. Mayor West reviewed Capital Budget initiatives aligned with each strategic goal, and detailed the total annual impact per residential household, as well as comparisons with other municipalities. Mayor West concluded by sharing his gratitude to staff for their work on the budget, and directed residents to the City's website for further information.

Moved by: Mayor West

a) That the Budget Committee of the Whole recommends that the Mayor submit, for Council's consideration, the proposed 2026 Operating, Rate-Supported, and Capital Budgets that include the following:

1. Operating Budget:

- i. A 2026 Operating Budget increase of \$2,760,900 and a total tax levy of \$143,512,600 (excluding supplementary taxes), as summarized in Appendix "A" of staff report SRCFS.25.040;
- ii. A 2026 Senior Tax Assistance Grant increase to \$454;
- iii. A 2026 Capital Asset Sustainability Levy budget increase of \$2,111,300 and total fee levy of \$15,036,500;
- iv. The Reserve and Reserve Fund allocations, as summarized in Appendix "E" of staff report SRCFS.25.040; and as required by Ontario Regulation 284/09, Municipal Act 2001, the compliance report of expenses excluded from the 2026 Operating Budget, as attached to Appendix "F" of staff report SRCFS.25.040.

2. Rate-Supported Operating Budgets:

- i. A Water and Wastewater Budget, with a total expenditures budget of \$119,468,000, as summarized in Appendix 'B' of staff report SRCFS.25.040;
- ii. A Stormwater Management Services Budget, with a total expenditures budget of \$12,058,000, as summarized in Appendix 'C' of staff report SRCFS.25.040; and
- iii. The Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Management Rates, as identified in Appendix 'D' of staff report SRCFS.25.040.

3. Capital Budget:

- i. A 2026 Capital Budget in the amount of \$121,066,000 that includes project management and overhead costs as identified in Appendix “H” of staff report SRCFS.25.040, funded from those sources identified in Appendix “I” of staff report SRCFS.25.040;
- ii. Projects totaling \$2,605,000 that require adjustments to the previously approved Capital Budget Authority, as outlined in Appendix “J” of staff report SRCFS.24.056; and
- iii. Contingent 2026 Capital Budget pending approval of grant funding, for projects listed and funded from those sources identified in Appendix “K” of staff report SRCFS.25.040.

b) That Budget Committee of the Whole recommends to Council that the following appendices be received for information purposes:

- i. The 2027–2029 Financial Outlook identified in Appendix “G” of staff report SRCFS.25.040; and
- ii. The 2027–2035 Capital Forecast as identified in Appendix “L” of staff report SRCFS.25.040, in the amount of \$1,740,496,600 that includes project management and overhead costs.

Carried Unanimously

5.4 SRCS.25.13 - 2026 FIFA World Cup Viewing Events

Moved by: Councillor Liu

- a) That staff report SRCS.25.13, be received.
- b) That \$116,000 be added to the 2026 Operating Budget and that \$65,000 be added to the 2026 Capital Budget with funding from the Community Enhancement and Economic Vitality Reserve Fund.

Carried Unanimously

6. Adjournment

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor Chan

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m.