Budget Committee of the Whole Meeting

Minutes

BCW#03-23
Tuesday, February 14, 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, February 14, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. in Council Chambers via videoconference.

Council Members present in Council Chambers:

Mayor West
Regional and Local Councillor Chan
Councillor Davidson
Councillor Thompson
Councillor Liu
Councillor Cui
Councillor Cilevitz
Councillor Shiu

Council Member present via videoconference:

Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola

Staff Members present in Council Chambers:

D. Joslin, City Manager
S. Adams, Commissioner of Corporate and Financial Services
K. Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Infrastructure
T. Steele, Commissioner of Community Services
A. Dimilta, City Solicitor
P. Masaro, Executive Director, Infrastructure and Engineering Services
M. Flores, Director, Policy Planning
G. Galanis, Director, Development Planning
S. Huycke, Director, Legislative Services/City Clerk
R. Jones, Director, Information Technology/CIO
N. Kalyvas, Director, Facility Management

N. Khan, Director, Building Division and Chief Building Official
B. Levesque, Director, Infrastructure Delivery
G. Li, Director, Financial Services and Treasurer
D. Solomon, Chief Executive Officer, Richmond Hill Public Library
D. Terzievski, Director, Director, Infrastructure Planning and Development Engineering
C. Treacy, Director, Human Resources
L. Hood, Acting Manager, Strategic Communications
D. Oliveira, Manager, Water, Wastewater and Roads
J. Concepcion, Financial Management Advisor
S. Deshpande, Financial Management Advisor
H. Leung, Financial Management Advisor
A. Li, Financial Management Advisor
T. Ghobrial, Executive Assistant to Members of Council
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
K. Hurley, Council/Committee Coordinator
C. Connolly, Legislative Services Assistant

Staff Members present via videoconference:

A. Iannucci, Chief Transformation Officer
L. Conde, Manager, Strategy and Government Relations
D. Selicean, Capital and Reserves Management Advisor
I. Treiger, Financial Management Advisor
B. Yu, Financial Management Advisor

In accordance with Article 12.3 of the City's Procedural By-law 74-12, as amended, Mayor West chaired the meeting.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Councillor Liu

That the agenda be adopted as distributed by the Clerk.

Carried Unanimously

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest by members of Committee under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.*

3. Delegations

3.1 Howard Doughty, 10 Cheval Court, regarding the Municipal Elections Campaign Contribution Rebate Program - (refer to Item 4.2)

Howard Doughty, 10 Cheval Court, addressed Committee regarding the Municipal Elections Campaign Contribution Rebate Program. He identified reasons why Municipal Elections Campaign Contribution Rebate Programs were implemented and what purpose they were supposed to serve, addressed the request for an additional full-time employee to administer the program, and made suggestions of other mechanisms the municipality could implement to improve upon democratic inequity.

3.2 Wilhelm Bleek, 136 Centre Street West, regarding the Reinstatement of Community Bulletin Board in the Liberal Newspaper - (refer to Item 4.3)

Wilhelm Bleek, 136 Centre Street West, addressed Committee regarding the Reinstatement of the Community Bulletin Board in the Liberal Newspaper. He addressed information in the staff report related to the survey results and residents' preferred communication methods, as well as the background information specific to the discontinuation of the Bulletin Board following a decision of Council in April 2020. W. Bleek advised that he was in support of the reinstatement of the Community Bulletin Board page in the Liberal newspaper as the municipality was a service provider to its residents, and because it supported the City of Richmond Hill's Age-Friendly Community initiatives.

4. Scheduled Business

4.1 SRCFS.23.007 - 2023 Draft Operating Budget

Kelvin Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Infrastructure, presented the Planning and Infrastructure Department, 2023 draft Operating Budget. He reviewed the divisions and services within the Planning and Infrastructure Department; 2022 accomplishments; budget pressures, challenges and other considerations; draft budget overview by budget category and division; departmental budget highlights; and identified efficiencies, savings and additional revenues. K. Kwan concluded the presentation by highlighting the 2023 priorities for the Planning and Infrastructure Department.

Sherry Adams, Commissioner of Corporate and Financial Services, presented the Corporate and Financial Services, draft 2023 Operating

Budget. She reviewed the divisions and services provided within the Corporate and Financial Services Department; 2022 accomplishments; budget pressures, challenges and other considerations; draft budget overview by budget category and division; departmental budget highlights; and identified efficiencies, savings, and additional revenues. S. Adams concluded the presentation by highlighting the 2023 priorities for the Corporate and Financial Services Department.

Gigi Li, Director of Financial Services and Treasurer, presented the Corporate Accounts draft 2023 Operating Budget. She reviewed the revenues and expenses that were corporate-wide; 2022 accomplishments; budget pressures, challenges and other considerations; draft budget overview by budget category specific to expenditures and revenues by section; departmental budget highlights; and identified efficiencies, savings and additional revenues. G. Li concluded the presentation by highlighting the 2023 priorities for the Corporate Accounts.

Gigi Li, Director of Financial Services and Treasurer, presented the Water, Wastewater and Stormwater draft 2023 Operating Budget. She reviewed the services provided within Water, Wastewater and Stormwater; 2022 accomplishments; budget pressures, challenges and other considerations; draft budget overview by budget category; departmental budget expense and revenue highlights; and identified efficiencies, savings and additional revenues. G. Li concluded the presentation by highlighting the 2023 priorities for Water, Wastewater and Stormwater.

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola

a) That Staff Report SRCFS.23.007 regarding the 2023 Operating Budget be received;

b) That the 2023 City Operating Budget:

1. With a recommended budget increase of $4,674,300 and a total tax levy of $126,291,200 (excluding supplementary taxes),summarized in Appendix “A” to staff report SRCFS.23.007, be approved;
2. That the 2023 Senior Tax Assistance Grant increase to $420, be approved;
3. That the draft By-law 23-23, attached as Appendix “D” to staff report SRCFS.23.007**,** be referred to the February 22, 2023 Council meeting for adoption.

c) That the Capital Asset Sustainability Fee 2023 budget increase of $1,216,000 and total fee levy of $8,984,500, be approved;

d) That the draft By-law 24-23, attached as Appendix “E” to staff report SRCFS.23.007 for the 2023 Water, Wastewater & Stormwater Budgets, be referred to the February 22, 2023 Council meeting for adoption;

e) That the Financial Outlook (attached as Appendix “C” to staff report SRCFS.23.007) be received for information; and

f) That, as required by Ontario Regulation 284/09, Municipal Act 2001, the compliance report attached as Appendix “G” to staff report SRCFS.23.007 for expenses that have been excluded from the 2023 Draft Operating Budget, be approved.

An Amendment was:

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor Chan

That the following be added to clause b), subsection 1:

i. That all tax-rate funded staff requests be deferred for a minimum three months with a start date of October 1, 2023 ($205,000).

ii. Remove the opt-out option for the Windrow Snow Removal Program ($126,000).

A recorded vote was taken on clause b), subsection 1, part i.:

In favour: (2): Councillor Cui, Regional and Local Councillor Chan

Opposed: (7): Councillor Cilevitz, Mayor West, Councillor Shiu, Councillor Liu, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Davidson, Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola

Clause b), subsection 1, part i. of the Amendment Failed to Carry (7-2)

A recorded vote was taken on clause b), subsection 1, part ii.:

In favour: (9): Councillor Cilevitz, Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola, Councillor Liu, Councillor Cui, Regional and Local Councillor Chan, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Shiu, Councillor Davidson, Mayor West

Opposed: (0): None

Clause b), subsection 1, part ii. of the Amendment Carried Unanimously (9-0)

Main Motion as Amended:

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola

a) That Staff Report SRCFS.23.007 regarding the 2023 Operating Budget be received;

b) That the 2023 City Operating Budget:

1. With a recommended budget increase of $4,674,300 and a total tax levy of $126,291,200 (excluding supplementary taxes),summarized in Appendix “A” to staff report SRCFS.23.007, be approved subject to the following:

    i. Remove the opt-out option for the Windrow Snow Removal Program ($126,000).

2. That the 2023 Senior Tax Assistance Grant increase to $420, be approved;

3. That the draft By-law 23-23, attached as Appendix “D” to staff report SRCFS.23.007**,** be referred to the February 22, 2023 Council meeting for adoption.

c) That the Capital Asset Sustainability Fee 2023 budget increase of $1,216,000 and total fee levy of $8,984,500, be approved;

d) That the draft By-law 24-23, attached as Appendix “E” to staff report SRCFS.23.007 for the 2023 Water, Wastewater & Stormwater Budgets, be referred to the February 22, 2023 Council meeting for adoption;

e) That the Financial Outlook (attached as Appendix “C” to staff report SRCFS.23.007) be received for information; and

f) That, as required by Ontario Regulation 284/09, *Municipal Act 2001*, the compliance report attached as Appendix “G” to staff report SRCFS.23.007 for expenses that have been excluded from the 2023 Draft Operating Budget, be approved.

An Amendment was:

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

That the following be added to clause b) 1:

ii. Increase summer camp revenues due to registration estimates ($50,000).

iii. Reduction in the Waste container purchases ($20,000).

Carried Unanimously

Main Motion as Amended:

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola

a) That Staff Report SRCFS.23.007 regarding the 2023 Operating Budget be received;

b) That the 2023 City Operating Budget:

1. With a recommended budget increase of $4,478,300 and a total tax levy of $126,095,200 (excluding supplementary taxes),summarized in Appendix “A” to staff report SRCFS.23.007, be approved subject to the following:

   i. Remove the opt-out option for the Windrow Snow Removal Program ($126,000).

   ii. Increase summer camp revenues due to registration estimates ($50,000).

   iii. Reduction in the Waste container purchases ($20,000).

2. That the 2023 Senior Tax Assistance Grant increase to $420, be approved;

3. That the draft By-law 23-23, attached as Appendix “D” to staff report SRCFS.23.007, be referred to the February 22, 2023 Council meeting for adoption.

c) That the Capital Asset Sustainability Fee 2023 budget increase of $1,216,000 and total fee levy of $8,984,500, be approved;

d) That the draft By-law 24-23, attached as Appendix “E” to staff report SRCFS.23.007 for the 2023 Water, Wastewater & Stormwater Budgets, be referred to the February 22, 2023 Council meeting for adoption;

e) That the Financial Outlook (attached as Appendix “C” to staff report SRCFS.23.007) be received for information; and

f) That, as required by Ontario Regulation 284/09, *Municipal Act 2001*, the compliance report attached as Appendix “G” to staff report SRCFS.23.007 for expenses that have been excluded from the 2023 Draft Operating Budget, be approved.

A recorded vote was taken on the Main Motion as Amended:

In favour: (9): Mayor West, Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola, Councillor Cilevitz, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Shiu, Regional and Local Councillor Chan, Councillor Davidson, Councillor Cui, Councillor Liu

Opposed: (0): None

Main Motion as Amended Carried Unanimously (9 to 0)

4.2 SRCFS.23.005 - Municipal Elections Campaign Contribution Rebate Program

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

a) That staff report SRCFS.23.005 regarding the Municipal Elections Campaign Contribution Rebate Program be received;

b) That the “Allocation of Election Campaign Surpluses and Other Contributions Policy”, attached as Attachment “G” to staff report SRCFS.23.005, be approved;

c) That staff be directed to bring forward an appropriate By-law to a future Council Meeting to formally establish an Election Reserve that was created by previous Council’s.

Carried Unanimously

4.3 SRCFS.23.010 - Reinstatement of Community Bulletin Board in the Liberal Newspaper

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola

a) That staff report SRCFS.23.010 regarding reinstatement of community Bulletin Board in the Liberal Newspaper, be received for information;

b) That Option 3 to “Reinstate bi-weekly, half page Bulletin Board”, as outlined in staff report SRCFS.23.010, be approved.

Carried Unanimously

4.4 Member Motion - Regional and Local Councillor Chan - Public Consultation on Budget

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor Chan

WHEREAS Council is committed to open and transparent process in setting the annual Operating Budget to deliver quality programs and services to residents and businesses in the City of Richmond Hill;

WHEREAS it has been the practice to hold public meetings for budget consultations with the community, and the City has previously conducted budget consultations in public spaces (shopping mall and library) and online surveys to reach out to residents in the past which were not the most effective method to consult for the City's budget;

WHEREAS the City has used "Citizen Budget", an online interactive tool, for residents and businesses to provide input and contribute to the budgetary process at a time and place that is convenient to them;

WHEREAS there is an opportunity to further demonstrate Council's commitment to engage the public in the annual process for setting the Operating Budget for the City by providing renewed public information and participation options; and

WHEREAS it has been the practice of other municipalities to provide various levels of budget consultation and promotion as part of their respective annual process for Operating Budgets,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That staff are requested to report back on a budget consultation plan for the 2024 Budget process, including the use of an online budget tool/survey before summer recess in 2023.

Carried Unanimously

5. Adjournment

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

That the meeting be adjourned

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.