



City of Barrie

70 Collier Street
P.O. Box 400
Barrie, ON L4M 4T5

Final City Council

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

7:00 PM

Council Chamber/Virtual

CALLING TO ORDER BY THE CITY CLERK, WENDY COOKE

The meeting was called to order by the City Clerk at 7:18 pm. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 11 - Mayor, A. Nuttall
Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson
Councillor, C. Riepma
Councillor, C. Nixon
Councillor, A.M. Kungl
Councillor, A. Courser
Councillor, N. Nigussie
Councillor, G. Harvey
Councillor, J. Harris
Councillor, S. Morales
Councillor, B. Hamilton

STAFF:

Associate Director of Corporate Asset Management, K. Oakley
Chief Administrative Officer, M. Prowse
Chief Financial Officer, C. Millar
City Clerk/Director of Legislative and Court Services, W. Cooke
Deputy City Clerk, T. McArthur
Director of Development Services, M. Banfield
Director of Internal Audit, S. MacGregor
Director of Legal Services, I. Peters
Director of Recreation and Culture Services, D. Bell
Executive Director of Access Barrie, R. James-Reid
General Manager of Community and Corporate Services, D. McAlpine
General Manager of Infrastructure and Growth Management, B. Araniyasundaran
Senior Manager of Corporate and Finance Investments, C. Gillespie
Senior Policy Advisor and Special Projects Coordinator, E. Chappell
Service Desk Generalist, K. Kovacs.

PLAYING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

The National Anthem was played.

READING OF LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Mayor, A. Nuttall read the Land Acknowledgement.

STUDENT MAYOR(S)**24-A-012****COMMENTS FROM OUTGOING STUDENT MAYORS**

Hayden Jack representing Sevenoaks Academy thanked members of Council for the opportunity to participate in the student mayor program. He shared his experiences as student mayor, and commented on the efforts that Council takes into consideration to better the community and to deliberate to solve the ongoing issues on all sides. Hayden expressed his appreciation for the student mayor program that is of great value bringing awareness to the importance of civic responsibility and engagement.

Mayor Nuttall, on behalf of the City of Barrie, congratulated Hayden on his term in office. He thanked him for serving the City and wished him all the best in your future endeavors.

Mackenzie Bentley-Isaacs, representing Innisdale Secondary School, was unable to attend City Council and will be providing comments at the next City Council meeting.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**24-A-013**

The Minutes of the City Council meeting held on January 17, 2024 were adopted as printed and circulated.

DEPUTATION(S) ON COMMITTEE REPORTS**24-A-014****DEPUTATIONS REGARDING MOTION 24-G-009, 2024 BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET - SERVICE PARTNERS**

The following individuals provided Deputations regarding motion 24-G-009, the 2024 Business Plan and Budget:

1. Trudee Romanek advised she was speaking in response to an amendment made at the January 24th City Council meeting to \$78,000 from the budget of the Barrie Public Library (BPL) Board.

Ms. Romanek discussed her history as a BPL patron for over 50 years, providing her with many treasured experiences at the library. She described her career as a book author of more than a dozen traditionally published fiction and nonfiction books for kids and young

adults, as well as a playwright that included plays that explore the City's past.

Ms. Romanek expressed the importance of the BPL and its collections to the community. She commented that the library allowed her to learn the real stories behind the rumors linking to Barrie's past truth to its present and future.

Ms. Romanek advised that recently she learned most of the local history section of the downtown library was donated to the Simcoe County Archives. She commented that the Archive is a wonderful facility responsible for the historical holdings of the entire County but is no longer accessible to all its citizens due to its location. She noted that staff at the library informed her that the collection was aging and that the irreplaceable materials had been donated due to the library's inability to properly store and adequately preserve them.

Ms. Romanek expressed the importance of maintaining a healthy library collection, which is a costly process that involves much more than renewing magazine subscriptions and purchasing some books; it requires maintaining and caring for existing holdings, as well as having knowledgeable staff about the collection, and so much more.

Ms. Romanek urged members of Council to approve the full original budget request.

Members of Council asked a number of questions to Ms. Romanek and received responses.

2. Victoria Scott asked that Council reconsider last week's amendment to the 2024 Business Plan and Budget, removing \$78,387 from the BPL budget, and approve its original request.

Ms. Scott discussed the BPL's budget presentation and subsequent discussions received at the January 24th General Committee related to reducing \$78,000, which would have ideally been put towards the BPL's collection.

Ms. Scott quoted comments made by members of the Council at the General Committee meeting related to disappointment that the BPL was reducing the material purchases budget being its core function. She noted that she shared this disappointment as a downtown resident and library patron but understood the library's urgent need to redirect funds towards a pilot project for social services downtown. She commented on BPL's long history as a safe space for self-study, learning, and socializing, however, they should not have to make the decision to fund public safety over public resources. Ms. Scott also commented on the discussions made in the media regarding Council agreeing that funding materials, programming, and other primary services were essential to properly serve Barrie residents and uphold the BPL's mandate.

Ms. Scott discussed the County of Simcoe coming forward to fund the social services position and will free up \$78,000 that should go back towards the BPL's core services. She expressed her disappointment that Council ignored the proposal to redirect this amount to collections, and instead voted to take the money out of the BPL's budget completely.

Ms. Scott further discussed the BPL's 12,000 new members from the last year looking to access library services, programming resources, and collections and the results from the BPL Economic Impact Report in 2018 that revealed that every dollar invested in the BPL generates a value benefit of \$4. She expressed that cutting \$78,000 from the library budget would rob a community of a value benefit of over \$312,000.

Ms. Scott concluded by expressing the importance of keeping the library collections current and the community strong in 2024 and she asked that Council support the BPL's full budget request.

24-A-015**DEPUTATION BY MICHAEL SPEERS REGARDING MOTION 24-G-010, 2024 BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET - BARRIE POLICE SERVICE**

Councillor, G. Harvey declared that to remain in compliance with his statutory obligations under Section 17(3) of the *Police Services Act*, he was unable to participate in the discussions or vote on the foregoing matter. He did not participate in the discussion or vote on the matter. He left the Council Chamber.

Michael Speers provided a deputation concerning the 2024 Budget and Business Plan related to the Barrie Police Service (BPS) Budget.

Mr. Speers expressed his belief that policing is archaic and inherently racist and is an institution used to protect property and the status quo. He commented that, in his opinion, the police have mistakenly become the default organization for solving society's issues and problems with a massive budget that squeezes dollars away from more worthy projects, services, resources, and agencies. He suggested that they should be defunded, and the money used to fund initiatives that will prevent crime.

Mr. Speers commented that the BPS's budget has increased by 45% in the past decade despite Barrie being ranked 250 in a recent list of Canada's most livable cities. He discussed past meetings regarding residents not feeling safe in the downtown area anymore. He questioned why increase policing if it is not making the city safer, and why we are giving the police so much money as it seems like it might not be working. Mr. Speers advised that he was advocating for a cut to the BPS's budget of 10%.

Mr. Speers discussed a study that found no correlation between police spending and crime rates in Ontario. He advised that the study was published in an academic journal called Canadian Public Policy, examining a

decade of data that found no association between increasing spending and reducing crime rates. He commented that it backs up previous studies, including a review by the Washington Post in 2020 examining spending in the US. State and local police over the past 60 years.

Mr. Speers asked that Council consider the community concerns over the cost of policing seriously, does the BPS's budget need more scrutiny at the board level, explore the role and function of police in our community, and whether police need to respond to overdoses or unhouse people in distress, or people experiencing mental health crises.

Mr. Speers concluded that the city budgets have starved the people of Barrie for far too long and that this must change financially and socially.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

24-A-016 General Committee Report dated January 17, 2024. (APPENDIX "A")

Moved by: Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson

Seconded by: Councillor, A. Courser

That the General Committee Report dated January 17, 2024, now circulated, be received.

24-G-006 CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION EXPLICITLY SUPPLIED IN CONFIDENCE TO THE MUNICIPALITY OR LOCAL BOARD BY CANADA, A PROVINCE OR TERRITORY OR A CROWN AGENCY OF ANY OF THEM

CARRIED

24-A-017 General Committee Report dated January 24, 2024, Sections A, B and C. (APPENDIX "B")

SECTION "A" - TO BE RECEIVED

Moved by: Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson

Seconded by: Councillor, A. Courser

That Section "A" of the General Committee Report dated January 24, 2024, now circulated, be received.

24-G-007 REPORT OF THE AFFORDABILITY COMMITTEE DATED JANUARY 17, 2024

CARRIED

SECTION "B" - TO BE ADOPTED

Moved by: Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson
Seconded by: Councillor, A. Courser

That Section "B" of the General Committee Report dated January 24, 2024, now circulated, be adopted.

24-G-008 FUNDING REQUESTS: EMERGENCY RETAINING WALL
RECONSTRUCTION AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

CARRIED

SECTION "C" - TO BE ADOPTED

Moved by: Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson
Seconded by: Councillor, A. Courser

That Section "C" of the General Committee Report dated January 24, 2024, now circulated, be adopted.

24-G-009 2024 BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET - SERVICE PARTNERS

AMENDMENT #1

Moved by: Councillor, A.M. Kungl
Seconded by: Councillor, A. Courser

That motion 24-G-009 of the General Committee Report dated January 24, 2024, be amended in paragraph 7 b) to have the Barrie Public Library Board present to the Community Safety Committee instead of the Finance and Responsible Governance Committee.

WITHDRAWN

Upon the question of adoption of the original motion, moved by Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson and seconded by Councillor, A. Courser, the motion was **CARRIED**. The recorded vote was taken as follows:

Yes: 11 - Councillor, C. Riepma
Councillor, C. Nixon
Councillor, A.M. Kungl
Councillor, A. Courser
Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson
Councillor, N. Nigussie
Councillor, G. Harvey
Councillor, J. Harris
Councillor, S. Morales

Councillor, B. Hamilton
Mayor, A. Nuttall

SECTION "D" - TO BE ADOPTED

Moved by: Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson
Seconded by: Councillor, A. Courser

That Section "D" of the General Committee Report dated January 24, 2024, now circulated, be adopted.

24-G-010

2024 BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET - BARRIE POLICE SERVICE

Councillor, G. Harvey declared that to remain in compliance with his statutory obligations under Section 17(3) of the *Police Services Act*, he was unable to participate in the discussions or vote on the foregoing matter. He did not participate in the discussion or vote on the matter. He left the Council Chamber.

AMENDMENT #1

Moved by: Councillor, A.M. Kungl
Seconded by: Councillor, A. Courser

That motion 24-G-010 of the General Committee Report dated January 24, 2024, be amended in paragraph 2 b) to have the Barrie Police Chief provide a presentation to the Finance and Responsible Governance Committee.

LOST

Upon the question of adoption of the original motion, moved by Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson and seconded by Councillor, A. Courser, the motion was **CARRIED.**

ENQUIRIES

Members of Council did not address any enquires to City staff.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members of Council provided announcements concerning a number of matters.

BY-LAWS

Moved by: Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson
Seconded by: Councillor, A. Courser

That leave be granted to introduce the following Bills and these Bills be read a first, second and third time this day and finally passed:

BY-LAW
2024-008**Bill #008**

A By-law of The Corporation of The City of Barrie to expropriate the lands described as Part of Lot 11, Concession 10, Innisfil, Being Part 5 On 51R-43576 and Part of PIN 58096-0244 (LT) and to repeal By-law 2023-083. (22-G-157) (Repeal of By-law 2023-083 - Expropriation - Huronia Road Improvements - Lockhart Road to South of McKay Road East, Project EN1255) (Ward 8 and 9) (File: L07-1206)

BY-LAW
2024-009**Bill #009**

A By-law of The Corporation of the City of Barrie to further amend By-law 2002-191 as amended, being a by-law to prescribe and authorize rates of speed within the City of Barrie. (24-A-008) (Amendment to Rate of Speed By-law 2002-191 - Replacing Set Time 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday Friday, September 1 to June 30)

BY-LAW
2024-010**Bill #010**

A By-law of The Corporation of the City of Barrie to exempt all of Block 152 on Plan 51M-1228, designated as Parts 1 to 6 (inclusive) on Plan 51R-44422, City of Barrie, County of Simcoe; being all of PINs: 58727-1242 (LT) from Part Lot Control imposed by Section 50(5) of *the Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.13. (12-G-190) (Part Lot Control Exemption By-law - 120 to 130 Greer Street, even numbers) (File D23-131-2023)

BY-LAW
2024-011**Bill #011**

A By-law of The Corporation of the City of Barrie to exempt all of Block 153 on Plan 51M-1228, designated as Parts 7 to 12 (inclusive) on Plan 51R-44422, City of Barrie, County of Simcoe; being all of PINs: 58727-1243 (LT) from Part Lot Control imposed by Section 50(5) of *the Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.13. (12-G-190) (Part Lot Control Exemption By-law - 132 to 142 Greer Street, even numbers) (File D23-132-2023)

BY-LAW
2024-012**Bill #012**

A By-law of The Corporation of the City of Barrie to exempt all of Block 154 on Plan 51M-1228, designated as Parts 13 to 19 (inclusive) on Plan 51R-44422, City of Barrie, County of Simcoe; being all of PINs: 58727-1244 (LT) from Part Lot Control imposed by Section 50(5) of *the Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.13. (12-G-190) (Part Lot Control Exemption By-law - 144 to 154 Greer Street, even numbers) (File D23-133-2023)

BY-LAW
2024-013**Bill #013**

A By-law of The Corporation of the City of Barrie to exempt all of Block 155 on Plan 51M-1228, designated as Parts 1 to 9 (inclusive) on Plan 51R-44421, City of Barrie, County of Simcoe; being all of PINs: 58727-1245 (LT) from Part Lot Control imposed by Section 50(5) of *the Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.13. (12-G-190) (Part Lot Control Exemption By-law - 141 to 155 Greer Street, odd numbers) (File D23-134-2023)

BY-LAW
2024-014**Bill #014**

A By-law of The Corporation of the City of Barrie to exempt all of Block 156 on Plan 51M-1228, designated as Parts 10 to 15 (inclusive) on Plan 51R-44421, City of Barrie, County of Simcoe; being all of PINs: 58727-1246 (LT) from Part Lot Control imposed by Section 50(5) of *the Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.13. (12-G-190) (Part Lot Control By-law - 129 to 139 Greer Street, odd numbers) (File D23-135-2023)

BY-LAW
2024-015**Bill #015**

A By-law of The Corporation of the City of Barrie to exempt all of Block 157 on Plan 51M-1228, designated as Parts 16 to 21 (inclusive) on Plan 51R-44421, City of Barrie, County of Simcoe; being all of PINs: 58727-1247 (LT) from Part Lot Control imposed by Section 50(5) of *the Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.13.. (12-G-190) (Part Lot Control Exemption By-law - 117 to 127 Greer Street, odd numbers) (File D23-136-2023)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**CONFIRMATION BY-LAW**

Moved by: Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson

Seconded by: Councillor, A. Courser

That leave be granted to introduce the following Bill and this Bill be read a first, second and third time this day and finally passed:

BY-LAW
2024-016**Bill #016**

A By-law of The Corporation of the City of Barrie to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 31st day of January, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Councillor, C. Riepma

Seconded by: Councillor, C. Nixon

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

CARRIED

Mayor, A. Nuttall

Wendy Cooke, City Clerk