



City of Barrie

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

Minutes - Final General Committee

Monday, January 18, 2021

7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

GENERAL COMMITTEE REPORT

For consideration by Barrie City Council on January 25, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lehman at 7:02 p.m on January 18, 2021. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 11 - Mayor, J. Lehman
Deputy Mayor, B. Ward
Councillor, C. Riepma
Councillor, K. Aylwin
Councillor, A. Kungl
Councillor, R. Thomson
Councillor, N. Harris
Councillor, G. Harvey
Councillor, J. Harris
Councillor, S. Morales
Councillor, M. McCann

STAFF:

Chief Administrative Officer, M. Prowse
City Clerk/Director of Legislative and Court Services, W. Cooke
Committee Support Clerk, T. McArthur
Deputy City Clerk, C. Swan
Director of Economic and Creative Development, S. Schlichter
Director of Corporate Facilities, R. Pews
Director of Infrastructure, B. Araniyasundaran
Director of Finance/Treasurer, C. Millar
Director of Human Resources, A.M. Langlois
Director of Information Technology, R. Nolan
Director of Internal Audit, S. MacGregor
Director of Legal Services, I. Peters
Director of Development Services, M. Banfield
Director of Recreation and Culture Services, R. Bell

Director of Operations, D. Friary
Director of Transit and Parking Strategy, B. Forsyth
Executive Director of Access Barrie, R. James-Reid
Fire Chief, C. Mainprize
General Manager of Community and Corporate Services, D. McAlpine
General Manager of Infrastructure and Growth Management, A. Miller
Manager of Corporate Asset Management, K. Oakley
Manager of Customer Service, M. Kovacs
Manager of Digital Transformation, R. Emerson
Manager of Legal Services, A. Mills
Manager of Parks and Forestry, K. Bradley.

Pursuant to the Procedural By-law 2019-100 the following actions and motions were taken:

At the General Committee meeting of January 18, 2021:

Mayor, J. Lehman left the Chair at 7:09 p.m. and Deputy Mayor, B. Ward assumed the Chair.

Mayor, J. Lehman reassumed the Chair at 7:59 p.m.

General Committee recessed from 9:09 p.m. to 9:21 p.m.

Pursuant to Section 2 (18) of Procedural By-law 2019-100, the Committee adopted a procedural motion in order to extend the meeting past 11:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight.

Mayor, J. Lehman left the Chair at 11:56 p.m. and Deputy Mayor, B. Ward assumed the Chair.

Mayor, J. Lehman reassumed the Chair at 11:58 p.m.

The meeting recessed at 11:59 p.m.

At the General Committee meeting of January 19, 2021:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lehman at 7:02 p.m.

Mayor, J. Lehman left the Chair at 7:15 p.m. and Deputy Mayor, B. Ward assumed the Chair.

Mayor, J. Lehman reassumed the Chair at 7:43 p.m.

General Committee recessed from 8:51 p.m. to 9:01 p.m.

Mayor, J. Lehman left the Chair at 10:38 p.m. and Deputy Mayor, B. Ward assumed the Chair.

Pursuant to Section 2(18) of Procedural By-law 2019-100, the Committee adopted a procedural motion at 10:57 p.m. in order to extend the meeting past 11:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight.

That pursuant to 16.2 of Procedural By-law 2019-100, the Committee adopted a procedural motion with a two-thirds majority to suspend the provisions of section 2(18) to allow for the continuation of the General Committee meeting past 12:00 midnight.

Mayor, J. Lehman reassumed the Chair at 12:40 a.m. on January 20, 2021.

The General Committee met and recommends adoption of the following recommendation(s):

SECTION "A"

21-G-005 2021 BUSINESS PLAN - BARRIE POLICE SERVICES BOARD

1. That the 2021 budget request from the Barrie Police Services Board presented on page 24 of the 2021 Business Plan, with a gross tax supported municipal funding requirement of \$57.3 million, be approved.
2. That as part of the 2020 year end process, that up to \$300,000 of the Safe Start funding be allocated to cover actual COVID-19 costs incurred by the Barrie Police Service. (EMT001-21) (File: F05)

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 left the virtual Council meeting.

Councillor N. Harris stated that that in consultation with the Integrity Commissioner regarding her Code obligations, including those that arise under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*. Although, Councillor, N. Harris did not have a pecuniary interest in the matter that required her to abstain from voting on this matter, in accordance with her obligations under the Council and Committee Code of Conduct and upon advice of the Integrity Commissioner, she did not participate or vote on the foregoing matter. She left the virtual Council meeting.

This matter was recommended (Section "A") to City Council for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 1/25/2021.

SECTION "B"**21-G-006 2021 BUSINESS PLAN**

1. That the 2021 tax-supported base operating budget for municipal operations, with total gross expenditures of \$370.5 million and a net property tax levy requirement of \$262.7 million, be approved subject to the following amendments to reflect changes since the 2021 Business Plan's publication on December 16, 2020:
 - a) That the one-time 2021 COVID-19 funding of \$1,322,000 be applied to the 2021 Operating Budget and service partner funding requests, and that the net levy be reduced by \$1,322,000;
 - b) That the reserve draws associated with the Growth Strategy be increased by \$250,000 from the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve and \$250,000 from the Reinvestment Reserve, and that the net levy be reduced by \$500,000;
 - c) That the contribution to the Fleet Reserve be decreased by \$450,000, and that the net levy be reduced by \$450,000;
 - d) That \$1,750,000 be drawn from the Reinvestment Reserve and the net levy be reduced by \$1,750,000;
 - e) That the 2021 Dedicated Infrastructure Renewal Fund contribution in the amount of \$2,500,000 be reduced to \$620,000, and that the net levy be reduced by \$1,880,000;
 - f) That the funding for the Ontario Big City Mayors (OCBM) support identified under New Investment and Service Recommendations on Form 559 (page 323) be removed, as support will be provided through OCBM separately and the net levy be reduced by \$30,678;
 - g) That funding in the amount of \$82,778 be allocated to Traffic Services for the Temporary Traffic Calming Program on Form 590 (page 329) under New Investment and Service Recommendations and that the net levy be increased by \$82,778;
 - h) That funding in the amount of \$73,000 be allocated to the following programs identified under New Investment and Service Recommendations and that the net levy be increased by \$73,000:

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- i) Urban Forestry Street Tree Planting Program including Contracted Tree Removals and Invasive Species Management on Form 584 (page 325) - \$53,000; and
 - ii) Waterfront and Meridian Place Urban Beautification on Form 587 (page 326) at \$20,000.
- i) That funding in the amount of \$79,100 be allocated to the following programs identified in New Investment and Service Recommendations and that the net levy be increased by \$79,100:
- i) Parks and Forestry on Form 588 (page 327) (excluding the salary recovery from capital projects of \$50,000) at \$65,500; and
 - ii) Proactive and Preventative Maintenance in Parks and Horticulture on Form 591 (page 330) at \$13,600.
- j) That the funding for the Security at Holly Recreation Centre identified under New Investment and Service Recommendations on Form 523 (page 284) be reduced from \$70,000 to \$35,000 and the net levy be reduced by \$35,000;
- k) That \$1,250,000 be drawn from the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve and the net levy be reduced by \$1,250,000; and
- l) That in alignment with corporate goals of 'creating safer streets', funding in the amount of \$30,000 to support the city-wide Student School Crossing Guard Program within the Temporary Traffic Calming Program identified under New Investment and Service Recommendations on Form 590 (page 329) and that the net levy be increased by \$30,000.
2. That the 2021 budget request from the Barrie Public Library Board presented on page 24 of the 2021 Business Plan, with a gross tax supported municipal funding requirement of \$9.2 million, be approved, with the following amendments to reflect changes since the 2021 Business Plan's publication on December 15, 2020:
- a) That the 2021 budget for the Barrie Public Library be reduced by \$127,131;
 - b) That the 2021 budget for the Barrie Public Library be further reduced by \$132,131 with a reduction to the net levy of \$132,131;
 - c) That staff in Corporate Facilities be authorized to negotiate a lease for the Holly Public Library Branch and report back to

General Committee;

- d) That all funding associated with the Holly Public Library Branch be withheld until a lease agreement is executed between the landlord and the City; and
 - e) That any unspent municipal funds allocated to support the new Holly Public Library Branch be returned to the City at year end 2021, whereby surplus dollars will be transferred to the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve.
3. That the 2021 budget request from the County of Simcoe, including contributions to the County of Simcoe Capital Reserve, presented on page 24 of the 2021 Business Plan, with a gross tax supported municipal funding requirement of \$23.6 million, be approved, with the following amendments to reflect changes since the 2021 Business Plan's publication on December 15, 2020:
- a) That the net levy requirement be increased by \$538,394 with an equivalent reduction in the draw from the County of Simcoe Capital Reserve.
4. That the 2021 tax supported base Operating Budget for the remainder of Barrie's Service Partners presented on page 24 of the 2021 Business Plan, with total gross expenditures of \$3.8 million, and a net property tax levy requirement of \$2.8 million, be approved.
5. That the New Investment and Service Recommendations as outlined on page 21 of the 2021 Business Plan with a net cost of \$2.6 million with reduced funding from sundry revenue of \$97,000 and additional funding from: tax \$352,000, water \$42,000, wastewater \$47,000, parking \$17,000, reserves \$2.1 million, and capital \$158,000, be approved.
6. That the Water base Operating Budget, with gross expenditures of \$29.1 million and revenues of \$29.1 million, be approved.
7. That the Wastewater base Operating Budget, with gross expenditures of \$37.4 million and a draw from the Wastewater Reserves of \$37.4 million be approved subject to the 2021 Wastewater rates be frozen at the 2020 levels and the contribution to the Wastewater Capital Reserve be reduced by the amount of the impact;
8. That the Parking Operations base budget, with gross expenditures of \$2.6 million and gross revenues of \$2.6 million, be approved.
9. That effective May 1, 2021, By-law 2020-009, as amended, be repealed, and replaced with a by-law incorporating the fees and charges presented in the 2021 Business Plan, with the following amendments:

- a) Section 3 of Schedule J be replaced with Section 3 of Schedule J in Appendix "D" to Staff Report EMT001-21 to include approved Parking Fee increases per paragraph 6 i) of motion 20-G-168 to be in force October 4, 2021, as per the Parking Strategy Staff Report TSP006-20 dated October 19, 2020.
10. That forecast information for 2022, 2023, and 2024 presented in the 2021 Business Plan be received for information.
11. That, consistent with the Capital Project Control Policy, the 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 Capital Budget relating to new capital spending requests of \$59.4 million, \$60.8 million, \$36.8 million, \$10.8 million, and \$2.5 million respectively be approved with the following amendments to reflect changes since the 2021 Business Plan's publication on December 15, 2020 and the 2021-2025 Capital Budget items not requiring spending approval, be received as forecast information:
- a) That project FC1138 - Fisher Auditorium Redevelopment (page 60 of the 2020 Capital Plan), be amended as follows: i) To add \$425,000 to demolish the structure to be funded by the Reinvestment Reserve (350340), in accordance with motion 20-G-227.
 - b) That project FC1084 - Barrie Fire Emergency Service Fire Station #6 New Building Development be added to the 2021 Capital Plan as per Appendix "E" to Staff Report EMT001-21 at a cost of \$5.425 million (total project cost of \$5.451 million less \$26,000 previously approved) to be funded from the Development Charge Protection Reserve (237060);
 - c) That the funding source of project 001035 - Collier Street Parkade Sprinkler Replacement Program be replaced with the Parking Capital Reserve (342010);
 - d) That the impact of any amendments in the Capital Project Status Staff Report FIN014-20 (motion 20-G-207) approved by Council on December 7, 2020 be incorporated into the final 2021 Capital Plan as appropriate;
 - e) That Capital Project EN1308 (page 119) - End of Life Pavement Replacement Program be amended as follows:
 - i) That funding for 2021 be increased from \$650,000 to \$1.175 million with \$25,000 being funded from the Tax Capital Reserve and the \$500,000 for construction being funded from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve to be allocated to roads which meet the criteria for the Program; and

- ii) That the funding forecasted for 2022 be increased from \$655,000 to \$1.18 million with \$25,000 for design to be funded from the Tax Capital Reserve and the \$500,000 for construction to be funded from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve, to be allocated to roads which meet the criteria for the Program.
 - f) That Capital Project FC1124 Operations Centre Master Plan Implementation (page 81) forecast be reduced by \$33.05 million (2025 \$10.5 million, 2026 \$11 million, and 2027 \$11.55 million) for the portion that is associated to the Salem Operations Yard design and construction with these costs being reconsidered by Council in a future budget year;
 - g) That Capital Project 000600 - Sadlon Centre Sound System Replacement in the amount of \$275,000 (page 71 of the Capital Plan) be deferred to 2022 to allow staff in the Recreation and Culture Services and Corporate Facilities Departments time to explore opportunities to fully or partially cover the costs through other means;
 - h) That a new Capital Project be created for the Lake Simcoe Regional Airport Runway Expansion with a 2021 budget of \$345,000 to be funded from the City's Airport Reserve;
 - i) That staff in the Infrastructure Department prepare a memorandum on the necessity of Capital Project EN1169 Lovers Creek New Bridge (page 143), including the watermain and possible alternatives before any further work is conducted; and
 - j) That should a community garden be approved, the Annual Parking Lot Improvement Program Capital Project EN1266 (page 227) include construction of a parking lot at Riverwood Park by the end of 2022.
12. That pursuant to Ontario Regulation 284/09, Staff Report EMT001-21 serve as the method for communicating the exclusion of the following estimated expenses from the 2021 Business Plan:
- a) Amortization expense - \$55.4 million;
 - b) Post-employment benefit expenses - \$1.6 million; and
 - c) Solid waste landfill closure and post-closure expenses - \$100,000.
13. That any Industrial Development Charge Discounts in 2021 be funded first from the \$200,000 allocated annually in the operating budget, followed by any year-end surplus, with any remaining

balance funded from the appropriate capital reserve.

14. That the Executive Management Team (EMT) be authorized to add temporary non-complement positions to the end of the budget year utilizing existing approved funds to deal with any unforeseen circumstances that impact delivery of City services.
15. That the Executive Management Team (EMT) be authorized to implement the economic adjustment for the Non-Union Group (NUG) of employees (including full time, part time and students), effective January 1, 2021.
16. That the impact of any amendments in the Business Plan Status Report EMT004-20 (motion 20-G-198) approved by Council on November 23, 2020 be incorporated into the final tax, water, wastewater, parking budgets or fees schedule as appropriate.
17. That staff be authorized to submit applications for grants that would reduce expenditures associated with projects, programs and services approved as part of the Operating and Capital Budgets.
18. That two of the following officers: either the Mayor, Clerk, Treasurer or their designates, be authorized to execute any agreements that may be required to accept grant funding from other levels of government or other partners, to reduce expenditures associated with programs, services, and/or capital projects.
19. That staff be authorized to submit applications for grants that would reduce future capital expenditures, fund service enhancements, or enable capital projects to be advanced, and a report or memorandum be presented, as appropriate, prior to the execution of any agreement associated with the acceptance of such grant.
20. That the Director of Finance and Treasurer or designate(s) be delegated the authority to negotiate and execute financing agreements including debt for up to \$3 million for the purpose of financing Capital Project RP1156 "Fleet Replacement Program".
21. That the Treasurer be authorized to make the necessary alterations to the transfer to and/or from reserves to reflect changes since the 2021 Business Plan's publication on December 15, 2020.
22. That the City Clerk be authorized to prepare all necessary by-laws to implement the above recommendations.
23. That staff in the Finance Department in consultation with the Infrastructure Department design a support program for low-income households and small businesses, similar to those in place at electric and gas companies in order to assist those in financial need with timing of bill payments and/or relief, considering the following parameters:

- a) Any bill relief being designed not to encourage additional consumption and not to exceed 40% of the total bill;
 - b) Limited in financial impact to no more than 2% to the Water and Wastewater Branches overall budget; and
 - c) Include similar eligibility criteria used as part of the RecAccess Program; and report back to the Finance and Corporate Services Committee by April, 2021.
24. That staff in the Finance Department in consultation with the Infrastructure Department identify the impacts of potential water bill payment deferral scenarios to assist households with the impacts of COVID-19 during 2021 and report back to the Finance and Corporate Services Committee at their February 2021 meeting.
25. That the 2022 Dedicated Infrastructure Renewal Fund (DIRF) contribution be reduced to 0.75% nor with a potential levy reduction of \$625,000 and that the DIRF return to a 1% contribution in 2023;
26. That to ensure the Council approved tax rate for a typical home is achieved, staff be authorized to fund any shortfalls in the approved net levy from the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve.
27. That staff in the Finance Department investigate the feasibility of separating out the tax levy amounts for the City, education and service partners/agencies and report back to General Committee.
28. That a Theatre Reserve be established in 2022 to be used for future theatre capital requirements with an annual contribution of \$2.5 million to be funded from the Reinvestment Reserve and that the balance of this Reserve be capped at \$15 million.
29. That staff in the Recreation and Culture Services and Economic and Creative Development Departments and in consultation with the Finance Department:
- a) Report back to General Committee on the establishment of a Community Grant Program, including an intake and evaluation process for community groups and not-for-profits to apply for projects and programs; and
 - b) That the Community Grant Program be funded from the Reinvestment Reserve with an annual upset limit of \$300,000.
30. That staff in the Finance Department prepare a report to the Finance and Corporate Services Committee concerning a plan to implement a small business tax subclass as proposed by the Province of Ontario, including consideration of financial impacts for both the benefitting businesses and all other tax classes.

31. That as part of the 2022 Business Planning Process, consideration be given to utilizing \$1 million from the Reinvestment Reserve and \$1 million from the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve to offset any potential increase in the tax levy for 2022.

32. That staff in the Finance Department:
 - a) Develop a series of scenarios that outline the fiscal impacts of accelerating planned debt issuance and the issuance of a modest amount of additional debt to take advantage of record low interest rates;

 - b) Identify projects in the existing 10-year Capital Plan/Forecast that are planned to be funded using the Tax Capital Reserve that could be accelerated or funded using this strategy;

 - c) Identify planned projects as well as potential new and unfunded projects that support Council's Strategic Priorities that could be accelerated using this strategy, specifically:
 - i) Economic development and job creation, such as servicing employment lands and the downtown west end;

 - ii) Affordable Housing funding, including projects in the County capital plan or funding our Community Improvement Plans; and

 - iii) Population health and social issues, focusing on low-cost proactive measures and projects to reduce calls to emergency services; and report back to the Finance and Corporate Services Committee by April, 2021. (EMT001-21) (File: F05)

This matter was recommended (Section "B") to City Council for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 1/25/2021.

SECTION "C"**21-G-007 MODULAR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROJECT - VESPRA STREET**

1. That a Capital Project be added to the 2021 Capital Plan entitled "Modular Supportive Housing Project - Vespra Street" with funding of \$3 million (inclusive of the \$500,000 estimated to be required for soil remediation) to be funded from debt, with the annual debt servicing costs to be paid from the Reinvestment Reserve and that the funding be leveraged to access other funding opportunities.
2. That staff in the Corporate Facilities, Development Services and Legal Services Departments in consultation with the County of Simcoe issue a call for proposals for a service provider to construct and manage the build and operate the housing units and that staff report back to the General Committee with the results of the proposals received. (EMT001-21) (File: F05)

This matter was recommended (Section "C") to City Council for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 1/25/2021.

ENQUIRIES

Members of General Committee did not address any enquires to City staff.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members of General Committee did not provide any announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 a.m. on January 20, 2021.

CHAIRMAN