



TO: GENERAL COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: 2023 BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET

PREPARED BY AND KEY CONTACT: A. CESCHIA, SUPERVISOR OF BUDGET
J. KUEHL, MANAGER OF BUSINESS PLANNING AND BUDGET
K. JYLHA, MANAGER OF TAX AND REVENUE
C. SMITH, SENIOR MANAGER OF ACCOUNTING AND REVENUE
C. GILLESPIE, SENIOR MANAGER OF CORPORATE FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

SUBMITTED BY: M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
B. ARANIYASUNDARAN, GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT
D. MCALPINE, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES
R. JAMES-REID, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – ACCESS BARRIE
I. PETERS, DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES
C. MILLAR, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND TREASURER

DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 2023

RECOMMENDED MOTION

Operating Budget Approvals

1. That the 2023 tax-supported base operating budget, with total gross expenditures of \$408.1 million and a net property tax levy requirement of \$283.1 million for City Services and Service Partners, be approved with the following amendments to reflect changes since the 2023 Business Plan's publication on January 18, 2023:
 - a) That \$35,000 be added to the 2023 budget for 2022 unspent funds allocated to the Market Precinct project, per Council Motion 22-G-026, to continue the business case development with funding from the Reinvestment Reserve; and
 - b) That 20 Fire Fighter complement positions be pre-approved as part of the 2023 budget to allow the recruitment process to begin in advance of 2024.

City Services

2. That the 2023 budget request for City Services, with a net tax supported municipal funding requirement of \$ 180.0 million (representing a 0.88 % tax rate increase for City services and a 1% increase associated with the Dedicated Infrastructure Renewal Fund), be approved.

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3. That the New Investment and Service Recommendations as outlined on page 22 of the 2023 Business Plan with a net cost of \$2.7 million (operating) and \$13 thousand (capital) and a net property tax levy requirement of \$1.3 million with additional funding of \$93 thousand from the water rate, \$162 thousand from the wastewater rate, \$45 thousand from the stormwater rate, \$548 thousand from capital projects, and \$494 thousand from reserves be approved.

Service Partners

4. That the 2023 budget request from the Barrie Police Services Board presented on page 25 of the 2023 Business Plan, with a net tax supported municipal funding requirement of \$63.2 million, be approved.
5. That the 2023 budget request from the Barrie Public Library Board presented on page 25 of the 2023 Business Plan, with a net tax supported municipal funding requirement of \$9.4 million, be approved.
6. That the 2023 budget request from the County of Simcoe, including contributions to the County of Simcoe Capital Reserve, presented on page 25 of the 2023 Business Plan, with a net tax supported municipal funding requirement of \$27.4 million, be approved.
7. That the 2023 budget request for the remainder of Barrie's Service Partners presented on page 25 of the 2023 Business Plan, with a net tax supported municipal funding requirement of \$3.0 million, be approved.

Rate Approvals

8. That the Water base Operating Budget, with gross expenditures of \$31.5 million and revenues of \$31.5 million, and the proposed 2023 Water Rates as outlined in Schedule "N" of the "Proposed Fee Changes" section of the 2023 Business Plan be approved.
9. That the Wastewater base Operating Budget, with gross expenditures of \$41.2 million and revenues of \$41.2 million, and the proposed 2023 Wastewater Rates as outlined in Schedule N of the "Proposed Fee Changes" section of the 2023 Business Plan be approved.
10. That the Stormwater base Operating Budget, with gross expenditures of \$11.5 million and revenues of \$11.5 million, and the proposed 2023 Stormwater Rates as outlined in New Fees Schedule "J" of the "Proposed Fee Changes" section of the 2023 Business Plan be approved.
11. That funding of the stormwater user charge for January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023, in the amount of \$2.625 million, be funded from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve.
12. That the Parking Operations base budget, with gross expenditures of \$2.4 million and gross revenues of \$2.4 million, and the proposed 2023 Parking Rates as outlined in Schedule "O" of the "Proposed Fee Changes" section of the 2023 Business Plan be approved.
13. That pursuant to Ontario Regulation 284/09, Staff Report EMT001-23 serve as the method for communicating the exclusion of the following estimated expenses from the 2023 Business Plan:
 - a) Amortization expense - \$63 million;
 - b) Post-employment benefit expenses - \$1.8 million; and
 - c) Solid waste landfill closure and post-closure expenses - \$500 thousand.

Capital Budget Approvals

14. That, consistent with the Capital Project Control Policy, the 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027 Capital Budget relating to new capital spending requests of \$78.4 million, \$88.8 million, \$75.5 million, \$17.4 million, and \$10.9 million respectively be approved with the following amendments to reflect changes since the 2023 Business Plan's publication on January 18, 2023, and the 2023 to 2027 Capital Budget items not requiring spending approval, be received as forecast information:
 - a) That the approved budget for RP1180 – Roads Operations New Fleet to Service Growth be increased by \$168,393 to be funded from DC Reserves;
 - b) That project FC1287 – Marina L Dock Repair and Replacement be added to the 2023 Capital Plan with a budget of \$525,000 to be funded from the Marina Reserve, and that the increased reserve draw be offset by returning \$525,000 of Marina Reserve funding from previously approved project FC1233 – Marina Welcome Centre New Building Development; and
 - c) That \$269,500 of previously approved budget from EN1140 – Play Court Construction and Rehabilitation and \$291,500 of previously approved budget from project EN1117 – Annual Playground Revitalization Program, in addition to \$696,500 of newly requested budget, be used to create a new capital project related to the FedDev Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF) grant for Ferndale Community Park, Eastview Community Park, and St Vincent Park, with total budget and funding as outlined in Appendix “C”;
 - i) That \$30,500 of previously approved budget from EN1140 – Play Court Construction and Rehabilitation funded from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve be returned.
15. That any Industrial Development Charge Discounts in 2023 be funded first from the \$200 thousand allocated annually in the operating budget, followed by any year-end surplus, with any remaining balance funded from the appropriate capital reserve.
16. That projects impacted by Bill 23 no longer be funded from Development Charges Reserves, but instead be funded from the Tax Capital, Water Capital and/or Wastewater Capital Reserves, as outlined in Appendix “G” to the Staff Report EMT001-23 regarding the 2023 Business Plan and Budget.

By-law update and forecasts received for information

17. That staff be authorized to implement the necessary by-law to establish the billing and collection of the Stormwater Climate Action Fund (stormwater) user charge as attached as Appendix “F” to the Staff Report EMT001-23 regarding the 2023 Business Plan and Budget.
18. That the Stormwater Climate Action Fund Program Policy and Stormwater Climate Action Fund Credit Policy attached as Appendices “D” and “E” to the Staff Report EMT001-23 regarding the 2023 Business Plan and Budget, be approved.
19. That effective April 1, 2023, By-law 2022-013, as amended, be repealed, and replaced with a by-law incorporating the fees and charges presented in the 2023 Business Plan.
20. That forecast information for 2024, 2025, and 2026 presented in the 2023 Business Plan be received for information.

Council and Staff authorization requests

21. 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.
22. 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, 2023.
23. 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 Budget.
24. That two of the following officers, either the Mayor, Clerk, Chief Financial Officer and 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.
25. 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 memo be presented, as appropriate, prior to the execution of any agreement associated with the acceptance of such grant.
26. That the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer be authorized to make the necessary alterations to the transfer to and/or from reserves to reflect changes since the 2023 Business Plan's publication on January 18, 2023.
27. That the City Clerk be authorized to prepare all necessary by-laws to implement the above recommendations.

PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

Report Overview

28. The purpose of this report is to recommend the Corporation's 2023 Business Plan and Budget. The guidelines and principles provided to Council on May 9, 2022, in the "2023 Business Plan and Budget" memorandum (provided in Appendix "A") were used by staff to create the 2023 Business Plan.
29. The 2023 Business Plan includes the creation of a Stormwater Climate Action Fund (SWCAF) rate. Past Council direction identified that the SWCAF be included in the 2023 budget (motion [22-G-018](#)).
30. The listing of Debenture Financing in Appendix "B" is intended to enhance transparency of approvals and make the debenture issuance process more efficient. The list contains debenture amounts for new budget requests and previously approved issuance amounts that are outstanding. Forecasted debenture amounts are excluded from the listing.

Background

31. On January 18, 2023, copies of the 2023 Business Plan/Capital Plan binders were distributed to members of Council. The same information was posted on the City's website (<https://www.barrie.ca/government-news/budget>). A presentation was also made at the General Committee meeting held on January 18, 2023, to provide an overview of the details contained

within the 2023 Business Plan/Capital Plan binders.

32. As the details related to the City's annual budget and business plan/capital plans are quite extensive, it would be challenging to address all of the aspects in a staff report. The budget binders are intended to provide the necessary level of detail to allow members of Council to make informed decisions on its business planning for the year, as well as capital project plans. Given the scope of the City's business activities, budget binders were distributed mid-January to allow for a fulsome review of the details.
33. The Executive Summary, Operating Budget and Financial Overview, and Capital Plan Overview provide details related to the services provided, proposed expenditures, and revenue sources. They also highlight significant drivers related to changes in the cost to maintain existing service levels, new investment and service recommendations, service partner requests, the City's financial condition, and Capital Program.
34. The focus of this staff report is to advise General Committee of any changes since the publication of the 2023 Business Plan/Capital Plan binders on January 18, 2023.

ANALYSIS

OPERATING BUDGET

35. The 2023 Business Plan reported a net tax levy requirement of \$280.0 million in 2023 for ongoing service delivery, excluding the Dedicated Infrastructure Renewal Funding. The net tax levy requirement, after adjusting for recommended amendments, is \$280.0 million reflecting a \$13.0 million increase over 2022 (2022 = \$267.0 million). The levy requirement incorporates the budgetary requirements of the City, the City's Service Partners, and the New Investment and Service Recommendations.
36. The 1.00% Dedicated Infrastructure Renewal Funding adds an additional \$3.1 million, bringing the total recommended 2023 Tax Levy to \$283.1 million.
37. Pre-approval for 20 Fire Fighter complement positions is being requested so that the recruitment process for these positions can begin late in 2023 in preparation for the 2024 opening of Fire Station #6. There is no budget impact in 2023, however, the pre-approval would result in a pressure on the 2024 tax levy of approximately 0.68% or \$2.1 million.

Tax levy increase for City Services only is 0.88%, rates follow Financial Plans

38. The tax-based budget as presented in the 2023 Business Plan binder includes a 0.88% tax rate increase for City Services to maintain existing service levels and new investments in services for 2023. In addition, the tax-based budget includes a 1.00% tax rate increase for the Dedicated Infrastructure Renewal Funding bringing the total increase to 1.88%.
39. The adjustment included as part of the recommended motion to address changes since the publication of the binders, if approved, would result in a \$35 thousand increase to the projected cost of 2023 programs and all recommended service level changes. This would result in no change to the City Services tax rate increase of 1.88% since the recommended amendment would be funded from the Reinvestment Reserve.
40. On February 14, 2022, Council Motion 22-G-026 provided seven points of direction to Staff related to the recommendations presented to Council by the Permanent Market Task Force that included the City retaining a contract position or a consultant with a budget of \$100 thousand funded from the Reinvestment Reserve to prepare a plan and recommend the prioritization and timelines

associated with the conversion of the transit terminal into a permanent market and the construction of a new building to house the Barrie Farmers' Market. A request for proposals (RFP) was developed and issued by Staff on September 16th, 2022. Given the project timing, \$35 thousand of the \$100 thousand was allocated to be spent in 2022, with the remaining \$65 thousand allocated in 2023. Given that there were no bidders for the issued RFP for the project, the \$35 thousand planned for 2022 will need to be added to the 2023 operating budget in order to complete the work via a new RFP.

41. The proposed water and wastewater rate-based budgets as presented in the 2023 Business Plan binder include a recommended annual rate increase of 3.7% and 5.0% respectively. For a typical household that consumes 180 cubic metres of water annually, the annualized increase in cost is \$13.75 for water, and \$26.54 for wastewater.

Tax levy increase for Service Partners is 2.07%

42. The tax-based budget as presented in the 2023 Business Plan binder includes a 2.07% tax rate increase for Service Partners to maintain existing service levels. When added to the City Services and DIRF increases the total increase is 3.95%.

Water and Wastewater Rates are in line with 2021 Financial Plan Update

43. The Water and Wastewater budgets were developed in line with the Water and Wastewater System Financial Plan 2021 update (21-G-140), and in accordance with directions provided by Council in Motion 21-G-163 (provided in Appendix "A"). The 2021 Financial Plan update estimated the need for increases of 4% for water and 5% for Wastewater in 2023. The 2023 Business Plan and Budget is in alignment with those rates, however, the timing of the rate increases is planned for May 1st, 2023 which results in annualized rate increases of 3.7% for water and 5.0% for wastewater.
44. For a typical home that consumes 180 cubic meters annually, the annualized cost of water and wastewater services in 2023 are estimated to be \$388 and \$559 respectively for a combined cost of \$947 (\$907 in 2022). This represents a 4.4% combined increase over 2022 levels of which \$13.75 relates to water, and \$26.54 relates to wastewater.
45. The contributions to Water and Wastewater Reserves to fund future renewal of capital reflected in the 2023 requested budget are \$8.2 million, and \$18.4 million, respectively.

Stormwater Rate to be initiated as part of 2023 Business Plan

46. The Stormwater Climate Action Fund (SWCAF) will support the City's Stormwater management program by supporting existing funding levels and taking into consideration the updated 2021 Stormwater Asset Management Plan.
47. The driver behind charging stormwater user fees is to have fees linked to stormwater runoff from impervious areas so that they are fair and equitable.
48. Currently, residential property owners are paying 75 per cent of the costs but residential properties comprise 54 per cent of the City's impervious areas. Conversely, non-residential properties are paying 25 per cent of the costs but comprise 46 per cent of the City's impervious area. The proposed rate will reflect a more fair and equitable balance of costs between the property types.
49. The planned stormwater user charge is being proposed to take effect April 1, 2023, and will account for \$7.875 million of the \$11.5 million 2023 stormwater user fee revenue as requested in the 2023 Business Plan and Budget. Staff are proposing that the first 3 months of the year be funded by the Federal Gas Tax Reserve to help offset the first-year implementation impacts to non-residential and residential properties.

50. The Detached Residential Unit (DRU) rate recommended for the 2023 year is as per the 2023 Budget and Business Plan. Any subsequent incremental increases to the billing units will be reviewed on an annual basis in accordance with the City's stormwater management needs and at the discretion of City Council. The stormwater user charge rate will be included in the City's 2023 Fees By-law.

Stormwater Corporate Policies and Procedures

51. Two policies noted below and attached as Appendices "D" and "E" respectively, and approved previously, have been updated with minor administrative changes in support of the stormwater charge:
- i. Stormwater Climate Action Fund Program Policy
 - ii. Stormwater Climate Action Fund Credit Policy

These policies outline how the stormwater billing units are calculated for each property type within the City of Barrie, including the scope of properties that are subject to the stormwater charge, the mechanism by which reviews may be requested, and how credits and rebates can be provided to eligible property owners to reduce or offset their stormwater charges. Council approved the Stormwater Climate Action Fund Program Policy and Credit Policy on February 14th, 2022, however, staff have updated with some administrative changes.

52. Exemptions

The Program Policy states that a stormwater charge will be applied to all properties that are serviced by the City's stormwater drainage system and are subject to municipal fees and charges. School Boards are the only property types automatically exempted from the charge as per Section 58 of the *Education Act*.

53. Staff reviewed the possibility of including additional exemptions or offering subsidies to specific properties; however, implementing any additional exemptions or subsidies would impact the fairness of the program and place the burden on other properties. Staff investigated what types of exemptions and subsidies other municipalities have implemented as part of their stormwater user charge programs and found that programs vary by municipality.

Municipality	Exemptions/Subsidies		
	Public School Boards	Places of Worship	Veteran Organizations
Aurora	Yes		
Vaughan	Yes	Yes	
Brampton	Yes	Yes (subsidy)	Yes (subsidy)
Orillia	Yes		
Guelph	Yes		
Kitchener		Yes (subsidy)	
London	Yes		
Markham	Yes		
Mississauga	Yes	Yes (subsidy)	Yes (subsidy)
Newmarket	Yes		
Ottawa	Yes		
Richmond Hill	Yes	Yes	
Waterloo	Yes		
Middlesex Centre	Yes		

*Note – while Kitchener has not formally exempted school boards, they do not pay the charge

54. Exemptions or subsidies that are given by municipalities are most commonly offered for places of worship and properties owned by veteran organizations such as the Royal Canadian Legion.

Parking Rate revenues have increased noticeable post-pandemic, but are less than expenditures

55. The 2023 Parking Operating Budget reflects the costs associated with the operations and maintenance of parking lots, parking structure and assets. The parking service is intended to be self-sustaining through user pay revenue. However, the previous operating model for the service has proven unable to generate sufficient revenue to meet the cost of annual operations on an ongoing basis.
56. An updated parking strategy was approved by Council in the fall of 2020 (20-G-168) and included rate increases that came into effect throughout 2021 as well as laying the foundation for a financially sustainable approach to parking going forward. However, the pandemic put pressure on parking revenues and has resulted in continued need for support from the Parking Reserve.
57. Parking Operations continues to generate an operating deficit requiring a draw from the Parking Reserve to balance the parking budget. For 2023, the draw from the reserve is expected to be \$644 thousand, however this is an improvement of \$776 thousand over the 2022 budgeted draw of \$1.4 million.

Ontario Regulation 284/09 - Expenses not included in the 2023 Business Plan

58. Previous reports to Council described reporting requirements for tangible capital asset accounting that came into effect for municipalities in 2010. Generally, the effect of these requirements is to increase the level and type of information presented in the City's financial statements about the stock, condition, and use of tangible capital assets to support municipal operations, and to disclose information using the "full accrual" method of accounting. This method recognizes expenses when they are incurred and revenues when they are earned, regardless of when the cash outlay occurs.
59. Prior to passing the 2023 budget, municipalities are required to disclose amounts that are expensed in their financial statements, but not included in budgeted figures. For the City of Barrie this includes three estimated expenses:
- Amortization expense - \$63 million;
 - Post-employment benefit expenses - \$1.8 million; and
 - Solid waste landfill closure and post-closure expenses - \$500 thousand.

CAPITAL BUDGET

5-Year plan from 2023 – 2027 forecasts \$1.15B in spending for growth and asset renewal

60. The 2023 Capital Budget is \$360.1 million, including \$89.1 million in previously approved funding, \$271.0 million in new funding requests, and \$12.8 thousand associated with New Investment and Service Recommendation Operating Budget requests. Details of the 2023 Capital Budget are found in the 2023 Capital Plan binder.
61. Consistent with the Capital Project Financial Control Policy, where the 2023 Capital Budget includes projects that will be completed over more than one reporting period, Council's approval of new projects in the 2023 Capital Budget would include approval of the funds required in 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027 to conduct the work, totaling \$271.0 million.
62. In addition to the portion of the 2023 Capital Budget that is recommended for approval, the 2023-2027 Capital Plan provides a forecast for capital spending over the next five years. The 2023-2027 Capital Plan includes \$1.15 billion in spending and was developed with a focus on

addressing the City's most critical asset renewal needs, areas currently experiencing service level deficiencies, and required investment to support the growth management process. It should be noted that despite the significant investment being made, many important projects were deferred. As aging assets fail, their ability to deliver service to the community will be impacted.

Additional budget required for existing projects

63. Through the 2022 capital plan project RP1180 – Roads Operations New Fleet to Service Growth was approved, with \$900,000 to purchase 3 additional Single Axle Snowplows. Procurement was recently completed, and the lowest compliant bid is over the approved budget of \$900,000, due to unforeseen price increases from inflation and supply chain issues. The staff estimate was \$300,000 per unit and the bid price came in at \$356,131 per unit. Staff have used the existing approved budget to order 2 of the 3 plows and are requesting the additional funds in order to secure the 3rd plow. Roads Operations needs the 3 additional plows to meet service level requirements.
64. The existing L dock at the Barrie Marina is original to the construction of the marina and is in poor condition. Project FC1287 – Marina L Dock Repair and Replacement was added to the city's 10-year capital forecast in 2021 at a value of \$400,000. It was subsequently deferred until 2024 based on funding availability.
 - a) In late 2022 the L-dock floatation system failed due to corrosion at and below the waterline, causing a portion of the dock to settle into the water. Staff have implemented remedial measures to re-float the dock and anticipate being able to maintain it in usable condition through the 2023 boating season but are not confident that these measures will last into the 2024 boating season. Furthermore, while replacement of the floatation system alone will no-doubt extend the useful life of the dock, its replacement requires the complete dismantling and reconstruction of the 90m (300') dock structure, a questionable endeavour for a 40-year-old water-based steel structure already suffering from significant corrosion. The complete replacement of the dock structure is therefore contemplated. Because the dock systems are engineered structures with a long lead time for delivery, the replacement dock must be designed and ordered in 2023 for installation to be completed prior to the start of the 2024 boating season.
 - b) Project FC1233 – Marina Welcome Centre New Building Development was entered into the city's capital forecast in 2016. This project replaces the marina amenity and utility service building, an inaccessible 50+ year old structure in poor condition that is well past its design lifespan. This project was deferred several times due to funding availability, and funding to proceed was approved by Council as part of the 2020 capital plan. Preliminary design work for the replacement structure was completed as the first part of the project, but due to construction market hyper-inflation, the approved construction budget is now insufficient to take the project to market and work on this project was paused.
 - c) While both projects are required, the loss of the L-dock, at which the largest and most expensive boats in the marina are moored, will have a direct financial, operational, and reputational impact on the City of Barrie Marina, and its replacement is therefore considered to be a higher priority. Staff request that FC1287 – Marina L Dock Repair and Replacement be included in the 2023 capital plan and that \$525,000 of the budget currently allocated to project FC1233 – Marina Welcome Centre New Building Development be used to fund this project. Staff will submit a revised Capital Intake Form for the construction of the Welcome Centre, to be considered as part of the city's 2024 Capital Planning process. It should be noted that the City of Barrie Marina is fully self-funded, and that all capital costs associated with the Barrie Marina are funded through the marina reserve. These projects have no impact on the city's tax base.
65. On January 23rd a news release from the Government of Canada highlighted \$1.4 million of

FedDev funding related to the Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF). \$750 thousand of this funding was already applied to FC1237 – Renewal of Landscaping – 60 Worsley Street per the grant agreement as part of the 2023 budget. The remaining \$682.5 thousand of CCRF funding for Ferndale Community Park, Eastview Community Park, and St. Vincent Park was not included in the 2023 budget, however there were some planned expenditures for these parks included in projects EN1140 – Play Court Construction and Rehabilitation and EN1117 – Annual Playground Revitalization Program. A new capital project related to these three parks is recommended, with existing budget totaling \$561 thousand from EN1140 and EN1117 to be transferred to the new project, as well as additional budget of \$696.5 thousand to be added, in order to complete the work related to the grant.

66. As a result of the new grant funding \$30.5 thousand of Federal Gas Tax Reserve funding from project EN1140 can be returned. This results in a total capital budget increase of \$666 thousand. The budget and funding of the new project as well as the changes to existing projects is shown in Appendix “C”.

Funding of Industrial DC Discounts are a fraction of the annual costs, which are around \$2.7M

67. The City’s 2019 DC-Bylaw 2019-055 includes providing Industrial Development Charge Discounts. As is required under the Development Charge Act, these Industrial Development Charge Discounts must be funded from alternative sources.
68. The 2023 Business Plan and Budget includes \$200 thousand in the base budget to fund such discounts. However, based on the last five years, the annual costs of such discounts have been over \$2.0 million. For 2022 the City must fund \$2.7 million of such discounts, with \$1.9 million relating to the Tax Rate, \$278 thousand relating to the Water Rate, and \$540 thousand relating to the Wastewater Rate.
69. The City’s Financial Policy Framework recommends any year end surplus be allocated to the City’s Capital Reserves to supported needed capital renewal works. Relying on funding of Industrial DC discounts through year end surpluses and Capital Reserves further reduces the City’s ability to completed needed renewal works.

Bill 23 impacts

70. Bill 23 received Royal Assent on November 28th, 2022, and affected a number of services eligible for development charges. Housing Services were removed from the DC charge and Administrative Studies will be removed when the next bylaw is passed.
71. The following table shows the impact of moving non-eligible projects from the development charges reserves to various non-DC reserves over the next 5 years:

Reserve Draw (due to Bill 23)	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2027-2032	Total
Tax Capital Reserve	(613,000)	(977,200)	(1,043,300)	(558,300)	(27,400)	(2,370,650)	(5,589,850)
WW Capital Reserve	(228,800)	(1,202,500)	(455,100)	(346,200)	(25,800)	(1,815,000)	(4,073,400)
Water Capital Reserve	(95,200)	(211,000)	(333,000)	(630,600)	(400,000)	(1,275,200)	(2,945,000)
Stormwater Capital Reserve	(5,000)	(100,000)	(52,000)	-	-	(815,000)	(972,000)
Simcoe County Capital Reserve	(494,250)	(609,125)	(761,158)	(912,773)	(912,773)	(4,296,192)	(7,986,270)
Totals	(1,436,250)	(3,099,825)	(2,644,558)	(2,447,873)	(1,365,973)	(10,572,042)	(21,566,520)

72. More details on the specific projects affected, as well as the reserve changes from DC to non-DC over the next ten years, are provided in Appendix “G”.

STAFF AUTHORITY REQUESTS

To be able to add positions due to Unforeseen Circumstances

73. To ensure delivery of City services and the 2023 Business Plan and Budget it is recommended that the Executive Management Team (EMT) have the authority to add temporary non complement positions to address unforeseen events, such as new service demands, project workload and staff absences.
74. As identified in the City's Human Resource Complement Management procedure, the following rules would apply to such temporary non complement positions:
- a) Funds must be available in the budget year to fund the position;
 - b) Length of term will not extend beyond that budget year;
 - c) Salary gaping targets must still be met for that budget year;
 - d) Appropriate approvals by way of Human Resources forms must be completed;
 - e) Any exceptions to the above will be reviewed by the Chief Administrative Officer in consultation with all members of EMT;
 - f) Departments will be required to prepare a memo for Council to outline the details of the position should the need to extend beyond the budget year as directed by EMT; and
 - g) The funding for these positions will not form part of the base operating budget unless approved by Council in the form of a motion.

To implement economic adjustments for Non-Union Group (NUG) Employees

75. The City is party to various collective agreements negotiated with its unionized workforce. Agreements with both of the major unions, the Barrie Professional Fire Fighters Association (BPFPA) and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), are in place for 2023. Budgeted labour costs reflect obligations set out in the BPFPA and CUPE agreements, and an economic adjustment for Non-Union Group (NUG) labour costs.

Budget Engagement Summary showed interest in maintaining spending in many areas

76. Access Barrie collaborated with Finance to educate and engage the public throughout the 2023 Business Plan and Budget process using the Budget Allocator Tool. The City solicited feedback through the tool via an engagement campaign between December 2, 2022 and January 6, 2023, through the City's online engagement platform BuildingBarrie.ca. The tool included a snapshot of 11 major service areas in the tax-rate operating budget that impact the daily lives of Barrie residents and businesses.
77. Residents were encouraged to choose how to spend their tax dollars and leave comments about their choices using the tool. The tool collects feedback, but it is not a statistically valid survey. The goal of the tool was to improve understanding of how tax dollars are spent and basic municipal budgeting processes, demonstrate value for money and get input from the public on key service areas.
78. To note, there was no limit to the number of times an individual could submit a response, and while there are some submissions that have the same IP address, the City nor the vendor administering the tool can confirm with accuracy if these instances are from multiple, different people in the same area (i.e. submitted in a public-access building, like a school or library) or a single individual.
79. In addition to the tool, staff executed a marketing campaign with the objectives of creating

awareness on how the City spends tax dollars, and encouraging residents to submit their feedback via the tool. The campaign tactics included, but were not limited to, a media release, radio ads, social media ads (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram), updates to Barrie.ca, an e-bulletin and print ads in This Week in Barrie.

80. As of January 7, 2023, City-originated social media posts and ads about the 2023 budget generated more than 947 thousand combined impressions, up noticeably from the 116 thousand combined impressions in the 2022 Budget.
81. As part of the educational campaign, staff also included the opportunity for Barrie homeowners to review a personalized 'taxpayer receipt' that provided an estimated breakdown of how their 2022 tax dollars were used to fund City and partner services.
82. The tool closed with a total of 763 submissions. On each service area, respondents could increase spending by 5%, maintain current spending, or decrease spending by 5%. A summary of results and comments is included in Appendix "H". The table below shows the results from the submissions:

Department	Maintain	Decrease 5%	Increase 5%
Development Services	46%	37%	15%
Economic & Creative Development	36%	40%	24%
Fire & Emergency Service	63%	26%	12%
Information Technology	52%	37%	11%
Libraries	33%	47%	20%
Parks & Forestry Operations	50%	24%	26%
Police	27%	50%	23%
Recreation & Culture Services	39%	38%	23%
Roads, Fleet and Technical Operations	47%	11%	42%
Solid Waste Operations	73%	15%	13%
Transit	42%	34%	24%

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT MATTERS

83. There are no environmental or climate change impact matters directly related to the recommendation. The 2023 Business Plans and Budgets reflect various initiatives and capital projects that support a more sustainable community, features that mitigate climate change risks, and measures that promote adaptation to climate change.

ALTERNATIVES

84. The following are alternatives available for consideration by General Committee:

Alternative #1

General Committee could reduce the tax levy increase related to City services from 0.88% to 0% by increasing the draw from the Reinvestment Reserve by \$2,698,265.

This alternative is not recommended as it increases the reliance on reserves by funding a larger portion of City operations from the Reinvestment Reserve and will create a tax levy pressure in future years when this subsidy is reduced. Currently the Reinvestment Reserve is funding \$2.1 million of City Operations via the Growth Strategy introduced in the 2020 budget, as well as the Council motion to utilize the reserve to reduce the tax levy in 2021 and 2022, with the draw being lowered, but not eliminated, in the 2023 budget.

Alternative #2

General Committee could reduce the tax levy increase related to City Services and Service Partners from 2.95% to 0% by increasing the draw from reserves by \$9,001,657. This alternative is not recommended as it increases the reliance on reserves by funding a larger portion of City operations from reserves and will create a tax levy pressure in future years when this subsidy is reduced. The Reinvestment Reserve does not have an adequate balance to fund the entire \$9 million required (see page 51 of 2023 Operating Budget binder for reserve continuity) and other reserves would need to be used as well. This would potentially impact funding available to cover unforeseen expenses, asset renewal, or other initiatives depending on the mix of reserves used to offset the tax increase.

Alternative #3:

General Committee could recommend approving the Stormwater Climate Action Fund Program rate with a subsidy program being applied to places of worship and Royal Canadian Legion ("Legion") properties.

This alternative is not recommended as these properties contribute stormwater to the City's stormwater infrastructure. Monthly stormwater fees from places of worship will amount to approximately \$10,600 per month and for the Legion, approximately \$300 per month at the recommended rate. The costs of subsidizing these properties would increase the amount all other properties pay and impact the overall fairness intended by the program.

Alternative #4:

General Committee could recommend not approving the Stormwater Climate Action Fund rate as proposed in the 2023 budget.

This approach is not recommended, as the projected total revenue from residential and non-residential properties between April 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, of \$7.875 million, plus the \$2.625 million of Federal Gas Tax, have been factored into the 2023 Budget. Any decrease to this rate will have an equal unfavourable impact on the 2023 tax rate.

As a 1% increase in tax rate is equivalent to \$3.05 million, adding the total annual Stormwater expense of \$10.5 million to the tax levy would result in an increase of 3.44%.

In addition, a fair, equitable and sustainable funding source is needed to maintain and improve the City's Stormwater Management Assets.

FINANCIAL

85. The financial impacts of the 2023 Business Plan are addressed in the analysis section of this report.

LINKAGE TO 2022-2026 COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

86. The recommendations in this staff report are aligned to each of the five priorities identified in the 2022-2026 Council Strategic Plan.
87. The approved annual business plan and budget reflects the real-world efforts to implement Council's strategic goals. The recommended motion provided in this staff report is an opportunity for Council to ensure the City's resources continue to be expended in a manner consistent with these goals.

APPENDIX "A"

2023 BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET MEMORANDUM

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with an update on the proposed 2023 Budget and Business Plan process, including timelines, principles and guidelines to be followed by staff, and updates on some identified pressures for the 2023 Budget.

Guidelines: Operating and Capital Budgets

Staff will be guided by the following items when building the operating and capital budgets:

- Staff will develop one budget year and three forecast years
- The budget will present the cost of maintaining current service levels and the annualization of prior period decisions
- The budget will include an estimate of assessment growth based on the value of newly assessed property throughout 2022
- Contributions to reserves will be consistent with the Financial Policies Framework
- User fees will be assessed to strive for reduced taxpayer subsidy and full cost recovery where appropriate
- The Water and Wastewater budgets will be prepared with rates that are sufficient to accommodate capital reserve contributions, such that they are in line with the findings from the 2021 Long-Range Financial Plan. The rates will be at a level that will meet the City's capital commitments, after considering operational needs.
- A Stormwater Climate Action fund was approved by Council (motion 22-G-018) to pay for the City's operating and capital stormwater infrastructure beginning in 2023. Past Council direction identifies that the Storm Water rate will be approved as part of the 2023 budget at existing service levels.
- Staff will develop an updated 10-year capital plan consisting of a 1-year budget, 4-year forecast, and 5-year outlook addressing both growth and renewal of infrastructure, with consideration to the maintenance of the City's AA credit rating and fiscal health
- Staff will first look to fund projects using external opportunities such as grants or development related funding wherever possible, and then the City's own reserves
- Capital projects are being budgeted with schedule and cost certainty

Principles: Guided by the Financial Policy Framework

Staff will prepare the annual Business Plan and Budget guided by the key principles included in the City's Financial Policy Framework including:

Principle	Meaning
Respect for the taxpayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Constant search for excellence and value with due regard to economy, efficiency and effectiveness.• A City that lives within its means with predictable tax levels
Maintain and enhance the City's financial condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sufficient revenues are raised to fund operations, while maintaining appropriate levels of reserves and debt• Credit ratings sustained and/or improved• "User pay" is an operating principle considered for all program areas• Identify new funding sources/financing methods• Maintain assets
Pursue innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuously find efficiency and quality improvements in the way we manage and deliver services

The 2023 Business Plan and Budget will continue to focus on implementing the growth framework and investment in renewing the City's current infrastructure to the greatest extent feasible given the status of reserve levels and inflationary pressures.

Timelines: 2023 Business Plan begins in May with final approval set for February 2023

Date	Activity
May - December 2022	Staff produce work plans; draft operating, capital, and rate budgets as well as proposed user fees; executive management review; public engagement; production of budget and business plan materials.
January 2023	2023 Business Plan presentation and binder distribution to Council
February 2023	Committee/Council review and approval

Budget Pressures: City faces a greater number of pressures this year, particularly from inflation

There are a number of pressures which the City currently faces, from both a macro- and a microeconomic lens. This section highlights the main contributors:

Inflation is at a 30-year high, which will flow through to contracts the City has with various vendors. Three large contracts which the City deals with are Transit, Winter Control and Waste Collection, which generally have provisions tying increases to inflation. The Capital project budgets will also feel pressured as the construction prices index has seen a double-digit increase in inflation.

Interest rates have increased by 75 basis points in the last few months and are forecast to increase by at least the same again before the year is out. This will impact the financing costs of any new debt that the City takes on, particularly compared to the recent City issuances.

As identified in the update to the City's Long Range Financial Plan (motion 21-G-258), the City's reserves are under pressure financing growth investments, asset management needs, and Council's strategic priorities. Staff will prepare the 2023 draft budget incorporating the approved Council recommendation with the Dedicated Infrastructure and Renewal Funding (DIRF) at 1 per cent.

Union negotiations are currently ongoing between the City and its unionized workforce. Salaries and benefits are a significant portion of the City's operating expenses.

Service Partners will be facing many of the pressures that the City is facing. It is too early to get accurate budget information from partners at this time, however it is expected that it will be a challenge for some Service Partners to meet lower than average rate increases. City staff will forward a letter to Service partners sharing this memo and identifying the City of Barrie approved budget tax increases over the last few years.

Summary

There are a number of internal and external pressures which will make this budget year more challenging than recently experienced. Given the information discussed earlier in this memo, staff will not be identifying a target percentage for the 2023 Budget at this time.

Staff are cognizant of the difficulties many in the community have faced in the last year and are working hard to ensure that the City maintains the services that it provides, whilst also staying within the affordability thresholds established in the City's Financial Policies Framework.



APPENDIX "B"

DEBENTURE LIST- PREVIOUSLY APPROVED DEBT

Project Title	Project ID	Previously approved debt Expected issuance: 2023	Previously approved debt Expected issuance: 2024-27	Previously approved debt Expected issuance: post 2027	Total
Sunnisdale: Letitia-Wellington Transmission Watermain	EN1013		\$ 172,000		\$ 172,000
Tiffin Street - Ferndale to Anne Street	EN1016		\$ 2,386,706		\$ 2,386,706
WwTF New Advanced Nutrient Removal	EN1091	\$ 3,910,488			\$ 3,910,488
Duckworth Street New Transmission Watermain and ROW Expansion - Bell Farm to St. Vincent	EN1166		\$ 7,459,164		\$ 7,459,164
Bunkers Creek Culverts and Watercourse Improvements - Innisfil to Lakeshore	EN1274		\$ 4,316,288		\$ 4,316,288
Bryne Drive New Road Construction - Harvie to North of Caplan	EN1277		\$ 4,948,872		\$ 4,948,872
Bryne Drive (North) New Road Construction - Harvie Rd to Essa Rd	EN1278			\$ 3,438,862	\$ 3,438,862
Anne Street - New 3N Booster Pump Station & 2N Booster Pump Station Reconstruction	EN1305			\$ 17,109,000	\$ 17,109,000
Anne Street Right of Way Expansion - Wellington to Edgehill (within CAH limits)	EN1322		\$ 3,415,020		\$ 3,415,020
Essa Road Right of Way Expansion - Bryne to Fairview	EN1392		\$ 6,907,790		\$ 6,907,790
Dunlop Street Bridge Sanitary - Sarjeant Drive to Anne Street	EN1469		\$ 5,465,300		\$ 5,465,300
Operations Centre Master Plan Implementation	FC1124		\$ 22,200,000		\$ 22,200,000
WWTF Innovation Center	FC1215		\$ 3,840,000		\$ 3,840,000
Operations Centre Master Plan - Land Purchase	FC1262	\$ 14,000,000			\$ 14,000,000
Supportive Housing Project	FC1264		\$ 3,000,000		\$ 3,000,000
Fleet Replacement Program	RP1156	\$ 5,191,000			\$ 5,191,000
Total		\$23,101,488	\$64,111,141	\$20,547,862	\$107,760,491



APPENDIX "C"

FEDDEV CCRF GRANT NEW PROJECT

Existing Projects				
Project	Funding Source	Approved Budget	Proposed Budget	Amendment
EN1140 - Portion of budget for Eastview, Ferndale	FGT	\$ 270,000	\$ -	\$ (270,000) *
	CIL Parkland	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ (30,000)
EN1117 - Portion of budget for St Vincent	CIL Parkland	\$ 291,500	\$ -	\$ (291,500)
Total Capital Plan Impact		\$ 591,500	\$ -	\$ (591,500)

New Project				
NEW Project - Eastview, Ferndale, St Vincent	Funding Source	Approved Budget	Proposed Budget	Amendment
Budget from EN1140	FGT	\$ -	\$ 239,500	\$ 239,500 *
Budget from EN1140	CIL Parkland	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Budget from EN1117	CIL Parkland	\$ -	\$ 291,500	\$ 291,500
New funding	Donation	\$ -	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000
New funding	CCRF	\$ -	\$ 682,500	\$ 682,500
Total Capital Plan Impact		\$ -	\$ 1,257,500	\$ 1,257,500

Net budget increase/request	\$ 666,000
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* \$30,500 in Federal Gas Tax (FGT) Reserve funding returned due to new CCRF grant and donation funding

APPENDIX "D"

STORMWATER CLIMATE ACTION FUND PROGRAM POLICY

1. POLICY STATEMENT

The Stormwater Climate Action Fund (SWCAF) Program policy outlines how the City will calculate the stormwater charge for each property to meet the objective of establishing a fair and dedicated funding mechanism to support expenditures related to the City's Stormwater Management Program.

The policy defines the scope of properties that are subject to stormwater charges, what the stormwater rate is, what a stormwater billing unit is, how properties have been categorized, and how the number of billing units will be assessed for properties in each category.

2. SCOPE

A stormwater charge will be applied to all properties within the City of Barrie, unless otherwise exempted from the charge.

This policy describes how charges are calculated but does not establish rates. Rates for stormwater charges are reviewed and approved by Council on an annual basis as part of the budget process. The approved rates will be listed in the City of Barrie Fees By-law.

3. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Stormwater Climate Action Fund is to establish a fair and dedicated funding mechanism to support the expenditures related to the City of Barrie's stormwater management activities.

The purpose of this policy is to outline:

- The basic steps in the calculation of stormwater charges for various property types
- Any applicable exemptions
- A Request for Review process

4. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this policy:

"Detached Residential Unit (DRU)" means a single family detached home or a detached residential property that contains just one dwelling unit. This unit has a defined impervious area which is used as the basis for the calculation of stormwater charges for other property types.

"Impervious Area" means the total area of paved or hard surfaces, building rooftops, compacted gravel, artificial turf, disturbed or compacted soil stripped off vegetation that is fit for driving a vehicle atop, and other surfaces on a property which are considered highly resistant to the absorption of water, increasing stormwater runoff.

"Mixed use Property" means a residential or a farm property that contains a combination of two or more types of residential, farm, industrial, commercial, or institutional uses.

"Multi-Residential Property" means a property with multiple residential units.

"Non-Residential Property" means a property either vacant or occupied that supports industrial, commercial, farm or institutional uses. A mixed-use property would also be considered a non-residential property for the stormwater user charge program.

“Residential Property” means a property that does not have an industrial, commercial, or institutional unit on the property and contains a residential unit. A multi-residential property would also be considered a residential property for the stormwater user charge program.

“Request for Review” means the process by which a property owner requests a review of their stormwater charge assessment.

“Stormwater Billing Units” means the number of billing units assigned to a property and is calculated by dividing the total impervious area of the property by the impervious area of one DRU.

“Stormwater Management” means the infrastructure or measures used, controlled, maintained or operated by the City to manage stormwater flow and drainage systems and all owned accessories, including but not limited to, storm sewers, catch basins, storm service connections, drains, pipes, outfalls, overland conveyance systems including road corridors, culverts, channels, ditches, swales, rivers, streams, creeks and watercourses, stormwater management facilities, including landscaping and low impact development features, storage ponds or underground tanks, and oil and grease treatment devices that control quantity or quality of stormwater runoff, pumping stations and all equipment laid within any highway or road allowance, City right-of-way or easement or City property used for the collection, transmission, detention and treatment of stormwater or uncontaminated water.

“Stormwater Rate” means the amount of money per billing unit charged over a prescribed period of time.

“Stormwater Bill” means the City’s stormwater charge as invoiced by the City of Barrie in the same manner as the City of Barrie’s water and wastewater utility charges and itemized on the same monthly or bi-monthly invoice.

5. ADMINISTRATION

This policy is administered jointly by the Finance Department and the Corporate Asset Management Department in the City’s Infrastructure & Growth Management Division. Detailed background information on the stormwater charge, including assessment methodology and rate calculations, may be found at:

<https://www.barrie.ca/government-news/budget/stormwater-climate-action-fund>

Billing and collection of stormwater charges are processed through the City of Barrie’s Water Wastewater Bill, administered by the City’s Finance Department.

6. STORMWATER CHARGE ASSESSMENT

6.1. CALCULATION OF STORMWATER CHARGE

The stormwater charge for each property is calculated by multiplying the number of Stormwater Billing Units assessed to a property by the effective Stormwater Rate.

Number of Stormwater Billing Units x Stormwater Rate = \$Stormwater Charge

6.2. PROPERTY CATEGORIES

Properties are categorized as either a residential or non-residential property using the City’s best available information, which includes, but is not limited to, classification by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), the City’s Planning and Building Department information, and remote sensing (e.g. GIS Aerial imagery).

6.3. ASSESSMENT OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS

A statistically significant sample of various residential property types (single residential units (small, medium and large), townhouses, apartments etc.) were measured, and the average impervious areas of each of these was used to derive the corresponding billing unit. The average impervious area for a Detached Residential Unit becomes the base billing unit with one stormwater billing unit assigned to

each Detached Residential Unit. Higher density residential property types are assigned fractional billing units since apartments, condominiums, and townhouses have a smaller impervious area footprint than single-family detached homes.

Land Use	Billing Units/Dwelling Unit
Residential Detached Unit	1.0
Residential Semi Detached	0.7
Residential Duplex	0.7
Residential Tri-plex	0.5
Residential Quad-plex	0.5
Residential Five-plex	0.5
Residential Six-plex	0.5
Residential Condominium	0.5
Residential Townhouse	0.5
Residential Multi-Residential (+7 units) with row housing	0.4
Residential Linked Home	0.7

Residential Stormwater Charge Examples

Land Use	Stormwater Billing Unit Calculations
Single-detached home	1.0
Duplex	0.7 x 2 units
Condo	0.5
Apartment building with 40 units	0.4 x 40 units

6.4. ASSESSMENT OF NON-RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

The total Impervious Area of Non-Residential Properties is individually assessed based on the best available aerial imagery. The number of Stormwater Billing Units assigned to Non-Residential Properties is calculated by dividing the total impervious area (m²) by the area of one Detached Residential Unit (DRU).

6.5. ASSESSMENT UPDATES

The City will update the assessment of properties' impervious area utilizing the best available information, including but not limited to aerial imagery every five (5) years. Stormwater Billing Units are based on the total and average impervious area (m²) on a property at the time of aerial image collection and statistical sampling. Any subsequent incremental increases to the Stormwater Rate will be reviewed on an annual basis in accordance with the City's stormwater management needs and at the discretion of the City Council as part of the annual budget process.

7. APPLICABLE EXEMPTIONS

- 7.1. A stormwater charge will be applied to all properties within the City of Barrie with the exception of School Boards which are exempted from the charge as per regulations in the Education Act as follows:

Education Act s.58 - Municipal charges 58 (1) Despite sections 9, 10 and 11 and Part XII of the Municipal Act, 2001 and sections 7 and 8 and Part IX of the City of Toronto Act, 2006 but subject

to subsection (3), a by-law imposing fees and charges passed under those provisions does not apply to a board. 2006, c. 32, Sched. C, s. 15 (2).

8. REQUEST FOR REVIEW

- 8.1. A Request for Review application can be submitted at any time to appeal the stormwater charge or credit calculation. City staff will analyze the Request for Review using the best available information, aerial imagery and/or onsite inspections. The rationale for the review decision will be explained in a notification letter sent to the applicant in response to their Request for Review.
- 8.2. The process of filing a Request for Review does not pause the requirement to pay any invoiced stormwater charges, and the applicant will continue to pay stormwater charges during review of the appeal.
- 8.3. In the case of a Request for Review, regardless of whether the updated assessment of a property results in a higher, lower or identical number of Stormwater Billing Units, the updated stormwater charge is considered final and effective as of the date the request for review was submitted. Any previous stormwater charges that were due before the appeal was submitted will not be impacted by the result of the Request for Review.

9. UPDATE OF POLICY

This policy, once passed by Council, may be amended by staff for the purpose of minor updates, clarifications, and further explanations. Stakeholders will be included in this process as required. If significant amendments are required, the changes will need to be approved by Council.

10. REFERENCES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Stormwater Climate Action Fund Credit Program Policy
- Stormwater Billing By-Law

APPENDIX "E"

STORMWATER CLIMATE ACTION FUND CREDIT POLICY

1. POLICY STATEMENT

The Stormwater Credit Program provides Non-Residential and Mixed-use Property owners or tenants the opportunity to receive a reduction to their stormwater charge for implementing and maintaining Stormwater Best Management Practices or stormwater controls on their property.

2. SCOPE

All properties defined as Non-Residential and Mixed-use and that receive a stormwater charge are eligible to participate in the Stormwater Credit Program.

For more information on the stormwater charge and stormwater charge assessment refer to Stormwater Climate Action Fund Policy.

3. PURPOSE

The purpose of Stormwater Credit Program is to encourage and recognize the implementation of on-site Stormwater Management by owners of Non-Residential and Mixed-use properties. Reducing the amount of stormwater runoff and pollutants that enter the municipal stormwater drainage system is a benefit to the City's Stormwater Management Program and health and safety of the community and natural environment.

The purpose of this document is to provide greater definition and clarity into Stormwater Credit program and outline general application procedure and eligibility criteria.

4. DEFINITIONS

"Applicant" means the owners of Non-residential and Mixed-Use properties, their agencies, tenant(s) and/or contractors applying for Stormwater Credit to gain approval for the reduction of the Property's annual Stormwater Charge.

"Detached Residential Unit (DRU)" means a single family detached home or a detached residential property that contains just one dwelling unit.

"Impervious Area" means the total area of paved surfaces, building rooftops and footprints, compacted gravel, artificial turf, compacted soil stripped off vegetation that is fit for driving a vehicle atop, and other surfaces on a property which are considered highly resistant to the infiltration of water.

"Low Impact Development (LID)" also known as "Green Infrastructure" means stormwater management practices that use or mimic natural processes that result in the infiltration, evapotranspiration, or on-site use of stormwater in order to protect water quality and associated aquatic habitat. Examples of LID includes but is not limited to rain gardens, bioswales, infiltration trenches, permeable pavement and rainwater harvesting.

"Mixed-use Property" means a residential or a farm property that contains a combination of two or more types of residential, farm, industrial, commercial, or institutional uses.

"Non-Residential Property" means a property either vacant or occupied that contains industrial, commercial, farm or institutional uses.

"Property owner" (also referred to as "Account holder") means any persons, firms or corporation that is the registered owner(s) of the property, their tenants, or any person in possession of the property.

"Stormwater Billing Unit" means the number of billing units assigned to a property by dividing the amount of its impervious area by the impervious area of one DRU. A single "Stormwater Billing Unit" is equivalent to the statistical average total Impervious Area of a Detached Residential Unit (DRU) in Barrie.

“Stormwater Credit Approval” means the document that outlines the terms and conditions of the approved credit application, amount of approved credit, and validation period.

“Stormwater Management Program” means the planning, design, construction, operations, maintenance, renewal of the municipal stormwater management and drainage system. The objective of the Program is to protect life, property, and infrastructure from the risk of flooding and to improve the quality of the water that runs off urban areas into the City’s stormwater drainage system and/or Lake Simcoe.

“Stormwater Management” means the infrastructure or measures used, controlled, maintained or operated by the City to manage stormwater flow and drainage systems and all owned accessories, including but not limited to, storm sewers, catch basins, storm service connections, drains, pipes, outfalls, overland conveyance systems, including road corridors, culverts, channels, ditches, swales, rivers, streams, creeks, ravines and watercourses, stormwater management facilities, including landscaping and low impact development features, storage ponds or underground tanks, and oil and grease treatment devices that control quantity or quality of stormwater runoff, pumping stations and all equipment laid within any highway or road allowance, City right-of-way or easement or City property used for the collection, transmission, detention and treatment of stormwater or uncontaminated water.

“Stormwater Management Practices (BMPs)” means devices, practices, or methods that are used to manage stormwater runoff by controlling peak runoff rate, improving water quality, and managing runoff volume. It can be used as a synonym for Low Impact Development.

5. ADMINISTRATION

This policy is administered jointly by the Finance Department and the Corporate Asset Management Department in the City’s Infrastructure & Growth Management Division. Detailed background information on the stormwater credit program, including eligibility, and the application process may be found at:

<https://www.barrie.ca/government-news/budget/stormwater-climate-action-fund>

6. STORMWATER CREDIT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

The Stormwater Credit Program has been designed to provide a stormwater charge reduction to owners of Non-Residential and Mixed-Use Properties whose stormwater practices or measures provide a direct benefit to the City’s Stormwater Management Program. To be eligible for a Credit, the property must have been assigned a minimum of 1 Stormwater Billing Unit and there must not be any outstanding municipal fees against the property. Participation in the credit program is by application only.

The process of submitting a credit application shall not relieve the property owner to pay any outstanding non-credited stormwater charges, and the property owners shall continue to pay stormwater charges during review of the credit application.

The applicant cannot transfer credit eligibility from the property to another property owned by the applicant. Similarly, the credit eligibility of a property does not transfer from the applicant to the new owner of the property, without a separate credit application approved for the new owner of the property.

7. STORMWATER CREDIT PROGRAM

The Stormwater Credit Program has been designed to provide a stormwater charge reduction to owners of Non-Residential and Mixed-Use Properties whose stormwater practices or measures provide a direct benefit to the City’s Stormwater Management Program.

There are three categories and related credit amounts that represent the objectives of the City’s Stormwater Management Program. The maximum applicable credit amounts in each category are depicted in Table 1 below. The following are descriptions and examples of each category.

7.1. WATER QUALITY TREATMENT

Water quality treatment includes infrastructures to actively or passively remove suspended solids and other contaminants from urban stormwater runoff. Examples of eligible water quality treatment infrastructures include stormwater ponds, manufactured treatment devices (e.g., oil and grit separator devices) and Low Impact Development works ("green infrastructure") that provide at least basic pre-treatment.

7.2. PEAK FLOW REDUCTION

Peak flow reduction refers to the reduction of post development peak flow rates to predevelopment levels for various return period storms. This lessens the potential and severity of potential flooding impacts on downstream lands. Examples of related infrastructure include stormwater detention basins, stormwater ponds and underground chamber systems.

7.3. RUNOFF VOLUME REDUCTION

Runoff volume reduction includes infrastructures to promote the reduction of urban stormwater runoff volumes conveyed to the City's stormwater system. Examples of related infrastructure include Low Impact Development works ("green infrastructure") and rainwater harvesting systems.

Table 1

Category	Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Credit
Water Quality Treatment	Meets MECP levels of protection	20%
Peak Flow Reduction	Percent reduction of post-development peak discharge rates to pre-development hydrologic conditions of the site for various return period storms	15%
Runoff Volume Reduction	The volume of the retained runoff from the Impervious Capture Area of the site either per single rainfall event or annually (as part of an average annual water budget analysis)	30%
Total cumulative credit		50%

Table 1 Maximum credit amount in each category

8. APPLICATION PROCESS

An application package must consist of a completed application form and supporting documentation. All supporting documents must be prepared and/or approved by a Professional Engineer. Full list of required supporting documents, typical terms and conditions of approval, maintenance and reporting requirements, inspections and audits, are outlined in Stormwater Credit Application Manual.

8.1.1. APPLICATION FEE

No fee is required to submit a credit application. However, the applicant is solely responsible for costs incurred in the preparation of the required documents.

9. PENALTIES

The City reserves the right to conduct site inspections to review eligibility and may suspend, reduce or cancel credits if the stormwater practices or measures on the property no longer meet the performance criteria as documented in the Stormwater Credit Application Manual.

A property owner may be subject to penalties, as specified in the Stormwater Climate Action Fund Billing By-law or by the terms and conditions of their approved stormwater credit, if a stormwater management practice or measure is found to be in a state of disrepair or no longer functioning as approved in the credit application.

10. REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Applicants who want to appeal the decision made on their credit application including the approved credit amount may do so in writing through the Request for Review process outlined in Stormwater Climate Action Fund Policy. The decisions made by the City of Barrie will be final.

11. UPDATE OF POLICY

This policy, once passed by Council may be amended by staff for the purpose of minor updates, clarifications, and further explanations. Stakeholders will be included in this process as required. If significant amendments are required, the changes will need to be approved by council.

12. REFERENCES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

- MECP Stormwater Management Planning and Design Manual
- City of Barrie's Storm Drainage and Stormwater Management Policies and Design Guidelines
- Stormwater Climate Action Fund Policy
- Stormwater Climate Action Fund Billing By-Law
- Stormwater Credit Application Manual

APPENDIX "F"



Bill No. XXX

BY-LAW NUMBER 2023-XXXX

A By-law of The Corporation of the City of Barrie to authorize the billing and collection of a stormwater charge for the City of Barrie.

WHEREAS sections 8, 9 and 11 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, authorize a municipality to pass by-laws necessary or desirable for municipal purposes, and in particular paragraph 3 of subsection 11(2) authorizes by-laws respecting the financial management of the municipality;

AND WHEREAS subsection 107(1) of the Municipal Act, 2001 provides that a municipality may make grants, on such terms as to security and otherwise as the council considers appropriate, to any person, group or body, including a fund, within or outside the boundaries of the municipality for any purpose that council considers to be in the interests of the municipality;

AND WHEREAS subsection 391(1) of the Municipal Act, 2001 provides that sections 9 and 11 of that Act authorize a municipality to impose fees or charges on any class of persons for services or activities provided or done by or on behalf of the municipality and for the use of the municipality's property, including property under its control;

AND WHEREAS subsection 391(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001 provides that a fee or charge imposed for capital costs related to services or activities may be imposed on persons not receiving an immediate benefit from the services or activities but who will receive a benefit at some later point in time;

AND WHEREAS subsection 391(3) of the Municipal Act, 2001 provides that the costs included in a fee or charge may include costs incurred by the municipality or local board related to administration, enforcement and the establishment, acquisition and replacement of capital assets;

AND WHEREAS subsection 391(4) of the Municipal Act, 2001 provides that a fee or charge may be imposed whether or not it is mandatory for the municipality or local board imposing the fee or charge to provide or do the service or activity, pay the costs or allow the use of its property;

AND WHEREAS subsection 391(5) of the Municipal Act, 2001 provides that, in the event of a conflict between a fee or charge by-law and the Municipal Act, 2001, or any other act or regulation made under any other act, the by-law prevails;

AND WHEREAS The Corporation of the City of Barrie (the "City") has constructed, and is operating and maintaining a stormwater drainage system for the benefit of residents and business property owners in the City;

AND WHEREAS it is deemed just that the cost of operating, maintaining and upgrading the stormwater management system is paid for by those who benefit from this system;

AND WHEREAS fees and charges can only be imposed for capital costs that are not precluded by section 2 of Ontario Regulation 584/06, which provides that a fee or charge cannot be used to obtain revenue to pay capital costs, if as a result of development charges by-laws or front-ending agreements under the Development Charges Act, 1997 or a predecessor of that Act that was passed or entered into before the imposition of the fees or charges, payments have been, will be or could be made to the municipality to pay those costs;

AND WHEREAS the City desires to maintain a dedicated funding option for the long-term enhancement and operation of its existing stormwater management system through effective and efficient capital construction, operation and maintenance programs;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the City of Barrie desires to implement a credit program as an incentive for certain property owners to provide on-site stormwater management measures and to recognize existing properties with stormwater management measures already in place;

AND WHEREAS section 436 of the Municipal Act, 2001 provides that a municipality may pass by-laws providing that the municipality may enter on land at any reasonable time for the purpose of carrying out inspections to determine compliance with its by-laws, directions, orders and conditions of licenses;

AND WHEREAS the creation of a separate stormwater charge to fund the City's stormwater management program will bring transparency to the actual costs of providing and maintaining the stormwater management system within the City;

AND WHEREAS in establishing the storm water charge structure in the by-law, Council has had regard to differentiating between non-residential and residential properties based upon the actual impervious areas of each non-residential property;

AND WHEREAS effective April 1, 2023, the Council desires to impose a stormwater charge on all properties

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the City of Barrie ENACTS as follows:

DEFINITIONS

1.0 For the purpose of this By-law:

- a) "Applicant" means the owners of non-residential and mixed-use properties, their agencies, tenant(s) and/or contractors applying for Stormwater Credit to gain approval for the reduction of the Property's annual Stormwater Charge.
- b) "City" shall mean The Corporation of the City of Barrie and its employees.
- c) "CFO" shall mean the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer and/or their designate.
- d) "condominium" shall mean all residential or non-residential properties with more than one unit and each unit may be separately owned.
- e) "contractor" shall mean a person, partnership, or corporation who contracts to undertake the execution of work authorized by the owner or the City to install or maintain watermains, service watermains, sewer laterals, meters, remote reading devices, services, hydrants and other appurtenances.
- f) "Council" shall mean the Council of The Corporation of the City of Barrie.
- g) "Credit Program" means the City's credit program as an incentive to reduce Stormwater Charges for certain property owners to provide on-site stormwater

management measures and to recognize existing properties with stormwater management measures already in place.

- h) "customer" shall include all persons, properties, and entities serviced by and/or benefitting from the services provided by the City's stormwater management system. These services include, but are not necessarily limited to, administration, management, maintenance, expansion, and improvement of the stormwater management system for the handling and disposal of stormwater runoff from private and public properties, and the regulation of the public and private stormwater management system, controls, facilities, and activities.
- i) "Detached Residential Unit (DRU)" means a single family detached home or a detached residential property that contains just one dwelling unit.
- j) "General Manager of IGM" shall mean the General Manager of Infrastructure and Growth Management and/or their designate.
- k) "impervious area" means the total area of paved surfaces, building rooftops and footprints, compacted gravel, artificial turf, compacted soil stripped off vegetation that is fit for driving a vehicle atop, and other surfaces on a property which are considered highly resistant to the infiltration of water.
- l) "Material Change" means an alteration, improvement, deficiency, or failure that impacts how the facility operates and that was not either expressly anticipated and addressed by the parties in the credit application process or that cannot be taken as having been in their contemplation; and results in a property no longer being in substantial compliance with the objectives of the credit program, or the level of approved Stormwater Charge Credit. Material changes include but are not limited to actions taken by the property owner, a lack of action on the property owner's behalf and/or external factors unrelated to the property owner.
- m) "mixed-use property" means a property that contains a combination of two or more types of residential, farm, industrial, commercial, or institutional uses.
- n) "non-residential property" means a property that is either vacant or occupied that contains industrial, commercial, farm or institutional uses.
- o) "occupant" shall include any lessee, tenant, inmate, owner, the agent of a lessee, tenant or owner, or any person in possession of a property.
- p) "property" includes both public and private lands, buildings, and structures, located in the City and which may be entitled to a Stormwater service.
- q) "property owner" shall include any and all persons or any firm or corporation that is the registered owner(s) of the property under consideration or any agent thereof, a person entitled to a limited estate in land, a trustee in whom land is vested, a committee of the estate of a mentally incompetent person, an executor, an administrator or a guardian.
- r) "Request for Review" means the process by which a property owner request a review of their Stormwater Charge assessment.
- s) "residential property" means any property that that does not contains industrial, commercial or institutional uses.
- t) "stormwater" means rainwater and melted snow that travel over Impervious Areas and discharges into the City's Stormwater Management System or other concentrated flow during and following the precipitation.
- u) "stormwater account" means the City of Barrie customer account to which water, wastewater and stormwater or stormwater only charges are invoiced.
- v) "Stormwater Billing Unit" means the number of billing units assigned to a property by dividing the amount of its impervious area by the impervious area of one DRU. A single "Stormwater Billing Unit" is equivalent to the statistical average total impervious area

found on a Detached Residential Unit (DRU) in the City.

- w) "Stormwater Charge" means the City's stormwater charges imposed pursuant to Section 391 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.
- x) "Stormwater Charge Credit", means a Stormwater Charge reduction granted to a property owner through an approved Credit Application.
- y) "Stormwater Credit Approval" means the document that outlines the terms and conditions of the approved credit application, amount of approved credit, any pollutant and runoff reduction calculation and validation period.
- z) "stormwater drainage system" means the physical infrastructure that is designed as a system to manage stormwater flow.
- aa) "stormwater management" means the infrastructure used, controlled, maintained or operated by the City to manage stormwater flow and drainage systems and all appurtenances thereto owned, and includes, but is not limited to, storm sewers, catch basins, storm service connections, drains, pipes, outfalls, overland conveyance systems including road corridors, culverts, channels, ditches, swales, rivers, streams, creeks, ravines and watercourses, stormwater management facilities including landscaping and low impact development features, storage ponds or underground tanks, and oil and grease treatment devices that control quantity or quality of stormwater runoff, pumping stations, and all equipment laid within any highway or road allowance, City right-of-way or easement or City property used for the collection, transmission, detention and treatment of stormwater or uncontaminated water.
- bb) "Stormwater Best Management Practices or BMPs" means devices, practices, or methods that are used to manage stormwater runoff by controlling peak runoff rate, improving water quality, and managing runoff volume.
- cc) "Stormwater Only Bill" means the Stormwater Charge where water and wastewater services are not provided.

2.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 For the purpose of this By-Law the General Manager of Infrastructure and Growth Management or designate is responsible for:

- a) The general operation, management and supervision of the stormwater management system owned by the City;
- b) The enforcement of the provisions of this By-law other than those dealing with the billing and collection of stormwater related charges;
- c) The management of the stormwater credit program; and
- d) The performance of other duties as may from time to time be given to them by the Council.

2.2 For the purpose of this By-law the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer or designate is responsible for:

- a) The operation, management and supervision of the billing and collection of stormwater related charges;
- b) The enforcement of the provisions of this By-law relating to the billing and collection of stormwater related charges;
- c) Assisting Engineering with the administration of the billing exemption program; and
- d) The performance of such other duties as may from time to time be given to them by the Council.

3 SCOPE

- a) A Stormwater Charge shall be imposed upon all properties in the City, other than those which

are specifically exempt, which is based on the amount of impervious area and property types.

- b) The CFO shall be responsible for the administration of this By-law and shall prescribe all forms necessary to implement this By-law, and may amend such forms from time to time as the CFO deems necessary.
- c) Council hereby establishes the Stormwater Charges as set out in the 2023 Business Plan with respect to 2023 charges and as per the annual Fees By-law thereafter.

4.0 RULES AND REGULATIONS

4.1 The rules and regulations set out in this By-law shall govern and regulate the billing and collection of stormwater related charges.

4.2 Every residential, non-residential, and mixed-use owner shall be deemed to have expressed their consent to be bound by the said rules and regulations.

5.0 STORMWATER FEE BILLING

5.1 A Stormwater Charge shall be imposed upon all properties in the City, which is based on the amount of impervious area and property types.

5.2 The Stormwater Charge will be added as a line item on water/wastewater bills. If a property does not receive a water/wastewater bill, a stormwater only charge will be billed to the owner of the property.

5.3 An owner or occupant or their agent who purchases a property shall notify the City in writing, in a timely manner so a new water/wastewater (where applicable) and/or stormwater billing account can be created.

5.4 All ownership and occupancy changes shall be subject to a new account fee in the amount specified in the Fees By-law. The new account fee shall not be applied to a builder's accounts unless the property is occupied by the builder.

5.5 Every property owner or occupant in the City with impervious area shall pay stormwater charges based on the amount of impervious area and property types using the charge structure outlined in Schedule A with the stormwater charges specified in the City of Barrie Fees By-law, unless the owner meets the criteria for the stormwater billing exemption as defined in this by-law. The stormwater charges for 2023 are listed in Schedule A, but for future years the stormwater charges will be specified in the City of Barrie Fees By-law.

5.6 All Residential Stormwater charges will be calculated using the average impervious area for a given residential property type and billed on a bi-monthly basis.

5.7 All Non-residential and Mixed-Use Stormwater charges will be calculated based on their measured Impervious Area and billed monthly.

5.8 If a billing calculation error is made, the account will be retroactively recalculated for a period not exceeding one year from the date of detection with resulting credits or charges being applied to the account.

5.9 If stormwater charges are added or require adjustment as a result of the provisions of this by-law not being met, the charges may be adjusted retroactively to the date at which it is determined, in the opinion of the CFO or designate, that the provisions were violated and the decision of the CFO or designate shall be final.

5.10 If water/wastewater and stormwater charges apply to only one party in a property, and the owner requests that the occupant be billed directly, the City will do so as a convenience to the owner under all of the following conditions:

- a) The owner assumes full responsibility for all charges applied to the account for the provision of stormwater services, in the event that the occupant fails to pay; and
- b) An Owner/Tenant agreement form be completed, signed by the owner and returned to the

City in a timely manner.

- 5.11 If it is identified in a signed lease agreement that the owner is responsible for the water/wastewater and stormwater charges, not the occupant, the water/wastewater/stormwater account for that property will be reinstated into the owner's name.
- 5.12 Upon reasonable notice to the owner, the City may at any time and for any reason, discontinue billing the occupant and bill the owner directly for the water/wastewater and stormwater charges of the occupant.
- 5.13 If the water is supplied to more than one tenant or unit through a single meter, the account for the water/wastewater and stormwater charges shall be billed to the owner of the property.
- 5.14 The Stormwater Charge for non-residential properties with multiple water meters and occupants shall be billed to the owner of the property.
- 5.15 All fees charged under this by-law, following the Municipal Act 2001 Section 398 (2), are considered a lien on the property. Stormwater arrears will be transferred to the appropriate property tax account, following the City's policies and practices.

6.0 FINAL BILLING

- 6.1 An owner or agent may request a water certificate, which will identify the water, wastewater and stormwater charges outstanding against the property, if any, and a holdback amount required for future or final bills. The owner or agent must pay the appropriate water certificate fee as specified in the Fees By-law.
- 6.2 If the final billing of the previous owner or occupant remains outstanding, such charges are a lien on the property. The amount shall be transferred to the property tax account along with the appropriate transfer fee as specified in the Fees By-law, in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Act, 2001, and the City's policies and procedures.

7.0 CREDITS

- 7.1 The Credit Program provides property owners of Mixed-Use and Non-Residential property with the opportunity to receive a reduction to their Stormwater Charge for implementing and maintaining stormwater management practices or measures on their property.
- 7.2 Property owners of Mixed-Use and Non-Residential property may qualify for Stormwater Charge credits where such property owners can clearly demonstrate to the City that their stormwater management practices or measures provide the City with cost savings that the City would otherwise incur as part of its efforts to manage stormwater. Qualifying criteria of the Credit Program are outlined in Schedule "B" hereto.
- 7.3 Participation in the Credit Program is by application only. Property owners of Mixed-Use and Non-Residential properties must submit a Stormwater Charge credit application in a form approved by the City for qualification and consideration of a Stormwater Charge credit. Stormwater Charge credit applications will be reviewed by, and approved credit amounts will be determined by the Water and Wastewater Planning area of Corporate Asset Management.
- 7.4 Reductions to Stormwater Charges made as a result of the approval of a Stormwater Charge credit application shall take effect in accordance with the following schedule:
 - a) Credit applications received within the first year of Credit Program (2023): Reductions that result from applications which were received on or before December 31, 2023 will be retroactive up to date of first billing (i.e. April 1st, 2023) or the date on which the qualified stormwater management practices or measures were implemented into service, as determined by the Water and Wastewater Planning, whichever is later; and
 - b) Credit applications from January 1, 2024 onward: Reductions that result from applications which were received on or after January 1, 2024 will be retroactive up to the date of receipt of the application or the date on which the qualified stormwater management practices or

measures were implemented into service, as determined by Water and Wastewater Planning, whichever is later.

- 7.5** Stormwater Charge credits do not apply to any property, or any portions of a property, that is exempt from the imposition of Stormwater Charges.
- 7.6** Any stormwater management facility located off-site, within the municipal right of way, or within a permanent easement that is either assumed or will be assumed and maintained by the City, shall not be eligible for a credit.
- 7.7** To be eligible for a credit, the property must have been assigned a minimum of one Stormwater Billing Unit and there must not be any outstanding and unpaid Stormwater fees against the property.
- 7.8** The process of submitting a credit application shall not relieve the property owner to pay any outstanding non-credited stormwater charges, and the property owners shall continue to pay stormwater charges during review of the credit application.
- 7.9** Stormwater Charge credits shall be in effect for a period of up to five (5) years or as otherwise specified at the time of credit approval. Credits will expire if not renewed prior to the expiration date of the credit approval.
- 7.10** A credit update application must be submitted to the City no later than three (3) months after any Material Change to the approved credit. Any late submission of the application may result in a discontinuance of the current credit amount. The City may adjust (increase or decrease) the current credit amount.
- 7.11** A credit renewal application must be submitted to the City no later than six (6) months prior to the expiration date of the credit approval. Any late submission of the application may result in a discontinuance of the current credit amount. The City may adjust (increase or decrease) the current credit amount.
- 7.12** Only stormwater management facilities that serve the property described on the Stormwater Credit Approval shall be credited toward that property's bill. The applicant cannot transfer credit eligibility from the property to another property owned by the applicant. Similarly, the credit eligibility of a property does not transfer from the applicant to a new owner of the property, without a separate credit application approved for the new owner of the property.
- 7.13** Notwithstanding any other sections of this bylaw, the City reserves the right to conduct site inspections and may, at any reasonable time and upon reasonable notice to the Property Owner, enter and inspect any property where a credit has been applied and/or granted to review eligibility or determine, at the City's sole discretion, whether the approved stormwater management practices or measures on the property meet the performance criteria as documented in the stormwater credit application or credit update or renewal application and/or its supporting documentation and/or the terms and conditions of the Stormwater Credit Approval document. A stormwater credit may be suspended, or decreased or cancelled by the City under the following circumstances:

 - a) Failure of an applicable Property Owner to make stormwater charge payments as invoiced by the City of Barrie;
 - b) Failure of an applicable Property Owner to meet the terms and conditions of the Credit Approval document;
 - c) Submission of inaccurate or false information by the Applicant;
 - d) Failure of the Applicant to maintain a stormwater management practice or measure as required by the terms and conditions of the Credit Approval document;
 - e) Failure of a stormwater management practice or measure to operate or meet the performance criteria as documented in the Applicant's stormwater credit application or credit update or renewal application and/or its supporting documentation and/or the terms and conditions for Stormwater Credit Approval document;
 - f) Failure to submit a complete stormwater credit update or renewal application within the

required timeframe

- 7.14** Applicant may appeal an adjustment or cancellation of a stormwater credit through the Request for Review process outlined in section 11.0 herein.
- 7.15** Where a credit has been suspended by the City pursuant to section 14 herein, the Property Owner shall be given sixty (60) calendar days to bring the property into compliance with the application upon which the credit was approved. Should the property be brought into compliance to the City's satisfaction within this period, the credit shall be reinstated, otherwise the credit shall be cancelled by the City.
- 7.16** Where the City determines, in the City's sole discretion, that a stormwater management practice or measure is in a state of disrepair or no longer functions as approved, the applicant shall reimburse to the City the entire amount of the credit received in respect of the property since the date that the application was approved, updated or renewed or since the last inspection by the City, whichever is later. If the credit has been cancelled, the Applicant may not re-apply for a credit for a period of twelve (12) months and maybe banned from applying for a longer period in severe cases.

8.0 EXEMPTIONS

- 8.1** Exemptions from the Stormwater Charge apply only to properties outlined in Section 58 of the Education Act.

9.0 COLLECTIONS

- 9.1** Payments are due on the date indicated on the water bills and will be 35 days following the billing date.
- 9.2** Payments by mail will be processed as of the date the payment is received at City Hall.
- 9.3** Partial payments received on accounts shall be applied to penalties and interest first, and then water, wastewater and stormwater charges, and any remaining amount will be applied to miscellaneous water charges and adjustments.
- 9.4** A service charge shall be applied in accordance with the Fees By-law, if a payment is dishonoured by the bank for any reason.
- 9.5** All unpaid fees and charges that are in arrears will be charged a penalty at a rate of 1.25% per month, following the City's procedures and policies.
- 9.6** All fees and charges relating to the supply of stormwater services or for any other expenses, fees or charges provided for in this by-law, shall be paid by the owner or occupant of the property.
- 9.7** If the fees and charges are not paid by the owner or occupant, the City will transfer the unpaid fees and charges to the appropriate property tax account as described in Section 9.8, in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Act, 2001, The applicable transfer fees will be added at the time of the transfer, as specified in the Fees By-Law.
- 9.8** If the fees and charges remain unpaid on an owner's active water, wastewater, or stormwater account:
- a) the City will issue a reminder notice at least 21 days following the due date; and
 - b) if the arrears continue to remain unpaid, the arrears will be transferred to the appropriate property tax account, no sooner than 21 days after the issuance of the reminder notice, following the City's policies and procedures.
- 9.9** If the fees and charges remain unpaid on an occupant's active water, wastewater and stormwater account, the City will follow the collection's process outlined in Section 12.9 of By-law 2016-115.
- 9.10** If the fees and charges remain unpaid on either an owner's or occupant's inactive (closed) water wastewater or stormwater account, after the final stormwater bill is due and no sooner than 35 days following the issuance of the final bill
- a) the City will issue a reminder notice at least 7 days following the due date; and

-
- b) if the total amount owing remains outstanding, then the total amount outstanding, including the applicable transfer fees, will be transferred to the appropriate property tax account, no sooner than 14 days after the issuance of the reminder notice, following the City's policies and procedures.

10.0 RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROPERTY OWNER

- 10.1 It is the responsibility of the property owner to ensure stormwater charges, including any late payment charges, are paid upon receipt of the bill.

11.0 REQUEST FOR REVIEW

- 11.1 A Request for Review application can be submitted at any time to review the stormwater charge assessment or credit calculation. City staff will review the property assessment based on the best available information or aerial imagery. The rationale for the review decision will be explained in a notification letter sent to the applicant in response to their Request for Review.
- 11.2 An account holder who wishes to commence an appeal under this bylaw shall submit the complete request for review application within thirty (30) calendar days after receiving the bill to which the appeal relates.
- 11.3 Upon the receipt of an incomplete request for review application, the City may require further information or documents from the account holder prior to consideration of the appeal.
- 11.4 Upon receipt of a complete request for review application, the City shall, within the applicable time specified below after receiving the appeal notice, review the appeal and provide a written decision to address the appeal the foregoing applicable time shall be as follows:
 - a) Within the first year after this bylaw comes into force: ninety (90) calendar days; and
 - b) After the first year after this bylaw comes into force: thirty (30) calendar days.
- 11.5 The process of filing an appeal does not pause the requirement to pay any invoiced stormwater charges, and the applicant will continue to pay stormwater charges during review of the appeal.
- 11.6 In the case of a Request for Review, regardless of whether the updated assessment of a property results in a higher, lower or identical number of Stormwater Billing Units, the updated assessment and applicable fees and charges is considered final and effective from the date of the request.
- 11.7 Adjustments that result from Request for Reviews will be retroactive to the date of receipt of the Request for Review Application (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) above, any Adjustment as a result of a credit update application under section 11 will be retroactive to the date of the subject Material Change as determined by the City. Where the change results in an increased credit, the additional amount will be retroactive up to a maximum period of six (6) months. A stormwater charge may be revised in either of the following instances:
 - a) An update to the MPAC data that affect the number of assigned billing units; or
 - b) Inaccurate number of dwelling units; or
 - c) Billing error; or
 - d) Inaccurate measurement of impervious areas for non-residential properties; or
 - e) Credit update and/or renewal.
- 11.8 The following characteristics of a property do not fall into the assessment scope and any request for review application arising out of such grounds will be rejected:
 - a) Soil types
 - b) The ratio of hard surface area to total property area
 - c) Proximity to creeks, rivers or ditches
 - d) Presence of private stormwater measures such as downspout disconnection or
 - e) The use of any stormwater treatment methods on a residential property.

12.0 PROHIBITIONS

- 12.1** No person shall willfully hinder or interrupt, or cause or procure to be hindered or interrupted, the City or any of its officers, contractors, agents, servants or workers, in the exercise of any of the power conferred by this By-Law.
- 12.2** No person shall willfully or maliciously tamper with or damage stormwater service, equipment or any appurtenances belonging to the City,
- 12.3** No person shall willfully let off or discharge stormwater into the sewer system through downspout and sump pump/foundation drain connections to the sanitary sewer system.
- 12.4** No person shall throw or deposit any injurious or offensive matter into the stormwater drainage system or commit any willful damage or injury to the works, pipes, or encourage the same to be done.

13.0 ENFORCEMENT

- 13.1** The Director of Environmental Services may at all reasonable times, enter and inspect a property to determine whether there is any unlawful use of stormwater system and to provide for the enforcement of this by-law.
- 13.2** Every person who willfully or maliciously damages or causes damage to any stormwater management system, equipment or any appurtenances belonging to the City or willfully impairs or knowingly suffers the same to be altered or impaired, , is guilty of an offence and on conviction, is liable to a fine payable to the City, and for any expenses of repairing or replacing stormwater management equipment or any appurtenances all of which is recoverable under the Provincial Offences Act.

14.0 PENALTY

- 14.1** Every person who contravenes any of the provisions of any section of this by-law and every Director or Officer of a Corporation who knowingly concurs in the contravention of a By-law by the Corporation is guilty of an offence under the provisions of the Municipal Act, 2001 s. 429
- 14.2** For the purpose of continuous offences, every person who contravenes any provision of this By-law and every Director or Officer of a Corporation who knowingly concurs in the contravention of a By-law by the Corporation is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a penalty not exceeding \$10,000, exclusive of costs under the provisions of the Municipal Act, 2001, s 429 (3) as amended. Despite paragraph 1, the total of all daily fines for the offence is not limited to \$100,000.
- 14.3** For the purpose of multiple offences, every person who contravenes any provision of this By-law and every Director or Officer of a Corporation who knowingly concurs in the contravention of a By-law by the Corporation is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a penalty not exceeding \$10,000, exclusive of costs under the provisions of the Municipal Act, 2001, s. 429 (3) as amended. Despite paragraph 1, the total of all daily fines for the offence is not limited to \$100,000.

15.0 THAT this By-law shall come into force and have effect on XXXXX.

READ a first and second time this XX day of XXXXX, 2023.

READ a third time and finally passed this XX day of XXXXX, 2023.

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF BARRIE

MAYOR – ALEX NUTTALL

CITY CLERK – WENDY COOKE

APPENDIX “G”

BILL 23 IMPACTS

As a result of changes in the legislation, Bill 23 Social Housing and many studies that the City performs will no longer be development charges eligible.

The following three tables show:

- changes in reserve draws from DC to non-DC
- change in the draw by project
- impact to each of the affected non-dc reserves

Changes in reserve draws (new reserve that was previously paid by development charges):

Project	Original DC Draw	Reserve Draw (due to Bill 23)
000121 - The Gables Park Master Plan Update	Development Charge Reserve	Tax Capital Reserve
000461 - SWTP Optimization	Development Charge Reserve	Water Capital Reserve
000937 - Transit Studies	Development Charge Reserve	Tax Capital Reserve
000961 - Road Safety Assessment - Secondary Planning Areas	Development Charge Reserve	Tax Capital Reserve
001137 - Infrastructure Master Plans Update	Development Charge Reserve	Tax Capital Reserve
001137 - Infrastructure Master Plans Update	Development Charge Reserve	WW Capital Reserve
001137 - Infrastructure Master Plans Update	Development Charge Reserve	Water Capital Reserve
001137 - Infrastructure Master Plans Update	Development Charge Reserve	Stormwater Capital Reserve
EN1431 - WwTF 96 MLD Expansion Program, Comprehensive Site Strategy Plan & ESR	Development Charge Reserve	WW Capital Reserve
EN1465 - Wastewater Inflow/Infiltration Reduction Action Plan	Development Charge Reserve	WW Capital Reserve
EN1470 - Asset Management Plan Updates - Regulatory Compliance and Program Advancement	Development Charge Reserve	Tax Capital Reserve
EN1506 - Infrastructure Master Plans 2051	Development Charge Reserve	Tax Capital Reserve
EN1506 - Infrastructure Master Plans 2051	Development Charge Reserve	WW Capital Reserve
EN1506 - Infrastructure Master Plans 2051	Development Charge Reserve	Water Capital Reserve
EN1506 - Infrastructure Master Plans 2051	Development Charge Reserve	Stormwater Capital Reserve
FC1276 - Facility Condition Assessment Program	Development Charge Reserve	Tax Capital Reserve
FC1276 - Facility Condition Assessment Program	Development Charge Reserve	Tax Capital Reserve
FI1020 - County of Simcoe Capital Program - Social Housing & Community Services	Development Charge Reserve	Simcoe County Capital Reserve
FI1029 - DC, CBC and CIL of Parkland By-Laws	Development Charge Reserve	Tax Capital Reserve



Change in the draw by project:

Project	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	post 2027	Total
000121 - The Gables Park Master Plan Update						(93,750)	(93,750)
000461 - SWTP Optimization			(46,800)	(417,000)	(400,000)	(370,200)	(1,234,000)
000937 - Transit Studies		(250,000)	(250,000)	-	-	(250,000)	(750,000)
Planning Areas	(127,500)	(127,500)				-	(255,000)
001137 - Infrastructure Master Plans Update						(1,869,000)	(1,869,000)
001137 - Infrastructure Master Plans Update						(1,686,000)	(1,686,000)
001137 - Infrastructure Master Plans Update						(905,000)	(905,000)
001137 - Infrastructure Master Plans Update						(815,000)	(815,000)
EN1431 - WwTF 96 MLD Expansion Program, Comprehensive Site Strategy Plan & ESR		(800,000)				-	(800,000)
EN1465 - Wastewater Inflow/Infiltration Reduction Action Plan	(86,000)	(86,000)	(25,800)	(25,800)	(25,800)	(129,000)	(378,400)
Regulatory Compliance and Program	(10,000)	(34,700)	(40,300)	(24,300)	(27,400)	(157,900)	(294,600)
EN1506 - Infrastructure Master Plans 2051	(238,000)	(527,500)	(715,500)	(534,000)			(2,015,000)
EN1506 - Infrastructure Master Plans 2051	(142,800)	(316,500)	(429,300)	(320,400)		-	(1,209,000)
EN1506 - Infrastructure Master Plans 2051	(95,200)	(211,000)	(286,200)	(213,600)		-	(806,000)
EN1506 - Infrastructure Master Plans 2051	(5,000)	(100,000)	(52,000)			-	(157,000)
FC1276 - Facility Condition Assessment Program	(18,750)	(18,750)	(18,750)			-	(56,250)
FC1276 - Facility Condition Assessment Program	(18,750)	(18,750)	(18,750)			-	(56,250)
Social Housing & Community Services	(494,250)	(609,125)	(761,158)	(912,773)	(912,773)	(4,296,192)	(7,986,270)
FI1029 - DC, CBC and CIL of Parkland By-Laws	(200,000)						(200,000)
	(1,436,250)	(3,099,825)	(2,644,558)	(2,447,873)	(1,365,973)	(10,572,042)	(21,566,520)

Impact to each of the affected non-dc reserves:

Reserve Draw (due to Bill 23)	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2027-2032	Total
Tax Capital Reserve	(613,000)	(977,200)	(1,043,300)	(558,300)	(27,400)	(2,370,650)	(5,589,850)
WW Capital Reserve	(228,800)	(1,202,500)	(455,100)	(346,200)	(25,800)	(1,815,000)	(4,073,400)
Water Capital Reserve	(95,200)	(211,000)	(333,000)	(630,600)	(400,000)	(1,275,200)	(2,945,000)
Stormwater Capital Reserve	(5,000)	(100,000)	(52,000)	-	-	(815,000)	(972,000)
Simcoe County Capital Reserve	(494,250)	(609,125)	(761,158)	(912,773)	(912,773)	(4,296,192)	(7,986,270)
Totals	(1,436,250)	(3,099,825)	(2,644,558)	(2,447,873)	(1,365,973)	(10,572,042)	(21,566,520)

APPENDIX "H"

BUDGET ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Overall, the tool collected 763 submissions between the campaign period, December 2, 2022 to January 6, 2023.

Full comments provided below. Comments may have been edited for spelling, grammar or clarity. Note, comments that violate the City's [Social Media Policy](#) have been removed.

The following table provides a high-level overview of the respondent's thoughts on the funding for the following sections

Department	Maintain	Decrease 5%	Increase 5%
Development Services	46%	37%	15%
Economic & Creative Development	36%	40%	24%
Fire & Emergency Service	63%	26%	12%
Information Technology	52%	37%	11%
Libraries	33%	47%	20%
Parks & Forestry Operations	50%	24%	26%
Police	27%	50%	23%
Recreation & Culture Services	39%	38%	23%
Roads, Fleet and Technical Operations	47%	11%	42%
Solid Waste Operations	73%	15%	13%
Transit	42%	34%	24%

General Comments

In addition to allowing users to comment on specific service areas, respondents could also leave a general comment through the question: *Do you have any other general feedback you would like to share as part of the budget engagement?*

Community safety is important.
Increase services.
Defund the police and invest in our community to support people. Stop evicting people from encampments, survival is not a crime.
Re-think policing fire and emergency. Amalgamate into one service including mental health support.
Lower Property Taxes.
Stop wasting money. The debt is not sustainable. The last mayor absolutely destroyed our fiscal position. Be responsible. It's not your money
Need to stop prison drop off and increase police, population has gone up and our police budget has gone down.
Property taxes should never exceed wage growth numbers year over year.
Decrease Police budget. The Police continuously use this tool year over year to misrepresent the Barrie Citizens' feedback (offset the decrease wishes). It's time to hold the Chief accountable to a budget and get him thinking about fiscally financial responsibility.
It's easy to criticize, as an adult I recognize that city services cost money. I note we are below the provincial average. Thank you for the work you do.
7% tax increase is not acceptable. That's just poor planning.
Defund the Police and Fire.
Actually provide the Services that are paid for. If the gov't was a private business they'd be bankrupt years ago. Absolve middle management and all the fluff that empowers politicians. Actually show up to work and get stuff done instead of just talking about it and using grandiose statements.
Waste less get more out of every dollar.
Don't raise our property taxes
Omit the deputy mayor. Maybe look at making cut back on double duties.
Defund the police!
Property tax increase should not happen in 2023 as was already increased last year and more spending should be put towards resurfacing old roads
Less Tax.
Police Service needs to manage their resources better. I hope new BPS Chief will provide more fiscally responsible service to the City. Not enough sworn officers to answer all the calls but on some days I see 3 - 4 Officers on paid duties at construction sites. I realize this is on their time off however with well over 200 uniformed officers you should be able to manage human resources better.
Stop overspending on pet projects. Get out in the community and you can see what needs to be spent on and also how much this city wastes. Go to any library, construction project or community centre and you can see the waste. They're supposed to flush the water lines by my house weekly but it's done maybe once a year. We need accountability.
More police in the subdivisions. Especially school zones. While school is on.
Stop hiring of police and spend more on people in need.
I am a local business owner.
I expect City Hall to be as careful with my money as I am. I get frustrated when I see otherwise. Enough with wasteful posturing as well as vanity projects that cost us, the

taxpayer, money.
Any monies spent on reducing the noise on our roads are monies well spent.
Reintegrate need for increased policing and emergency services in growing city
This is an extremely vague tool to get input....
We need to spend more on infrastructure, or we risk our city giving a negative mark when business wants to thrive here. It is the basis for all our towns and cities, and the neglect in the past 20 years needs to change. Years back the province forced municipalities to fund maintenance of provincial roads and highways that pass through the municipality. That needs to be uploaded to the province. If we let those roads deteriorate, then the province would have to fund them
Cut cultural spending.
Police budget is outrageous.
Hwy 400 noise abatement barriers at Essa Rd
No tax increases.
I'm afraid my postal code is too poor for you to actually care. For real, this is a helpful first step forward, but I remain cynical.
Lower Taxes
The potholes are brutal. Fix the roads before they destroy our cars more than they already are.
Limit rate increases.
Ignoring people's opinions two years ago was highly damaging to public engagement. If you are going to offer this tool to the public, please respect the public's wishes. You may not be able to meet their wishes
Fix the roads!!!!!!!!!!
Create another section for feedback that is suggestions for how to improve or what to examine regarding current costs/configurations.
City employee wages should be capped.
Focus on housing for those who cannot afford it. Stop building high rises most of the population cannot afford to buy or live in. Stop trying to glorify our bar infested downtown and focus on helping those with drug and alcohol addictions.
More police on the roads enforce traffic laws. Fix our roads
4m surplus used to reduce property taxes.
Stop rezoning single dwelling properties to accommodate 100 overpriced dwellings and making the city rancid. There is plenty of space for new developments.
Percent increase and deductions needs more options other than no change increase or decrease. rather put it in \$ thx
Two police forces can rely on each other and work more in tandem to reduce costs and allocate it to other seriously neglected areas in Barrie.
Don't tolerate NIMBYism
Repave the Asbestos-Asphalt roadways.
Re-examine road work in the east end
Keep taxes low.
It's past time municipal budgets start to reflect the same financial restraint homeowners have to practice.
Increase road maintenance on badly damaged surfaces. Instead of repaving roads for bike lanes.
Invest heavily in transportation and infrastructure.
Less libraries as more is done online.
Police don't need more civilians.
Zero tax increase.

I would like to see our taxes stay as is = 0 increase!.
Would like \$increase to be no more than 1%.
Clean up downtown. We have a spectacular waterfront that should be thriving. Instead, it had been taken over and hurting business- people just don't want to go down there like they used to as a result
Don't cut important services/ don't point fingers/ get Geared to rent housing going/ and services to help folks experiencing homelessness/And get the SCS going /stop download of services on to folks
Allocation towards Paramedic EMS services.
Doing a great job.
Affordable housing.
Property taxes must be frozen, we as taxpayers cannot pay anymore in property taxes, we are tapped out!
We have lived in downtown Barrie for 3 generations and always felt safe. It is changing, getting more like Toronto.
Lower police funding!!! Increase social supports!! Police do NOT equal "safer" at all!
New garbage contractor would be great.
Barrie Police should focus on efficiency with camera based systems not hiring more staff.
Hospital.
Need to complete sewer hook up for all residents in timely manner. 10 years out is not timely. Thank you.
Clean up the city from all the drug abuse.
I have asked mayor Jeff in the past for a year break stop raising taxes he said no for over 10 years I lived here. I voted Nuttall because I wanted at least 1 year break from tax increases just 1. Take the time find efficiencies pay off our debt. If you cannot live within your means we will continue to go in debt just like the provincial and federal levels do consistently
Should have option to increase or decrease by more than 5%.
Freeze property tax increases.
This survey isn't comprehensive enough to make decisions off of.
A further 10% on recreation services.
Solid waste fees should be lowered.
Keep property taxes the same as we are gouged for what we receive.
Please stop putting taxes up. Find ways to save money. The residents are already hurting due to inflation and higher interest rates.
More funding to low income housing and supports for our homeless population. They are Barrie residents too.
Although not popular, spending must be cut. Taxes are too high and we cannot afford higher taxes. Barrie is now unaffordable and no longer worth living in.
Add traffic calming along McDougall Drive.
Community safety starts with basic needs being met, not with enforcement. Criminalizing poverty does not improve our collective safety.
More low to medium income housing please!!!!
More money on roads, police, less money on culture, arts and libraries
Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the process.
The money spent on things that the residents can't use or never use, be a part of, and especially housing needs to be seriously looked into because it's our money as you say and the majority of our taxes are not benefitting all of us.
You don't know how valuable police and paramedics are until you need them!
Police budget needs to be reviewed / managed more effectively.
We need more police officers.

More police officers to increase public safety.
Police are the most important to a safe enjoyable community.
We need more police presence in my neighbourhood.
The policing budget needs to be increased, to make up for the cutbacks over the Covid period due to it being the "flavour of the month". Public's safety should be top priority for every councillor if they truly care about the city and the people living and visiting Barrie.
Increase Policing budget.
Increase police funding.
Police need more funding as the city is growing we will see an influx of GTA problems. Fund the police for more training.
Defund the police.
The police spending is out of control, invest in services to support people that prevent crime in the first place. Police are reactive not proactive.
Freeze property tax increases.
It was absolutely terrifying to see how many other departments could get significantly more funding just by cutting police budget by 5%.
The police budget is insane. Look how many other things we can invest in when we divert funds from their bloated department!
Cut the frills (like flowers), Fix the roads, Pay down the debt and freeze the taxes.
Yes as a senior on fixed income another 3plus % increase can't be handled the city must cut back ! The city should join other cities and fight Doug Ford. developers get off too light now and this is going to be worse taxpayers cannot afford this and shouldn't t have too.
I liked this exercise it helps to understand the process and potential conflicts between wants and needs at the city budget level. I think you should try for greater neutrality in the info boxes. e.g. tech will "become outdated" is a risk but really it means delaying upgrades unless everything is in terrible shape already. It would be nice to have more granularity if desired, e.g. separate culture from recreation rather than rely on comments to be more specific.
You need to increase transit and cops downtown.
More Affordable Housing.
Hopefully Council will actually take the results and apply changes, tired of seeing council go with the flow without questioning budgetary submissions, taxes are too high and reductions start here.
The city should consider looking at a program to build in efficiencies and cut costs. The cost of government is too high and needs to be managed. Reserves need to be maintained.
More funding for arts!!
Look at the statistic of city services being actually used every year. How many people use the Landfill? How many people communicate about the state of our city roads.
Reduce the police budget.
Please invest more in small businesses. The Small Business Centre is a great investment, they would be able to do so much more to help grow our small business community and assist entrepreneurs, I know the Mayor wanted to focus on supporting and attracting small businesses and investing in something that already operates and exists under the City is a great way to save us tax dollars and assist more new entrepreneurs moving their businesses to Barrie and residents looking to start businesses here. I like that the Library is partnering a lot with community partners right now and is struggling with security issues Downtown, please ensure they have adequate budget to help those less fortunate access the resources they need in the community through the Library which is a safe space for them while also ensuring they have adequate security which does make a difference in feeling safe in the Downtown Library. Invest in more police and community partners programs like the Mobile Crisis Response Team.

Reduce police expenditures and enjoy the windfall.
Increase bylaw enforcement.
Where are the gold courses that we shouldn't be subsidizing hiding?
Red light cameras
The police are constantly given more despite what the public wants. Please actually listen to us.
Yes! Make the switch to OPP so we can save money. Initial cost when Orangeville switched was even but will eventually be cheaper. The Barrie police didn't arrive to my cousin's during an active break in for over an hour!!! OPP would never have let this happen as they have all the proper resources.
We Need Outdoor Public Pools For Kids.
Stop funding police.
Fix Victoria Street!!! Dont let Anne St and Sunnidale bridge be delayed!
The waterfront needs not have any more improvements. Maintain what we have and increase parking rates for tourists. As a resident I have no enjoyable access to our waterfront on weekends as it is littered with tourists. The same goes for our downtown core. Our homeless population needs to be dealt with at a mental health level. Along with a safety issue in a lot of cases for other residents.
Find reductions in outside consulting firms. Your staff salaries would suggest, as is claimed, you hire the best in their fields. Have them make decisions rather consultants. Sell off the Allandale Train Station debacle get what you can out of it. You could never recover the tax payers investment in this mess thru a tenancy. Leave real estate development to professionals, which the city is clearly not. Find ways to reduce spending in every areas of city management and take the savings and apply it to the most needy and important areas where financial investment will be realized.
By laws need to be enforced, so hire more by law officers.
Policing needs to increase for a safer and crime free community.
Put Money Into Desperately Needed Projects, Police, Fire Road Repair. Cut The Fat Off The Rest
It is ridiculous to not have a tax increase with 10's of million of dollars in unfunded general maintenance needed to city infrastructure. The inflation rate is greater than 5%. A no increase tax policy puts Barrie in a hole that is only going to increase debt and increase costs in the future.
Lower property taxes!
My family and I love living in Barrie!
Improve our downtown, safer. Decrease people smoking and lingering on the streets.
Lower our taxes, be accountable for our money and how you spend it.
Save our tax increase. Trudeau is going to hike so much in 2023... please save us.
So many roads are horrible and full of potholes. The section of Huronia between Lockhart and McKay has been brutal for years. Open up Bryne through to Harvie and from Harvie to Mapleview. The amount of traffic on Mapleview is disgusting.
Increase revenue with fines on unbuilt development properties.
Reducing the policing budget literally allows for service improvements in 5 or 6 other areas using the budget tool. Reduce police spending- better our community services, transit, roads, water treatment, economic development. Spending more on other areas of life helps more residents.
Interesting! Thanks for the opportunity to consider the options.
Defund the police
We need to see the top 5 priorities of each of the department budget items in order to prioritize spend.

Stop spending on police.
No funding for special interest groups or organizations. Tighten your spending. And no more rainbow sidewalks. That was a waste of my tax dollars.
I'm not sure why transit is so underutilized - perhaps the city could benefit from a consultant.
Cut spending across the board.
Decrease the police budget, it is egregious.
I would like to see the beauty around storm water ponds restored and the beauty of our surroundings should matter more. I am not referring to concrete structures.
The police depart Something done about the downtown core that hasn't been safe or welcoming for locals for the last several years.
Homelessness services
Fuel and hours can be saved by having snow plow operators used only when necessary and not as a make work project when snow has already been plowed and street is clear with no new snow (talking about plowing) Thank you.
I love Barrie, but as a pedestrian and transit user, it is not accessible. Especially in the winter. Many unplowed sidewalk, and snowbanks right at the bus stops. I'm 24, can't imagine the struggle for an elderly person or anyone with any physical challenges. Also, public art enriches everyone emotionally.
My comments within the survey are all general and apply to the budget process overall; I didn't know I was going to have an opportunity at end to add general comments; please use my 3 comments in survey to apply to budget in general.
Do not raise taxes - Barrie is over taxed and underserved.
Barrie does a pretty good job for the most part. Good value for money, and you get what you pay for. More focus on the arts and arts infrastructure (new, high quality facilities). (Please stop calling 5 Points 'World Class'. Saying so is an embarrassment to the City's credibility). We need to be more aggressive in getting technology-leading companies in Barrie. We have the talent. Dozens of Barrie residents work/worked for the most automated, world-class food manufacturer in the world ie: Mars Company. We have the talent here. Let's get the companies to set roots. Let's get engaged again with an established university to also help this along.
It's time for a residential tax freeze as promised by our newly elected Mayor. There seems to be too much waste in our city services and administration. Every department should be required to provide a budget with an improvement plan that will deliver services with a 5% decrease in operating cost.
I drive across Barrie south to north 7 days in 2 weeks, north to south in the morning at 7 am, south to north at about 8:30 pm, including Saturdays and Sundays to and from work in Bradford, but never see a police cruiser on patrol. It's no wonder motorists speed and run red lights when there is virtually no police presence on the road.
The budget tool doesn't give a true picture of spending and there are many areas of saving that could occur, if a budget decreases for example in fire than supporting departments like communications should also take a cut.
Focus on affordable housing, social supports.
While some councillors promised not to increase taxes the reality is if we don't then maintaining the same levels of service and investing in important capital projects will be difficult to do considering inflation has affected the costs of contracts. A reasonable tax increase should be considered because no tax increase will have future negative impacts to our city.
The biggest issue in this city is the conditions of the roads
I think the City of Barrie taxes fairly, and provides a wide variety of important services quite well. Increased policing might help make the downtown area feel safer.

Challenge to budgets not increase house taxes, inflation next will increase.
Cut the police's funding, they do not need SWAT vans that will get used once in 10 years.
Smaller and then more efficient. As well, limiting the snow plowing on streets that do not require same three days after any storms to save on fuel and transit buses would be very acceptable to reflect the number of passengers.
Decrease police services by at least 25%. Investing in Social services will mean less work that the police need to do. Increasing and recreational services for people in poverty reduces crime. Increasing Social services for people in poverty reduces crime and reduces the need for the police. They don't need to be a part of victim services either if they don't care about victims in the first place. Reducing the police budget will increase everyone else's budget. Defund the police
Look at how much you have to spend on other departments/areas when you cut police funding by only 5%!
Increase services for homeless and low income housing.
Remove speed bump costs.
Use surplus to address homelessness and/or provide social programs for at-risk people.
You need to spend very wisely and not on stupid things that can wait.
Get rid of the speed bumps.
Please add more variability to the amounts to increase or decrease. It makes this tool a bit coarse.
I would like the city to consider the amount of money that goes to things such as the Health Unit and why after so many years staff working from home can the office space not decrease significantly.
The tool should allow for property tax increases to be suggested. Planning on a zero tax increase plan doesn't do much good.
Cut taxes.
Cut spending across the board.
Look for efficiencies - Hire A quality staff, pay them more, but reduce staff size, and the A staff will find so many more efficiencies that will in turn keep quality high on a better budget.
Without reductions in police and emergency services spending, the City will never prosper.
Increasing funding to other areas of the budget should allow the city to NOT increase funding to police services. If anything, police services should be shrinking as a city becomes more prosperous and developed..
Reduce Taxes
We need a proper performing arts and conference Centre in Barrie!!
Fix the potholes!!!
Something needs to be done with the salary of the IT leadership at barrie police. They are being paid well above the market
Barrie police don't need a bigger budget
Rest to emergency services
We cannot limit police services and need to move forward on an arts and theatre centre.
The BPS is disrespectful, non-responsive, and definitely needs a cut. Too much money being spent on a service that has poor delivery.
With rising cost of living a tax increase is unacceptable unless services to support individuals (rec, library) are the cause.
Love that this is available! Definitely support less funding to police and more towards social programs, specifically addressing helping homeless populations or low income families.
Tax increases are putting increased pressure on homeowners when mortgages and inflation are rapidly increasing. Govt must contain expenses and find savings.
Police don't need more money. Invest it in the community instead

Limit the height of new homes. 3 story homes really degrade the look of Barrie
Try not to increase taxes. As a single income individual it is difficult to live in Barrie due to cost of living. Also, fire fighters can take a cut or have wages frozen like female dominated professions (ex. Nurses and teachers). I know there is a difference (Municipal vs provincial), but tax payers pay it all at the end of the day and I know fire fighters have good benefits and wage compared to the rest of barrie residents.
Remove more funding from the police. Create better public transit options.
Should be able to submit an unbalanced budget or instead of +/- 5% just have arrows for more and less spending. You would get more accurate information that way
Stop caving to police unions and spend money making this a better city not a more policed city.
Have Police do a formal review as they are overbudgeted for services provided
Please help before things get even worse!
Reduce taxes and fees!
Reduce taxes and fees.
Cut spending across the board.
It's obscene how much of the budget the police force receives in comparison to emergency services.
Spend more on transit, creating MUP or separated bike/mobility lanes less on widening roads/parking. Priority areas should be school zones (why is there no sidewalk along Duckworth @Codrington? Kids are walking on the road).
Please don't waste our money by hiring consultants for everything.
There is a great need to seriously address the underlying causes of problems in our city. Relying on the police for clean up is not a good solution. We need to address the needs of youth and children to have access to affordable or free recreation options, affordable housing, drug treatment, affordable transit etc.
I do not support safe injection sites.
Stop wasteful spending, pay off the debt. Not that difficult.
Do these even get looked at? Last year the city voted to decrease funding for police, which due to its already gigantic share of the budget would have been able to fund so many other areas. For some reason, despite the residents' vote, the police budget was not just maintained but increased. What's the point of these surveys if they don't inform the final budget?
Increase road spending, they are killing cars.
Regular audits need to be done on contractors and their services provided. City should avoid getting ripped off or ditch their long-standing relations with contractors and choose more reasonable service providers.
The Anne street bridge has taken way too long to complete.
We need to stop the increases in property taxes, to give a small break. It's becoming unaffordable here, which is sad. Especially for people who have lived here their entire lives.
Yes, please get the busses under control, Barrie citizens are having an extremely difficult time getting around town .
Look at Simcoe county waste removal services.
Spend less on arts and transit.
Barrie is known as being a great place to buy drugs! I think it's time to end that. Policing should increase so they might be able to tackle that more.
City is doing a great job but more support to the homeless and substance use is needed. Safe injection site is a good statistic but we need more supportive housing and shelters
Police are important taking only 5% away funds so many other things in the city. A balance budget should reflect more than money. Other programs can get to the root of problems the

police have to deal with.
Replace fireworks with Drone light shows! Be on of the first to make the change and lead by example. Fireworks are dated, dangerous and terrifying for many people and animals. They do more harm than good and cost thousands! Let's replace them with drones that can put in incredible visuals and play along to music of all sorts. Business' can advertise and or sponsor the light shows. Please consider this!
Free transit one day a month to increase and encourage Barrie Citizens to try and adopt Transit.
Fix the roads.
Increase land-based taxes to generate revenue, vacant home taxes, multi property owner taxes, land value tax, property tax.
Build a Tram network.
Water costs and wastewater are out of control, tax increases can't go up yearly when cost of living is this high. Police don't need increases. Common sense must prevail.
Spend the dollars wisely. Make sure people can afford to live in this beautiful city of ours. Be brilliant Barrie!
I would like to see more community engagement in order to ensure that residents who use the city's feedback opportunities have a good understanding of the issues/legislation/challenges faced by each department. I would also like to see the City prioritize civic engagement with the goal of increasing voter turn-out in municipal elections. This work must start now in order to see an improvement in the turn-out for the next election. This goal cannot be achieved without budget dollars allocated to it.
Many roads are in poor condition. Would like faster road clearing on tertiary roads in the city during the winter months.
Work on the roads.
Policing and safety of citizens should be a priority.
Clean downtown up.
Decrease spending.
Vacant home tax.
I appreciate the budget engagement process and can see how such activities can uplift understanding of the efforts of our community services.
The only way to increase budgets in some departments is to take away from others. Please do not increase taxes at this time.
Build a world class Rec ctr with 4 Rinks.

Comments on User Fees, Service Charges, & Rentals

Transit should be free for all. This would reduce the amount of traffic/greenhouse gases.
While I get paying fees for some stuff. I shouldn't have to pay for compost if I've donated all my waste to the city. I also bring my electronics to places where I get paid for it rather you charging me a fee. If I already pay a eco fee on an item at the point of purchase, why do I again have to pay a fee again to dispose of it?
I believe that operating our City's BEAUTIFUL parks as more of a business would increase this revenue stream and be more fair. In Barrie we pay high taxes to live close to the amazing amenities. It is totally ok for non-residents to visit, but parking fees should be much higher to offset the true "cost" of non-residents. Resident parking passes for free parking make residents feel like their taxes go to something tangible.
There should be more focus on making sure that homeowners who don't use their homes as their primary residence and are renting / airbnb should be registered with the city and pay a yearly fee with the city ... we have way too many absent landlords and they are growing each

year
Reduce fees.
Reduce fees

Comments on Transfers, Grants, Recoveries

Should we not receive more transfers from Provincial and Federal governments? Barrie's demographic has probably changed quite a bit since the pandemic.
Look for creative partnerships to reduce redundancies and get more funding for the City.
Peggy Hill naming was a great idea to get some much needed cash.

Comments on Property Taxes

Property tax should not be increased in 2023
1 - 2% increase would be reasonable considering inflation is much higher and effects the cities expenses as well.
Use the surplus to give the residents a real Canada firework show as the last one was pathetic!
I would not support the inevitable tax increase.my taxes have increased to \$1000 per year since I bought my house. A hundred bucks a year adds up.
Lower taxes
Reduce residential property taxes by 1.2 million
Hold taxes at current level and place the surplus in reserves to replace the depleted amounts.
Barrie taxes are very high, and while I certainly don't appreciate the intricacies of Barrie's budget, I hope that there can be continued emphasis on fiscal responsibility and oversight within the Corporation.
Modest increases to taxes to maintain services should be something council seriously considers.
Reduce by \$9.3 m
How much of those property taxes are in arrears ???
We can not keep adding Taxes to Barrie all low income families are hurting, the main income are not created within the city of Barrie. the surplus need to be used for the people of Barrie
Property taxes need to keep up with inflation to ensure residents get the services they need.
Reduce property taxes accordingly
Reduce property taxes
Lower property taxes if possible. Very expensive for small rowhouses for families
Seriously consider decreasing
Reduce property taxes!
Reduce property taxes.
Reduce taxes

A breakdown of the specific service area results and comments follows:

Totals might not equal 100% due to rounding.

Development Services

Development Services is responsible for the preparation and implementation of plans regarding land use and development, and for reviewing, processing and making recommendations to Council on land development applications.

- Maintain current spending: 48%
- Decrease spending by 5%: 37%
- Increase spending by 5%: 15%

Stop urban sprawl. fight the prov govt on the sprawl.
While I understand the need for this, the city has no consistency on how land is used. What was once EP land is now being developed. Were the rules back then different than they are now? I thought climate change and environmental factors were getting worse? People can't afford houses because of the cost and these are not poor people, these are middle class people. Taxes are too high here. Every year it's the same thing, we need affordable housing, and every year you add some affordable units. It's obviously not solving the problem, it's a band aid.
Barrie is a city that lacks extensive parkspace. Community members should not have to drive in order to access forested areas. Plans should be made and budgeted for to include large park spaces within the expansion plan. The little park spaces included in each subdivision development are simply not enough. We have become a city that lacks expansive green space. Instead we have subdivisions divided by identical strip malls and sidewalks.
In addition we should look to cities that have researched and planned subdivisions that provide more tax base through different housing models.
5% is not enough of a decrease for this section. It's a huge waste of money fixing up our town for tourists. Especially the money spent on changing the waterfront and apparently your not finished with that yet! I can't imagine the cost of the flowers each year and the different celebratory flags that are bought. I hope you re-use them each year!
What is the point of developing the city when we are not fixing the problems. We have <i>[drug problems]</i> on every corner now, dragging down our property values, thereby dragging tax revenue down...nobody wins. Help the unhoused and people living with addiction and you help us all!
The city is moving too fast with high rise development and needs to consider putting money into reserves that are depleted. Developers do not pay enough for city service installations and upkeep costing residents.
<i>[having experience with Barrie's inspectors my opinion is that some salaries can be reduced in this area]</i> The red tape in this city is ridiculous. It also ensured we'd never do any construction here again, so yay for more affordable housing going elsewhere.
Streamline processes. Bring back counter service, faster decision making. Time = cost and things take too long and pass through too many hands still. I think Barrie's development services department is really good and service Barrie seems to work pretty well but I think we can always improve.
Expand the current development/project tracking to include approved projects. On approved development projects, tax as proposed completed development e.g. condo units not vacant land if the development is inordinately delayed.
Not sure I know what we are getting for this spend?
Not sure where this fits in, but not happy with my tax money funding safe injection sites; I

work hard every day to maintain a home, buy food, pay for my own transportation, and help my family as much as I can; providing a place for illegal drug use, mainly for people who tax payers are already supporting, is not only not fair to us, it is also attracting more of that to the city making it unsafe to go anywhere without fear, can't even enjoy the beautiful lakeshore and parks that our taxes support, or go shopping, or go for a walk around the block; drug use is illegal and needs to be treated as such; these people need to be treated in medical facilities, not invited into neighbourhoods.
Red tape reduction may help save money.
Developers need to be forced to contribute a larger percentage of funding for infrastructure works, city resources etc related to their projects
Not sure who is responsible for the city's planning but travelling across Mapleview is painful. It can take 30 minutes to get from Veterans through Bayview. A roundabout 50 m from a major intersection was genius (kidding) because a. Canadians don't know how to use these and b. It's too small and too close to Mapleview so it's basically a 5-way stop. Also, did we need to take out all that park and for more big box stores?
While on urban planning... huge wasted opportunity to build up around the south end GO station. Where there could have been condos, again, Barrie chose urban sprawl. I'd suggest looking for city design inspiration from Japan, Singapore, London etc in order to create a 'livable' city. Gated condo complexes with green spaces, amenities and condos that serve families. Many would gladly trade in their +2000 square foot house for comparable space in a condo. Safer, less work, more community and walkable to schools, shops, transit etc.
I have worked in Toronto for years and have heard so many harsh comments about Barrie because their experience is driving through to cottages/skiing and from the highway, Barrie is not appealing. Big box stores, commercial and strip malls are the scenery.
I know that land development review is under a tight crunch with this provincial government. More resources need to be allocated here to ensure that the watershed is protected while growth is being accomplished intelligently (i.e., not relying on sprawl, having proper infrastructure in place, etc.)
There is excessive money being spent on consultants to make plans for our city. We need home grown plans and consistency between the various plans to ensure the growth of a stronger community
Improve Essa as it's the gateway to the waterfront (first impression of our city!).
Let's get projects reviewed/commented on in a more timely fashion to help speed up development.
We need to expedite development applications, while finding a way to prevent developers from sitting on approved developments without starting construction.
Urban planning is incredibly important in a fast growing community like Barrie. Delays cost money - and increasing the involvement of community partners would allow thorough consideration of options and future needs, including intensification, green spaces and the transportation and infrastructure requirements to support growth and all that this entails.
It is time to enforce the building of affordable housing for all, the unhoused, elders, low income, with respect. Finland provided housing for all the unhoused and their homeless issue disappeared. We can do better.
Reduce the bureaucracy. Encourage multi use zoning. Encourage less travel. Why do I need a car to go shopping?

Economic & Creative Development

Economic & Creative Development delivers supports, programs and services that foster a vibrant, economically diverse city, in which creativity and culture drive business innovation and City building, and businesses can grow and thrive. This area works to retain and grow jobs and investment within the community, contributing to an overall positive quality of life.

- Maintain current spending: 36%
- Decrease spending by 5%: 40%
- Increase spending by 5%: 24%

Need more businesses (specifically FT equivalent jobs) brought into our City. Too many commuters who are contributing to the economy in other Cities (GTA, Newmarket, Aurora, etc.)
I would have cut this by more.
Downtown Barrie is not a welcoming place money is spent encouraging people to come downtown . I am a senior there is absolutely nothing down there for me, it should be called downtown bar strip. Cut the budget.
What are statistics on how many people use the small business centre? Since Barrie is 99% retails, what kind of talent attraction would you be implementing? I don't believe I have ever seen a campaign on attracting business to Barrie, who and what are you attracting? More Walmarts?
All good here - Go Barrie Go!
I'm sorry but what is done in this category and how many people work it? That's a lot of money wasted on sitting at a desk creating something that might not even be developed!
In an economy that is entering difficult times this becomes a less important area especially when taxes may go up and people are already facing tight budgets.
We're a horrible city with a serious <i>[derogatory word deleted]</i> problem. I'm tired of paying to beautify our downtown but I can't even use it because of the <i>[derogatory word deleted]</i> and methadone clinics. Our downtown looks like crap. Time to rebuild it in a safer part of town? I lived downtown for a decade + and never felt as unsafe there as I do at Dunlop McDonald's.
What a waste
Look into more creative solutions that can be done at the lot level to increase community health. Encouraging backyard gardening, providing courses and approving backyard chickens could all be community-supportive win win programs with a financial benefit to Barrie. Other municipalities, are promoting this type of creative program, for example in Georgina they promote "urban hens".
Not sure I see the opportunity in Economic and Creative development. What are we getting for this spend?
See previous comment about events like Pirate days in Orillia. We need to be more invested in our waterfront and use it to our advantage.
See comments for Rec and Culture.
This could be decreased further.
While arts and culture are important, in these economic times money may be better spent elsewhere. Our local park had some metal sculptures put up which just get vandalized, not a good use of taxpayers money.
This would include the development of proper performance space to attract new presentations to the city.
We need to review the reasons why we are unable to attract new business development in our city. Business drives new tax revenues, better jobs, and a higher standard of living for our community. We need to do better.



The city is growing too fast. Stop encouraging more growth.
No more stupid signage with hearts at the waterfront, privately funded or not, that sort of patronage deal was a waste of time and energy by council. Keep the waterfront clean, trails maintained. We don't need more murals, enough already. Natural beauty of the city well maintained is sufficient. I love our downtown but it's becoming ridiculous to keep spending and promoting, in the summer there are festivals almost every weekend. It's too much!
Economic development is key. Better economy, more local jobs, better incomes, better for residents.

Fire & Emergency Service

Barrie Fire and Emergency Service provides 24/7 emergency response, public education, fire prevention, fire investigation, plans examination, fire suppression, technical rescue and fire communication services.

- Maintain current spending: 63%
- Decrease spending by 5%: 26%
- Increase spending by 5%: 12%

Spend savings on mental health support.
Fire and Emergency Services should be split up. Decrease Fire. Increase EMS (ambulance).
Stop hiring more fireman and limit pay increase to inflation levels.
I would have increased this as spending has to go up to even maintain services due to employment contracts. Being unable to "save" while in a deficit is the only reason I didn't say to "increase" spending.
Compassionate and caring when dealing with emotionally charged situations
As our city grows so does our need for emergency services
Seeing two fully loaded trucks show up to a small collision that towns with volunteer firefighters wouldn't respond to because police and paramedics are already there shows the waste in this department.
Take from the police budget and give to the firefighter's
If anything there should be an option for Barrie residents to support an increase to the paramedic service budget. We don't need to be paying for fire trucks and firefighters to be going to most medical calls. Ask the local paramedics and police officers and they can tell you. Firefighters don't make the difference for patients on medical calls, the medical professionals (the paramedics) do.
Please increase funding to Paramedics! Not to Fire. We are so short on Paramedics and ambulances, increase funding to hire more please.
Rumour is that firefighters work an average of 7 full 24 hour days a month and are off the rest of the time while making \$100+k a year and working another job. Has this been really questioned? Is that staffing /shift model ideal? Do they use volunteers? I've lived in Barrie for 47 years and only once did I ever have fire attend my house to give me education for smoke detectors so I question the addition of that to their budget. Thankfully I have never had to use fire services. What are response times for this service? They keep using the same reasons "oh your insurance will go up if we don't get more money ", it goes up anyways.
The firefighters are scamming the taxpayers, by taking credit for every medical call. If there are no fires why do we need them Train volunteers to do their job.
The city is growing and requires appropriate fire and emergency services in place
I personally don't see a benefit in increasing their budget at all. Same as the police officers the fact that so many fire fighters make over \$100,000 disgusts me as a taxpayer.
It appears that fire trucks and crews are dispatched for all calls. Would it not be more effective to differentiate between fire vs. personal injury/health issues? Fire crews should be reserved for actual fire emergencies. The point of the comment is to examine options to better utilize equipment and staffing to address the various emergencies that occur on a daily basis.
Utilize a volunteer fire department to reduce costs. We don't need six figure salaries teaching fire safety around the community.
I don't think that fire department should respond to every emergency call. Example when someone passes away at an retirement home why must fire respond
Please ensure that adequate mental health care is provided. We need to take care of the emotional health of our brave fire and emergency service workers.
Increase use of firefighters during their downtime. Example... they could stay with stable



patients transferred to ER's to allow EMS to return to the roads during offload delays. Could assist with care of long term care patients awaiting transfer back to nursing homes or assist with bedside care in our nursing homes. Again during downtime, not to be used to replace current staffing levels in ER's or nursing homes, just to improve quality and quantity of care for these individuals.
Transfer some of the funds from the police to emergency services, particularly, mental health intervention.
Adjusting tiered response would save a lot more than 5%.
Less fire service more paramedic service. The majority of fire service calls are medical in nature. Paramedics are better trained and equipped to handle these calls. We need a study to be conducted in this area. Reduce the fire service accordingly.
The parties police funding is excessive. They do not provide good service to the city and they need to look at their spending to reallocate internally what they have. Municipal enforcement is more useful for day to day needs of the community.
Increase hospital and ambulance services.
Redirected funds from policing to support mental health / substance use calls
I am a supporter of first responders, but I have observed 4 - 8 firefighters standing around at the scene of a motor vehicle accident, while 1 cop is trying to investigate it. It's time to divide our tax dollars more fairly.

Information Technology

Information Technology (IT) at the City delivers the technology infrastructure that supports the City's path to better integrate processes and systems with real-time communication and data.

- Maintain current spending: 52%
- Decrease spending by 5%: 37%
- Increase spending by 5%: 11%

I would remind IT that not everything is better or useful for everyone when done through an app. For example, I will *never* download the city app onto my phone that lets me park in city lots. Members of my family can NOT do so as it is a possible source of a data breach. Because it is being insisted on, instead of the paper tags hanging in our vehicles, we will no longer be able to use city lots without paying additional parking fees. And what about older residents who are not as great with technology?
I liked it better when I could talk to a person. There is no more customer service, only computers that mimic people. Then people wonder why we have a culture problem. No one talks to each other anymore. It's very frustrating to get a hold of anyone and too much reliance on technology to solve your problems. What is the human cost vs benefit to this?
The City needs to differentiate between the wants of IT and the needs of Citizens. Change for the sake of what IT believes are neat tech toys should be closely scrutinized before committing tax dollars.
Maybe I don't understand all that is done in these areas but under the category's given here (with not much explanation) I am only guessing what happens work wise. With the internet and technology we have today why are we spending all this money on extra people and jobs that aren't necessarily needed and with all the information that is easy to find that it just makes sense to hire less people. I don't know all the details of what you all do in office but surely you don't need all the people and different job category's that you have using up over half a million dollars when you could be combining all these different categories?
Technology is important but costly and sometimes ineffective. Must look at capital costs and minimizing turnover of equipment.
Did the study of having Barrie employees drive in the city and sit at all of the red lights come out of this budget? Huge cost savings there by using brains instead.
Unless You Are Going To Coordinate The Traffic Lights In Barrie Cut Here
Do an audit and see if there are inefficiencies. The Suggestion Portal seems to be very hard to use and is buried on the website so doesn't seem to be doing what it's supposed to do.
Everything needs to be online and securely protected to create cost effective services and self service options.
It's important to keep systems up to date and make services available online.
The City of Barrie app is very impressive and well designed. Offers a lot of functionality.
Outsource it to Barrie/Ontario based IT Service providers. Staff can be transitioned. This would increase services and provide greater opportunities for residents. Look at cloud based alternatives for enterprise back office functions like HR, Finance, logistics, etc
it seems that 10.3 million is a huge expense for IT. I realize as time moves on we become more reliant on the benefits that IT provides but, perhaps we don't have to be on the leading edge all the time. Can some software and hardware not be maintained for just a bit longer? You know, like we have to do in business and our personal lives.

Libraries

The Barrie Public Library (BPL) has three locations in Barrie, and all offer free Wi-Fi, computer access, printers, and study and work spaces.

- Maintain current spending: 33%
- Decrease spending by 5%: 47%
- Increase spending by 5%: 20%

With the new Branch, the City is well equipped for the next few years
Who uses libraries any more? Useless expense.
Libraries becoming obsolete due to technology. Should be more but smaller locations. Late fees should be reintroduced to offset decreased funding. If you rent it and don't return it on time, you should have to pay, just like renting anything else in life.
Brick and mortar libraries are less useful than ever. These cost need to be covered more by the users and less on people that never step inside of one.
Just this week, I decided I will no longer use the downtown library (my peers no longer use it for months/years no). If the library could designate a streetfolk/homeless room/area expressly for loitering it would be better for everybody and people might care more about libraries. Shame to see them become relics that nobody wants to visit except streetfolk.
No one uses libraries. It's 2022. Stop this wasted money. Buy a kindle for every person in Barrie is cheaper than this budget.
Is this a joke. Stop any money going to libraries.
How much of the population actually uses these services nowadays? Are there numbers on this. How many unique visitors are there that are not expired, not how many visits overall. Is an increase or maintaining feasible if only n% of the population uses this service?
I believe (could be wrong) that more and more people are using the internet, e-books, etc. and less use of libraries. Anyway, I would look to reduce the budget from here in favour of fixing our badly needed roads.
I'm sure the foot traffic to local libraries is nowhere near what it was 10 years ago. My last visit to a Barrie library was colorful.
There are so many options for access to on-line information that the need for bricks and mortar libraries are less critical than they were in the past. This is not to say that libraries don't serve a purpose, but looking to right-size the library operation(s) with the actual needs/use by the citizens.
8. million on Libraries? I'm sorry but there can't possibly be that many people who use them. I haven't been inside a library since I was in Public School and I know I'm not the only one. I just don't understand this one at all. Cut funding in half and charge a small fee like \$10 a yr to join then that will give you a better idea of who uses Library's and how much.
Libraries were popular in the 1980's.
The library is an amazing resource for the community, and it is free to all! It provides access to resources and information for marginalized populations, and provides great programming for families and children. Even with the Holly library opening, Barrie is underserved in the north end and could do with additional branches being opened; even small "boutique" branches like the Holly branch would be amazing.
The library offers SO MUCH to our community, it's so important to continue to fund the work they do.
The library is such a critical part of our community. It is one of the few things within Barrie that is truly there to serve EVERY person within Barrie. The city is growing and the library needs to grow with it!
Libraries are a priority in supporting stronger communities, we need to allocate finances to see

increases in small business support, early literacy programs and special events that model returning to social interactions. The library offers ongoing volunteer opportunities that encourage an altruistic mindset and embodies the power of giving back for the good of our community.
Library services are essential, especially post-COVID. With money tighter than ever, more and more families will be using the library for entertainment, information, programs and computer access. The success of the new holly library shows how important these services are to the community
The Barrie libraries are amazing, including the many programs we have attended with our 1.5 and 4.5 year olds. Please keep sexuality out of the content for children and please do not host any drag related programs. Drag is not appropriate for children.
Continue to expand the small branch locations to under served areas around community centres.
There is no more important public institution than the library. Our community is strengthened in every aspect by a robust library system.
People are using virtual book borrowing and libraries are becoming warming centres for the under housed. Most library events are during work day, so not all can attend who may want to. Until they are more universally accessible no need to increase budget
I wonder if due to online availability of resources if this amount can possibly be decreased?
Would love to see more library branches in Barrie. Current branches are busy, provide great programming and community supports. I take my children there weekly and participate in adult programs myself. All future community centres should have library branches! We need a branch in the north end.
This is not a top choice to decrease but there are other departments at city hall that could have decreased budgets; communications; customer service; overall staffing with multiple layers of management.
libraries are a great resource ... however how often again are they being used? also, I've heard there has been discussion to have another one built ?? do we actually NEED another library?? I think we should continue to rely on the two we currently have and hold off on having another one built ... for now.
Children and youth need resources that keep them off the street and out of trouble. libraries benefit communities and children's youth development.
Defund. That's crazy. Go digital. Library budget it ridiculous. How much for a kindle for everyone in Barrie? Is that less or more than your budget?
Support for low income and homeless
Barrie has a fantastic library system for a small city. I would love the library to be able to continue to expanding their offering! Libraries are a big driver of quality of life.
The physical need for a library is diminishing. The electronic book collection is more important than the physical copies of the books. We should collaborate with surrounding municipalities to increase our electronics collection and reduce costs to our city
For one year decrease to ensure rec facilities stay open
Would like the surplus added back to the library.
Surplus remaining to be allocated to libraries.
Libraries have become much more than places to borrow books; provide mental health experts in the libraries as this is where individuals who require services gather. Build community, support libraries and librarians and all members of society who spend time there.
It's a digital world. You can't stop it. Go with it.
Libraries, as evidenced during the height of the COVID pandemic, are a key pillar in strengthening community connection and resilience. In a time of increased dis/mis information, libraries can play a critical role in providing residents with accurate, reliable information. We should increase resources to the BPL in order to ensure Barrie residents have the tools and digital literacy to make informed decision

Parks & Forestry Operations

This area is responsible for the maintenance of parks, natural areas, trees and gardens. Responsibilities also include the waterfront, trail systems, downtown streetscape, sports fields, playground equipment, floral displays, greenhouse, gardens, Communities in Bloom, park furniture, litter/garbage collection, forestry planning/inspection and removal/maintenance of trees on City property.

- Maintain current spending: 50%
- Decrease spending by 5%: 24%
- Increase spending by 5%: 26%

Not a priority in Barrie right now.
I appreciate what Parks do grass cutting in our parks and water front area. However there seems to be lacking grass and litter maintenance on Boulevards outside of water front area. Woodlots / ravines littered with garbage from individuals whom think they can camp there. Please be proactive BY - Law dept and police.
We can have less grass cutting and flower bed maintenance. Instead of the current schedule we could reduce in by 1/2 allowing for more pollination and less carbon footprint. Showing an example to the residents.
Parkland is vital for a growing city. Increased renovations of parks and playgrounds needed to become more accessible. Many parks in my area lack even a basic path for people with accessibility issues to access play equipment or even a bench, let alone a playground with little to no accessible equipment and play surface. Barrie's ratio of wood fibre to sand playgrounds is very low, especially compared to neighbouring municipalities.
Needs to be more park space in new subdivisions where yards are only 15' deep and no parks (pratt's bear creek) other parks like their young and go had a park that was fenced off for months after it was completed. Keeping children playing in dangerous construction sites instead of the safe park.
I can't justify an increase just to make things look nice. Functionality of the city is more important
Barrie is a city that lacks extensive parkspace. Community members should not have to drive in order to access forested areas. Plans should be made and budgeted for to include large park spaces within the expansion plan. The little park spaces included in each subdivision development are simply not enough. We have become a city that lacks expansive green space. Instead we have subdivisions divided by identical strip malls and sidewalks.
As much as I love the beautiful flower and displays around the city, especially the boardwalk area, the reality is this is a "nice to have" not a "need to have". Invest in perennials that require little Maintenance and save this money annually.
We need to change focus to Responsible Natural Land Management for our parks. Sustainable maintenance practices are key. This will save \$\$\$ and align with the City's goal of GHG reductions and climate action. Here is how: implement an anti-idling policy, purchase EV small equipment, reduce the amount of annual flowering plantings, replace 25% of the bed's with regional, native plants, shrubs, grasses. These require little to no maintenance, reducing the amount of staff time spent watering, weeding planting then pulling the annual plants out. Native plants sequester carbon, help with rain overflow and sustain the soil. We have a greenhouse to grow these plants, using the seeds year after year to grow more, stop/reduce grass cutting and implement 50% naturalized areas in parks, STOP/reduce leaf collection and educate people on the benefits of leaving the leaves, this will save \$\$\$\$, lead by example by supporting and planting native species in our parks and flower beds, native plant species promote biodiversity and encourage good insects and pollinator species, when creating sustainable landscaping with native plant species, not only is the environment better for the insects and pollinators, there is also a reduced need for irrigation, fertilization,

pesticides and maintenance, Native plants are well adapted to drought, flood, and other changing climate conditions, native shrubs, grasses, flowers and trees are adapted to our cold winter conditions and will go dormant before re-emerging in the spring to grow bigger and stronger each year, their deep root systems allow native plants to survive heavy rains and dry periods as well as reduce the maintenance required to maintain them.
Stop participating in Communities In Bloom, the only people who truly care or pay attention are the Gardener's, I don't need a paint can with a couple petunias planted.
Efficiencies and looking at public help through volunteers is needed to keep these cost down. A lot of the new trees are dying before they even start to grow which is a waste of money. Too many workers running around the city in city owned vehicles costing money.
Get Rid of The Weeds Like The Golf Courses Do.
We have nothing but good things to say about staff and service during a tree removal program in our area.
Parks and Forestry are important in the city of Barrie for creating the lifestyle that people want to have here. Our parks and forest are an important resource for the planet. We could see improvement in parking, washroom facilities and expanded usage opportunities.
Parks that have sand should be upgraded to engineered wood fiber. They also need to be more inclusive to accommodate all children.
Important, but man, we have a lot of parks and green space. Nice to have but generally underutilized. Can we fill in by a few percent for housing? Reduce maintenance a bit. Use robots for grass cutting? Also, so many sidewalks need repair due to the damage nearby tree roots cause. The trees are lovely and important, is there a different species, material or method that can be used in planting or addressing/preventing the damage to the concrete?
Floral displays are beautiful BUT at the end of the summer season when all the floral displays are removed can they be saved for the next season somewhere or are they being sent to the landfill. If floral displays are being used then I feel they should be floral displays than can be used year after year ... especially when you consider how many are actually planted in the ground .. not specifically planters ... so much money is spent on this that could be allotted to other areas of our city budget
Our family loves all our parks. We often wonder why there is no permanent public bathroom at Sunnidale Park, the park is so well used that a permanent bathroom would be well worth the investment.
They will have houses on them thanks to ford.
Need more and add in a full time crew to pick up litter across the city
Increase tree planting, consider encouraging stewardship through joining LEAF non-profit organization.
Less mowing, more native plants in planters instead of annual bedding plants.
Defence of green space and maintenance should be a focus for Barrie. These spaces are free to use and encourage good health habits and social activities that are affordable to all residents. Additional funding could allow programming in summer to teach residents of all ages about the natural environment and its benefits.
Developer should be funding new trails for a minimum number of years or allocate the funding to maintain existing parks and trails.
This service enhances the quality of life for residents and creates outdoor spaces that improve health and wellness. A focus on increasing trees within the municipality and monitoring the health of existing trees is another critical element of climate change mitigation.

Police

Barrie Police Service (BPS) provides 24/7 emergency response. Specialty units address complex investigations (crimes against persons, human trafficking, tech crimes, homicides, fraud). BPS also provides community safety and well-being services, courthouse security, traffic services and crime prevention. Civilian members work alongside sworn members to deliver services to our community.

- Maintain current spending: 27%
- Decrease spending by 5%: 50%
- Increase spending by 5%: 23%

Everyone I know in banking that has Barrie Police clients is amazed at how much they are paid, even cadets make over a \$100K/year on the sunshine list, and Barrie Police are never around, barely ever do we see one enforcing speeding in areas that are really bad.
[BPS] IT manager paid way too much compared to other agencies as does the supervisor.
Allocate to front line
Spend savings on mental support
The city needs to allocate a portion of the police budget to strictly enforce the ridiculously ongoing speeding and reckless driving in this city. More police concentrating on this major problem. I have lived in this city for over sixty years and this has to stop.
We need to cap salaries, watch OT and look for opportunities in the Collective Agreement to ensure we stay within budget.
Obviously the largest budget line item. Should Police Services account for 1/4 of this our budget? Respect the Police, but this seems like a real large cheque.
Decrease by 100% would be preferable
Salaries are too high.
Wages and benefits consume most of the police budget. STOP Please already my taxes are through the roof CUT POLICE BUDGET DRASTICALLY better yet have south simcoe police look after barrie as it does innisfil and Bradford and get rid of the Barrie police force. No need for Barrie to have its own police \$\$\$ share the burden of policing like york region police covers alot of GTA cities.
Police are over paid and their system is inefficient and wasteful. Defund the police.
Police budgets continue to be inflated. Reinvest in mental health and emergency response to better fit the needs.
They want to hire more police officers. No use the money to help the people that need the help and support, due not hire more police to harass the people that need help.
Maintaining is the same as cutting services as employment contracts, as an example, will require more money be spent to maintain the same services. As Barrie continues to grow, so does the need for an expanded police services.
We rarely see police downtown. Should be much more visible. Less time spent on "education".
Policing has certainly changed as officers are not trained properly to work with mental health, lack of compassion when dealing with sensitive issues, and sometimes issues don't get investigated.
As the city grows so does our need for policing...Major Growth in south end and lack of police presence. Problems in the downtown appear to take up all resources.
Resources should be funneled to crime prevention officers. Too many officers seen parked talking to each other in groups of 2, 3, 4 cars.
Money is being wasted. They don't have to cut services but can find savings where money is being used more than needed. All government agencies are top heavy and BPS is no exception.

Decrease by even more – it is absolutely ludicrous that police are receiving almost double of fire and emergency services combined. Their own statistics show crime is going down. It's time to invest in the root causes of crime, instead of continuing to pour money into a bottomless pit.

Ontario has 66% of Canada's human trafficking crimes, Barrie has 2.5x the national average. If they can't protect our mothers and sisters and daughters, what exactly do we pay them for? Why do we pay our police on par with Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver prices? They aren't adding that value in protection or responsibility. They're not trusted by most young people, people of colour, and poor people. And with the highest unemployment and highest rent, sometimes nationally, I have to wonder if they're worth even half the budget they have? Why does the police department oversee community outreach? Increase social services. Separate it from police. Increase bus running times, take down transit costs, make the police budget eat it or give it to the taxpayer, I bet the people that ride the bus would happily pay it in their taxes rather than "out of pocket". Actually create a place for recreation that's not a paved monstrosity in the middle of a naturally beautiful downtown, so that young people can do more than party. Don't enforce against homeless and addicts with police in the first place. A social worker shouldn't have a badge. A park should have kids, not addicts, so build beautiful parks. Not brutalist anti-homeless architecture. So if you decrease police by 5%, that can increase the transit system by 10%. Economic development doubles the budget with just 5% of police. Libraries get a ~30% bump. In fact, if you decrease the police budget by the proposed 5, and also take everyone else's 5% increase FROM the police, the police only lose ~7%.

If I were a politician, I'd run it as a community development initiative to be hard on roads, increase community enrichment, and tax reform for the one side (you know which) and parrot harm reduction, defunding, and marginalized outreach for the other. Done right you can potentially find a win on both sides.

People probably won't notice a 7% budget decrease in police presence, the things they find threatening won't go away or change any time soon. They will feel a 10% increase on roads, and families will feel a 30% increase in the library.

We're deciding who we attract and keep in Barrie with this budget. So far, if we want to continue down the road of being a sleepover town for Toronto, while sending our educated students off to wherever has cheaper rent, and better opportunities, then we should stay the course. At this rate, the best thing you can go to college for in Barrie to live in Barrie, is to be a cop.

Since the only services I see at car collisions are firetrucks and ambulance, and since I have never felt safe walking around downtown at any time of day all of 2022 and never seen a police person around... and downtown Barrie is our most threatening neighbourhood (my peers won't go there anymore but I still walk about throughout the area and literally hop jump constantly to avoid battery and psychotic hollering - neither of which I take personally! so I understand why it is happening but having police officers walking around might be helpful) -- it strikes me that this budget needs to be slimmed down since the police presence seems to be slim

Only to provide more mental health training and mental health responders

Defund the police.

Defund. Less cops more mental health Support

Remove middle management roles as well as a need for 2 deputy chiefs of police? Cut back on overtime. Is all overtime really emergent - has this been questioned in detail? You can't use police investigations as a catch all for overtime as I'm sure that is not always the case.

Can they not break overtime down further, like how much of that is for police investigations, how much overtime is for support or other things? Civilians are valuable but police officers more important. Are the proposed new civilians positions really needed or are they a nice to have. The average civilian job there pays about \$70k, that's \$280k per year that maybe could be used for three more officers. Is there evidence and a justification in terms of workload per person? Is this being measured? Maybe a restructuring of resources to trim the "fat" is needed prior to asking for the 7% that is needed. What is the response time now and what are the projections for future response times? Why do they have to update the radio equipment, is it not working? Is diversity and wellness training really needed? What are the impacts of that? You can't just say it will have an impact with no real explanation as to what it's for? For members mental health, don't they have benefits for that?
Change police services in Barrie, to the OPP.
The city is growing and requires appropriate policing.
Police respond to crime, they do not prevent crime, they have never prevented crime and they never will prevent crime! When society is less policed and instead providing resources for those who are marginalized, living in poverty, mentally ill, unhoused we see crime levels decrease. For a city the size of Barrie and our tax dollars highest amount going to policing nothing will ever change. Yes we need policing in our community, but we absolutely do not need the amount of policing we currently have. Time to take some of that policing money and put it where it is needed most.
Barrie police can survive one year without an increase, they got one last year and yet I don't feel any safer downtown Barrie. Why pay for a product that is under performing?
Decrease by 10% or more from 2020 budget.
I personally don't feel any safer when I see a Barrie Police Officer and don't see a benefit in increasing their budget at all. The fact that so many officers make over \$100,000 disgusts me as a taxpayer.
Look to New York Cities 'Neighborhood Policing' program to enhance the collaboration and engagement of residents and constables to keep neighborhoods safe and secure.
We need our Officers!!! They give their lives for us and that's something money can't buy!!!
Management salary is outrageous. lets save money by reducing these ridiculous salaries
Front line officers that respond to calls for service in our community on a daily are dangerously understaffed. Officers are put in life threatening situations with a staggering number of crimes. Citizens are waiting hours for officer response to priority emergencies due too inadequate staffing levels.
Police do so much more than just "police". Give them the funds they need to create partnerships with local organizations to help deal with the systematic issues of today. They are leaders in the community and are driving much needed change. But they need the financial support to do that.
We need police back in schools, or our city will suffer the long term consequences! Not only do school Principals and Vice Principals need and want the support, but positive child/police interaction is a great way to get the right people applying for the job in the future.
Fund other social services so police don't have to respond to certain social situations where another service might be a better option
BPS addresses the protection and safety for all residents and visitors to our city. It's clear to me that our police services need to be better supported financially in order for their important job to be done effectively. Out of this we need increased police presence in the city core so folks & businesses can enjoy the downtown without a feeling of insecurity.
Dropping 1.2m on the temp homeless shelter at Bayfield, does that include the extra policing costs?
I'm new to Barrie and the amount of homelessness and tent city's around town are sad. I don't

see much of a police presence around town either. The Drug and Mental Health issue is HUGE in this town! Where do these people come from? Not sure which Spending Category this would be under, but MENTAL HEALTH and ADDITION issues in most of these homeless people is a huge part of why they are homeless! I watched a woman walk out of an apt above a really nice restaurant on Dunlop St downtown core and she was so HIGH on something, and she could barely walk. I found this not a good look for a downtown core that is trying to appear upscale. And a man walking up and down Dunlop street yelling at no one in particular - clearly mental health issues! This downtown core needs more cleaning up for sure !
We need more police presence in the downtown core. I have 2 young kids and I don't feel safe walking in some areas downtown.
Please consider tiered policing. Reduce the number of times police are used at construction areas.
Would like to see what the police require for planning beyond today.
This budget is outrageous. Barrie Police could very easily do with a budget decrease, and that money could be used to fund social services that will actually work to solve many of our community's problems at the root.
Community Policing needs to increase, my neighborhood has deteriorated in the last 2 yrs and something needs to be done I never see police in our area but lots of vehicles at the station. Save on gas, get out of the cars and get to know the people you serve and protect.
New growth warrants more hires.
With all the growth we've had in the last few years in our city, I feel this needs to increase by even more than 5%. We need more police force to target speeders, crime, etc so that we may all feel safe in our communities again.
Wasting money on-downtown cameras that are not live monitored and only one person trained on retrieving its data. How does this increase safety?
It is better to address the causes of crime rather than always increasing the police budget to react to it. While the police are valuable, other social supports are more urgently required, e.g. affordable housing, activities for youth.
Police do not need the maximum amount of funding in a city budget.
Decrease by way more. They said they had a surplus!!!
Police budget is out of control, as an sample why do we need to pay for a technical vehicle, the police standard need to be challenged and arranged based on location and history of the town
Decrease by 5.8 million, not 2.9. Spend the surplus on community services. Do they really need armoured vans that will get used once in 10 years?
Allocate to social support instead.
Police need to be defunded so that the city can spend more money on the services and supports residents need.
Over staffed. These cops are playing Uber to friends at night clubs. Go to your local arena, you'll see at least one uniformed on duty watching their kid play.
This money would be better spent on social services that are shown to reduce crime.
I'm disappointed to see that there are no line items for social services in this budget. I'd like to see some of the police services funding diverted towards social initiatives to *prevent* the situations that police services intervene in. We need a more robust safety net.
Police demand an increase year after year without end. One wonders if their leadership even attempts to look for savings. It seems there are always enough Police to conduct "paid duties" at construction sites but never enough for patrol. I believe it is a leadership issue.
Kind of ridiculous that we can't submit unless it balances but there's only a 5% option. The

data would be more representative of the people's opinion if it was possible to say "I'd like to see more spending here, but not sure where to reduce. I just feel its important to have more here" or have 2.5% and 7.5% options to make it a bit easier to allocate funds.
Partial decrease with officers not being used for construction/road watch deployment.
Police receive way too much money! Put that money to good use and actually help the people! Too many homeless and nothing being done about it. No mental health services available. RVH is one of the worst hospitals I've ever been to and I avoid it when I can. No family doctors and when I do get one they leave after 1 year. There are no real services for the people.
Don't see the value for our tax dollars here. Police are integral to our community, but we pay a lot of money for limited results. Besides a couple areas of town, there is a near-zero police presence. Property crimes and CONSTANT traffic violations that seemingly go unpunished, which are the things that affect the average citizen most. Drug busts and other high profile crimes are obviously more important to catch, but we can't ignore the day-to-day stuff.
Too much already and the money could go to other services
This isn't as hard as people tell us. Stop wasteful spending and pay off the debt. The last 10 years was an embarrassment the way city hall foolishly spent our money. Its our money, not yours.
There is absolutely no reason to maintain or increase police funding. Studies show this has zero effect on crime or public safety.
Police budget is too large, money would be better spent on services for the homeless. There is a massive homeless population in barrie that are doing drugs in the open, attacking other residents, stealing, and causing public disturbances. Offer them supports so that Barrie residents can actually live in Barrie peacefully.
Redistribute to emerg services with the plan to redirect mental health/ substance use calls to paramedics and mental health crisis teams.
More mental health staff less heavy handed police.
It is my opinion that a portion of the police services budget should be reallocated to prevention services, amounting to a larger decrease than the budget allocation tool's 5%. A re-assessment of the police services role should be undertaken.

Recreation & Culture Services

Recreation & Culture Services builds vibrant, healthy, active and connected communities by providing facilities, programs and event management that give all Barrie residents an opportunity to participate in recreational and cultural activities.

- Maintain current spending: 39%
- Decrease spending by 5%: 38%
- Increase spending by 5%: 23%

Not a priority in Barrie right now
Increase user fees
We're in tough economic times, we need to spend less on the wants and more on the needs.
More public transit. Less urban sprawl.
I would have cut this by more.
What exact is a cultural event? A show? Do we really need to have the best 4K and sound system in our community theatres? It's expensive to go as it is now plus parking. I would like to see a reduction in the cultural events and use that towards the rec centres, that keeps people connected to the community, always has.
There are plenty of families who would love to enroll their children into city run programs. But money is always an issue. I personally have no skin in the game, but grew up next to a city run recreation center and took part in city run programs, which surprisingly back then were free.
Please figure out a way to put washrooms at Sunnidale Park.
Recreation facilities are in high demand. I'd love to see a 50 m pool. That would draw in events and bring more visitors (spending money) in Barrie. The current pool at East Bayfield Centre needs the scoreboard repaired and the diving blocks repaired. Maintenance of these items is critical for operation of meets, which bring visitors (and their money) to the region. There is also not enough COURT space for volleyball.
Find ways to work with the community to provide entertainment. Don't "compete" with local events run by not for profits in the community. Advertise and partner their events instead of making your own.
I think recreation is extremely important, however it seems to me like our recreation department lets the facilities be dominated by a small segment of the population at the expense of others. When we wanted to teach my kids to skate after Covid eased up, we were told there was no ice time for anyone except hockey teams. When we wanted to go for a swim there were people who had been lined up for hours to get into the pool, and were told even if we joined the line we would not get in. Now I'm trying to find space to practice soccer with my child, and open gym is a couple of hours on Saturdays and Sundays, but half of the dates are excluded. It's ridiculous...if this is how inaccessible our rec centres are, then I don't feel we should all have to contribute to fund them!
With such a woke society, Canadian culture means very little so might as well reduce spending here.
A slight increase in user fees could go towards minimizing the impact of a 5% budget reduction.
Put The Money Saved Into Road Repair
Arts and culture will need extra support as they recover from the pandemic. Barrie residents need to be ignited to participate and activated by the arts. Our diversity continues to grow, support to ensure that cultural events reflect the residents we serve will be vital.
We do need a rec facility in the southeast part of the City. An Olympic length 50m lane pool would provide for a central location for competition that could feed local tourism. The rec

facilities are amazing in Barrie they are just far for our family and often very busy.
The five points theatre, although I enjoy it, my husband cannot sit comfortably in the seats. It's too small to bring many shows/entertainers here. It's intimate, but not a drawing card.
The town needs more cultural and recreational draws, like Pirate Days in Orillia or shows at Midland Cultural Centre.
Events like this will bring more revenue and more use of waterfront
Maybe we could concentrate on the homeless sector in barrie and provide services for this population which appears to be on the rise in barrie?
Greater support and innovation for arts and culture. This is an investment in the quality of Barrie. All the events supported by local community artists and enjoyed by so many people in Barrie is a result of an arts program(s) that fostered the talent to put these on. We need more promotion and availability of these. A/C is a strong economic lever that also begets talent, intellectual power, and innovation in the community. City of Barrie is trying, but better support in the Arts department, less red tape and promotion for appreciation of the arts in Barrie is a good step forward. It will attract professionals, businesses and employers.
To move toward the goal of building a thriving arts community. Restoration of pre-covid capacity for arts groups continues and would benefit from extra focus/support.
To support the increased spending toward a new performance facility to improve the quality of experiences for residents.
Would like to see a rec centre in Ward 10
Recreation yes particularly where it services youth. Culture reduce to reflect the very limited audience
We need to charge nonresidents to use our recreational services whether they be our waterfront parks, community centres, or beaches. We need more activities for adults to maintain a healthy population. We need to stop spending money on park redevelopment consultants and just have our own parks personnel that work in these projects. We need personnel to help maintain the cleanliness of the waterfront trail, the water quality of our Bay, and our parks to make them inviting places for families to enjoy.
Ensure facilities stay open all summer
I would recommend reducing funding here to compensate for the 5% increase in parks & forestry.
Money should be reallocated to reduce energy costs, reduce food costs, increase job opportunities so people can afford to live healthy.
Seeing as we are still the only municipality in Canada with a population of 100,000+ that does not have a performing arts centre, and realizing the overabundance of talent in this area that would maximize the use of such a centre, isn't it about time the city immediately moves ahead with the plans that involve construction of the centre at the Central Collegiate site?

Roads, Fleet and Technical Operations

Operates/maintains City infrastructure and fleet assets to enable safe and reliable vehicular, rail and pedestrian transportation and the City's fleet to ensure proper operation and lifecycle optimization in compliance with Federal and Provincial regulations. During the winter, this area performs sanding and salting operations on roads, sidewalks and parking lots.

- Maintain current spending: 47%
- Decrease spending by 5%: 11%
- Increase spending by 5%: 42%

Sidewalk shoveling can be "off loaded" to residents? There might be some savings.
Spend more on re surfacing old roads
Roads are the one thing that everyone in Barrie can agree needs investment.
Barrie roads are in horrible condition especially in the north end
City roads are in deplorable state.
Need to increase by 10% or more.
Sidewalks were marked and not repaired this year in my area. Some roads around me are in awful shape. An increase would hopefully solve this and ensure our roads don't fall into disrepair quicker due to the increase in vehicles traveling in the city.
I would love to see pathways to schools labeled as essentials. They are vital arteries to schools and help lower the amount of traffic! Kids are getting hurt getting to school using these icy pathways.
Yes there are some older areas that need repairs but in comparison to other cities Barrie roads aren't that bad.
This is a disingenuous tool. One thing the city could look at is levels and amounts of street lighting: very unhealthy for creatures and humans and a means of decreasing costs - but check out how many double lights we have - like private condo parking lot lights adjacent to city lights (Greenwich St excellent example) - how do we tell the city to audit things like these and produce sensible plans to change/avoid future?
My street is like a ploughed field in winter. We have it ploughed once it snows again you might see a ploughed in two days.
Potholes all over, broken curbs
Seems like your outsourcing yard waste went real good. Outsource it all.
Can you fix all the pot holes? Can you invest in a show machine that clears the end of driveways after the plow has been by? Other cities have this!
The roads with Barrie are in need of major repair. Neglecting them further will only cause further erosion and subsequently a more costly fix.
I find it disgusting that there are specific trucks just for salting roadways, when they could have a plow attachment so the driver could double their efficiency for winter maintenance. The number of times I have seen operation staff members take excessively long breaks is also a major concern. The lack of plowing of sidewalks on side streets is despicable. How is someone in a wheelchair going to maneuver with compacted snow on the sidewalks. The list can go on and on for how disappointed I am as a taxpayer with the operations department.
Our roadways within the city are in horrible conditions. Ultimately costing motorists extra money to maintain their motor vehicles with wheel alignments, shocks and struts being damaged.
Need to develop efficiencies and look at need. Vehicles are costly and it may be better to have manpower rather than cars.
Increase that by 10%. Roads are a disaster.

Being new to Barrie I also noticed how BAD the roads around town are! Crazy bad pot holes.
Peacemeal bandades do not work. Increase the budget and get our roads out of being an embarrassment.
Fix potholes \$
This tool is too simplistic, in allowing only 5% changes on each line, and no change to revenue.
Please please please improve the roads, they are awful for a vibrant and growing city. So many places I have to crawl through with my car because of pot holes, train tracks and road cracks. It is very expensive to replace a rim and it impedes efficient and safe traffic flow. No need to increase fleet spending.
Our roads are terrible. We leave Barrie often to visit friends in Wasaga and Midland. The county roads are much better. We had so many suspension problems with our previous car it got to the point that it was unfixable. We spend money on bike lanes in areas they are dangerous to put and not needed and the maintenance on these roads is ignored. Re prioritize to repair and then once roads are up to standard and safe, then add improvements.
Better contract negotiations required.
Very important, but some maintenance could/should be forestalled or contracted out? Are there innovations that can be applied. Eg: the sidewalk plows dig up lawns that need to be repaired. Can't the blades be adjusted or different attachments be used. Use robots in some instances?
My reason for this is because on many occasions I have witnessed the little tractor coming down our street to clean the sidewalks 2 or 3 times a day when there isn't even anything to clean on the sidewalk ... the blade can actually be heard scrapping on the sidewalk as it comes down the sidewalk.
City roads are a mess, damage to vehicles, poor infrastructure. growing city needs to invest in roads before it is too late.
My curb has been broken for almost a year now.
Create bus lanes or advance lights for public transit. Buses are rarely on time and this is what makes toronto great. Barrie demands the same fee for transit but provides a disappointing level of service.
Several roads in Barrie are degrading. These require repairs.
Better city planning is needed to streamline the money used for roads. We need to spend less on the waterfront revamp and more in the roads and infrastructure in the older Barrie neighborhoods. Roads in the east end are abysmal.
The roads in this town are horrible. So many car repairs are directly linked to poor roads. Duckworth is a perfect example. Part of it was re-surfaced but part of it is like driving on a road from 1920.
Our population is growing and road widening projects need to be expedited.
Barrie roads are ridiculous, constant construction with no end in sight (eg: Anne Street Bridge). Why have such a large budget when nothing actually gets fixed?
Remove speedbumps and unnecessary stop lights.

Solid Waste Operations

This area provides curbside collection services for garbage, organics, recycling and leaf and yard waste, as well as hazardous waste collection and disposal. Oversees the operation and maintenance of the active landfill cell and the various environmental controls in place to ensure sustainable operations and compliance with environmental legislation.

- Maintain current spending: 73%
- Decrease spending by 5%: 15%
- Increase spending by 5%: 13%

Find a better contractor. Maybe something like the county switched to with carts
I understand paying for the dump when I have garbage to take. Why would I bring my electronics to the landfill and be charged for them when I can bring it somewhere else and get paid for it? This area is nickle and diming people for little things that our tax dollars should already pay for.
What we are spending now compared to 20 yrs ago is ridiculous. Same trucks, same employees, same collection area's. Not much has changed other than extra housing of course and cost of living. But it can't possibly cost the hundreds of thousands of dollars allocated for this, and why are we paying outside collection companies when we (our City) should be doing these job's? Something doesn't add up.
Making garbage disposal harder will push people to buy/make less garbage. Stop enabling consumer culture!
Do something about minimizing the putrid smell emanating from the Waste Water Treatment Facility
Increase fees to subsidize budgets. The city is many recreation facilities that need to be self sufficient.
We have nothing but good things to say about staff and service. Always a smooth process.
The leaf waste contractor owes us funds for non performance. Currently my recycling gets picked up around 4pm every pick up day
Negotiate better contracts
I would like to see more large dumpster bins in places where residents and businesses instead just pile their garbage bags at the curb until collection happens. Some residents have expresses concerns/issues with increase of rats in residential areas AND I would not want to be the individual who needs to toss ALL those bags one by one into the truck .. what a waste of time .. maybe then we could look at a decrease in this service cost
The city should collect organics from schools. What better way to help increase participation than to teach our children. The County of Simcoe has successfully supported the schools organics collection for years.
It strikes me as odd that, for a city of this size, there are so few public garbage receptacles. It's particularly concerning given our proximity to the lake -- all one has to do is take a walk to see that citizens are just allowing their waste to fall where it may.
We need to stop spending money on park redevelopment consultants and just have our own parks personnel that work in these projects. We need personnel to help maintain the cleanliness of the waterfront trail, the water quality of our Bay, and our parks to make them inviting places for families to enjoy. We need to stop spending money on annual planting that is not environmentally sustainable and encourage plants that are native and self sustaining without constant maintenance

Transit

Barrie Transit offers both specialized and conventional transit services to give Barrie residents an affordable and environmentally sustainable transportation option to their travel needs.

- Maintain current spending: 42%
- Decrease spending by 5%: 34%
- Increase spending by 5%: 24%

Need to invest more into transit, and get more cars off the roads
Hubs need to be examined for buses and other ways to grow the program efficiently.
Increase transit operational hours and frequency of buses - otherwise no one will take it.
I am for transit but those buses seem awful empty
The whole system except for one or two lines is low demand. We need to stop wasting money on this inefficient system. It needs to be rethought out.
The buses seem to always be empty. Smaller buses (cheaper) would be better.
I would have cut this by more.
Busses driving around empty, Smaller electric sse requires to align to usage.
More free transit for 65+ and youth at a discount.
I don't use the bus, I would if there were more direct routes to where I go. I live on a bus route and see 0-5 people on the bus. Maybe that just where I live and what I see, but doesn't make sense to keep this going. Again, if a very small percentage of the population uses this, is it really feasible. But with the cost of cars and gas, I understand people can't afford that. But you can't keep throwing money at a problem in hopes of solving it.
Empty buses burning expensive diesel.
Most buses are empty, increasing funding will not add riders, as most work in Toronto or surrounding areas. It's faster by car then transit, and I value my time.
The lack of transit services within the City of Barrie is abysmal.
The buses are mostly empty. The majority shouldn't be subsidizing the minority to have cheap transport. Make the buses more expensive to fully cover the costs of running the service.
Transit operations should be operated much-like the airlines where they use passenger load factors to manage routes and equipment utilization. I see many full-size buses operating with only 2-5 people on-board.
Lets invest in green transit.
It's time for an overhaul of many transit routes throughout the city.
From my personal observations, there's still a number of buses running with minimal passengers. I expect the use of the shorter and less costly buses has proven to be feasible so, perhaps any future buses could be of the shorter size.
How are the savings from all of the cancelled services being reallocated?
The need for reliable public transit on evenings and weekends is one of the priority needs of newcomers to Barrie. Currently, after-hours public transit is non-existent or extremely limited. We need to support our transit system to enable employment and access to newcomers and students.
At this time we do not need to experiment with EV busses, especially if we do not have clean energy sources - we are just displacing the carbon footprint. Optimize routes and schedules and keep vehicles in good repair.
Complete the EV study for buses. Modify the "Plan a Trip" tool to integrate cycling in addition to walking and include trail locations (start/end) as destinations.
Not happy with the programs of offering free rides, particularly with long term covid programs, then increasing taxes which are already too high and getting very unaffordable.
Decrease frequency ... people have an app so they can meet the bus at the appropriate time

The reason I felt this should be decreased is because many, many times when I've observed the busses in our city on route they have very few passengers on the busses. I realize this is the only way some residence can get around our city but running some of the busses for just a handful of people can't really justify the cost of gas/maintenance for these vehicles
Elderly population will continue to rely on transit as well as young families as youth grow in the city. expanded lines and services need to grow with population.
You do not need to spend millions of dollars on a new transit terminal and millions more to redo .The current one downtown to a farmers' market. The farmer's market is fine where it is and it will. Never last if it operates 7 days a week. It will be a further drain on tax dollars. You still need a terminal downtown, A majority of the people travel downtown not to Waterfront station.
I would love to use transit more but service is not frequent enough for it to be viable for me and my family.
I think this service needs re thinking. The number of busses I see running around with very few passengers indicates there must be a more economical way of providing this service. Ride on demand may be worth exploring.
Barrie is the epitome of urban sprawl and this type of urban development cannot be supported by mass transit. Focus should be on high volume routes, stop sending empty buses down side streets. Subsidized driver services for those on routes who are regular users should be explored. Eg Innisfil's ride sharing service.
Most of transit lines are poorly utilized. We should not invest in this method of transportation. We need to encourage growth of neighborhoods that people can live and work in with less commuting. We need to prioritize use of walking and non car transportation.
Update or replace fareboxes to allow riders to pay with debit/credit cards and also introduce a reloadable ride card like Presto.
Barrie transit is my main issue with the City of Barrie. It is the WORST public transportation i have ever taken, and I have taken public transit all over Canada. Constant late busses, canceled busses, poorly developed bus routes, rude drivers, unreliable bus schedules, no customer support, no accountability for poor service.
Your citizens are purchasing bus passes, and also shelling out hundreds of dollars a month on taxis/ubers due to late/canceled busses. There should be a refund policy. Why would the city even consider raising the budget when they aren't even meeting the basic requirements of their contract? They shouldn't get any funding until they fix their services.
Buses are always empty.
It's time for Barrie transit to run every day of the year, not to cease service on Christian holidays. I'm insulted to read there are no busses on those days and I'm a white woman. Barrie can do better!
It's not a matter of funding it's a matter of using the \$'s wisely. May consider alternatives such as possible partnerships with Uber for residents only and using tax dollars to subsidize trips. Innisfil did something like this.
Barrie Transit is a key pillar in the reduction of CO2 emissions. This transportation service should have increased resources to provide an efficient, low-cost transportation service in order to encourage more residents to consider it a viable option rather than the automobile.