



City of Barrie

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

Minutes - Final City Council

Monday, January 25, 2021

7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

CALLING TO ORDER BY THE CITY CLERK, WENDY COOKE

The meeting was called to order by the City Clerk at 7:01 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

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

STAFF:

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

Director of Transit and Parking Strategy, B. Forsyth
Executive Director of Access Barrie, R. James-Reid
Fire Chief, C. Mainprize
General Manager of Community and Corporate Services, D. McAlpine
General Manager of Infrastructure and Growth Management, A. Miller
Manager of Corporate Asset Management, K. Oakley
Manager of Legal Services, A. Mills.

PLAYING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

The National Anthem was played.

READING OF LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Mayor, J. Lehman read the Land Acknowledgement.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

21-A-011 The Minutes of the City Council meeting held on January 11, 2021 were adopted as printed and circulated.

DEPUTATION(S) ON COMMITTEE REPORTS

21-A-012 **DEPUTATIONS REGARDING MOTION 21-G-005 CONCERNING THE 2021 BUSINESS PLAN - BARRIE POLICE SERVICES BOARD**

The following Deputations were provided concerning motion 21-G-005 concerning the 2021 Business Plan - Barrie Police Services (BPS) Board:

1. Michael Speers provided his concerns associated to the 2021 BPS Board Budget request. He advised that in his opinion policing has failed society, particularly black and indigenous people. Mr. Speers noted that he feels that most calls received by the BPS are non-criminal and non-emergency, that changes need to be made to completely rethink policing, that they are coming up short when it comes to creating this new vision and the City can do better now by defunding the police. He discussed the valuable initiatives and the good that will come from the Anti-Racism Task Force. Mr. Speers provided examples of people wanting to see change noting that last summer's gatherings of hundreds of people in the streets of Barrie demanding action with not just one, but two massive rallies and the community comments to reduce the police budget found in the City's online Budget Allocator tool. He commented that the exact opposite of what the community is calling for and the status quo has failed, and Council is getting exactly what they are wanting but not the residents.

Mr. Speers provided his opinion related to the current policing system that he felt is better designed to create crime and label people are criminals; is rooted in racism and settler colonialism; has an elevation of one class over communities; protects property, not people; is not a true system of justice as a true system of justice would be doing the exact opposite; and is over policed and there is over incarceration that make communities less safe and taking resources away from programs and services that prevent crime.

Mr. Speers provided his suggestions for a better system that included Council to begin creating a shift immediately by defunding the police; a goal of complete abolition of the system is the solution; reallocation of money is not enough and needs to be seen as a human rights issue; prioritize services as a society and how we treat each other; communities that everybody is supported and police and prisons are unnecessary; make massive investments in social housing and community programs; care for people experiencing homelessness; better the lives of seniors; offer free transit; and invest in the future to fight climate change.

In conclusion, Mr. Speers thanked Council for support in the \$3 million commitment for social housing and he asked that Council reconsider and decrease the police budget as now is the time to act.

2. Amber Beckett thanked members of Council for working together as a team, and for their dedication and diligence in making the tough decisions associated to this year's budget.

Ms. Beckett advised that she was disappointed in Council for not holding the police budget request to the same standard as the other partner organizations at a 1.95% increase. She commented that in her opinion the police are untouchable, and that Council will give them whatever money they request. She noted that she hoped this was not the case, but it is impression she was given. Ms. Beckett commented on the City as a Corporation and as a Corporation they should be able to go to a department that they oversee and have them come back with 5 to 10% decrease in funding. She noted her concern that Council did not even ask the police to come back with a decrease to their budget request.

Ms. Beckett discussed the City's option for taxpayers to share what is important to them for 2021 Business Plan and Budget with the online Budget Allocator tool. She provided an analogy illustrating the frustration of providing your input and not having your comments considered. Ms. Beckett advised that hundreds of people have asked that the police decrease their budget and she noted that Council has done the opposite with an increase. She commented that the police budget in 2011 was just under \$42 million and the proposed budget this year is \$57 million, being a 7% increase in the last 10 years. Ms. Beckett advised that she does not believe the City's population growth over the last 10 years matches the 7% increase.

Ms. Beckett commended Council's support over the last few months in supporting social and health services, however she noted that other than the \$3 million for the housing initiative, she felt that there was no other support for these services in the budget. She questioned what has been done to relieve the pressure on the police with all the calls they are facing, as she felt that the majority are not criminal in nature and are non-emergencies. Ms. Beckett suggested having By-law Officers 24/7, 365 days a year to handle some of the non-emergency calls such as noise complaints given that during the winter months, they give out parking tickets for cars parked on the road overnight. She commented that she believes it could help with the mental health response and would be another good place to start.

In conclusion, Ms. Beckett commented that if the police budget is left unchecked it will continue to balloon and cut off necessary flow of resources to other organizations, and that by reducing the police budget, money could be given to organizations to relieve pressures off police. She asked that as one of Council's strategic priorities to offer innovative and citizen-driven services and that they take this opportunity to put the money in the right place for community.

Mayor Lehman asked a question to Ms. Beckett and received a response.

Councillor, G. Harvey declared that to remain in compliance with his statutory obligations under Section 17(3) of the *Police Services Act* he was unable to participate in the discussions or vote on the foregoing matter. He left the virtual Council meeting.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

[21-A-013](#)

General Committee Report dated January 18, 2021, Sections A, B and C. (APPENDIX "A")

SECTION "A" - TO BE ADOPTED

Moved by: Deputy Mayor, B. Ward
Seconded by: Councillor, R. Thomson

That Section "A" of the General Committee Report dated January 18, 2021, now circulated, be adopted.

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

Councillor, G. Harvey declared that to remain in compliance with his statutory obligations under Section 17(3) of the *Police Services Act* he was unable to participate in the discussions or vote on the foregoing matter. He left the virtual Council meeting.

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

SECTION "B" - TO BE ADOPTED

Moved by: Deputy Mayor, B. Ward
Seconded by: Councillor, R. Thomson

That Section "B" of the General Committee Report dated January 18, 2021, now circulated, be adopted.

21-G-006 2021 BUSINESS PLAN**AMENDMENT #1**

Moved by: Deputy Mayor B, Ward
Seconded by: Councillor, R. Thomson

That paragraph 1 l) of motion 21-G-006 of Section "B" of the General Committee Report dated January 18, 2021 concerning the 2021 BUSINESS PLAN be separated and re-introduced as Section "D" motion 21-G-008 - School Crossing Guard Program.

CARRIED

AMENDMENT #2

Moved by: Councillor, J. Harris
Seconded by: Councillor, R. Thomson

That motion 21-G-006 of Section "B" of the General Committee Report dated January 18, 2021 concerning the 2021 BUSINESS PLAN be amended in paragraph in paragraph 2 e) as follows:

By deleting the following words:

"be transferred to the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve"

And replacing them with:

"be allocated to library materials and that the Barrie Public Library Board be requested to consider the purchase of digital resources as its primary focus."

CARRIED

AMENDMENT #3

Moved by: Councillor, G. Harvey
Seconded by: Councillor, R. Thomson

That motion 21-G-006 of Section "B" of the General Committee Report dated January 18, 2021 concerning the 2021 BUSINESS PLAN be amended in paragraph in paragraph 2 b) as follows:

By deleting "132,131" and replacing it "117,543".

CARRIED

AMENDMENT #4

Moved by: Councillor, M. McCann
Seconded by: Councillor, R. Thomson

That motion 21-G-006 Section "B" of the General Committee Report dated January 18, 2021 concerning the 2021 BUSINESS PLAN be amended by adding the following sections to paragraph 11:

"That funding for Capital Project 001048 Permanent Traffic Calming Measures (page 233) be increased by \$100,000 each in 2021 and 2022, to be funded from the Tax Capital Reserve for the purpose of adding two additional locations for permanent speed cushions per ward.

That staff in the Infrastructure Department report back before the end of February, 2021 on the use of concrete versus asphalt for the permanent speed cushions including costs and durability."

CARRIED

AMENDMENT #5

Moved by: Councillor, M. McCann
Seconded by: Councillor, G. Harvey

That motion 21-G-006 of Section "B" of the General Committee Report dated January 18, 2021 concerning the 2021 BUSINESS PLAN be amended in paragraph 11 j) as follows:

By removing the following wording:

"include construction of a parking lot at Riverwood Park by the end of 2022"

And replacing it with:

"That staff in the Parks and Forestry Branch meet with the owner of the Kozlov Centre to discuss the allotment of parking spaces for patrons of Riverwood Park"

LOST

Upon the question of the original motion moved by Deputy Mayor, B. Ward and seconded by Councillor, R. Thomson, the motion was **CARRIED AS AMENDED BY AMENDMENTS #1, 2, 3, and 4.**

SECTION "C" - TO BE ADOPTED

Moved by: Deputy Mayor, B. Ward
Seconded by: Councillor, R. Thomson

That Section "C" of the General Committee Report dated January 18, 2021, now circulated, be adopted.

21-G-007

MODULAR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROJECT - VESPRA STREET

AMENDMENT #1

Moved by: Councillor, K. Aylwin
Seconded by: Councillor, R. Thomson

That motion 21-G-007 of Section "C" of the General Committee Report dated January 18, 2021 concerning the Modular Supportive Housing Project - Vespra Street be amended as follows:

a) By deleting paragraph 1 and replacing it with the following:

- "1. That a Capital Project be added to the 2021 Capital Plan entitled "Modular Supportive Housing Project - Vespra Street" with funding of approximately \$3 million (inclusive of the \$500,000 estimated to be required for soil remediation) to be funded from debt, with final amounts to be determined through Request for Proposal planning and approval of a

proposal, with the annual debt servicing costs to be paid from the Reinvestment Reserve and that funding be leveraged access other funding opportunities.”

- b) By adding the following as paragraph 2, and renumbering paragraph 2 to paragraph 3:

“2. That after consultation with the County of Simcoe and social agencies dealing with homelessness and before the issuance of the Request for Proposal, the General Manager of Community and Corporate Services report back to General Committee on the target residents for the Vespra Street Build, sources of subsidies, key project parameters and how the City’s funding can be leveraged to access other funding opportunities.”

- c) By deleting paragraph 3 and replacing it with the following:

“3. That following a report back to General Committee, staff in the Corporate Facilities, Development Services and Legal Services Departments in consultation with the County of Simcoe issue a call for proposals for a service provider to construct and manage the build and operate the housing units.”

AMENDMENT TO AMENDMENT #1

Moved by: Councillor, M. McCann

Seconded by: Councillor, S. Morales

That motion 21-G-007 of Section “C” of the General Committee Report dated January 18, 2021 concerning the Modular Supportive Housing Project - Vespra Street be amended as follows:

By renumbering paragraph 1 to 1a) and adding the following paragraph as paragraph 1b):

“1. b) That funding for the remediation be capped at \$750,000, and staff in the Legal Services Department report on any overages to this amount to General Committee.”

CARRIED

Upon the question of Amendment #1 moved by Councillor, K. Aylwin and seconded by Councillor, R. Thomson, it was **CARRIED AS AMENDED BY THE AMENDMENT TO AMENDMENT #1.**

AMENDMENT #2

Moved by: Councillor, K. Aylwin
Seconded by: Councillor, N. Harris

That motion 21-G-007 of Section "C" of the General Committee Report dated January 18, 2020 concerning the Modular Supportive Housing Project - Vespra Street, be amended by adding the following as paragraph 4:

"That staff in the Development Services Department conduct a Neighbourhood Meeting with the successful proponent and area residents to engage the public in the process and solicit feed back to improve the overall implementation of the project."

CARRIED

Upon the question of the original motion moved by Deputy Mayor, B. Ward and seconded by Councillor, R. Thomson, the motion was **CARRIED AS AMENDED BY AMENDMENTS #1 and #2.**

SECTION "D" - TO BE ADOPTED

Moved by: Deputy Mayor, B. Ward
Seconded by: Councillor, R. Thomson

That Section "D" of the General Committee Report dated January 18, 2021, now circulated, be adopted.

21-G-008 2021 BUSINESS PLAN - STUDENT SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD PROGRAM

Councillor, G. Harvey declared that to remain in compliance with his statutory obligations under Section 17(3) of the *Police Services Act* he was unable to participate in the discussions or vote on the foregoing matter. He left the virtual Council meeting.

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

ENQUIRIES

A member of Council addressed an enquiry to City staff and a received responses.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members of Council provided announcements concerning a number of matters.

BY-LAWS

Moved by: Deputy Mayor, B. Ward

Seconded by: Councillor, R. Thomson

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

BY-LAW
2021-008**Bill #008**

A By-law of The Corporation of the City of Barrie to provide for an interim tax levy on all property classes in the City of Barrie. (13-G-316) (2021 Interim Tax Billing) (FIN022-13) (File: F22)

BY-LAW
2021-009**Bill #009**

A By-law of The Corporation of the City of Barrie to adopt an amendment to the Official Plan (O.P.A. 078). (20-P-049) (Application for an Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment for 51-75 Bradford Street and 20 Checkley Street) (Ward 2) (DEV34-20) (Files: D09-OPA078 and D14-1692)

BY-LAW
2021-010**Bill #010**

A By-law of The Corporation of the City of Barrie to amend By-law 2009-141, a land use control by-law to regulate the use of land, and the erection, use, bulk, height, location and spacing of buildings and structures in the City of Barrie. (20-P-049) (Application for an Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment for 51-75 Bradford Street and 20 Checkley Street) (Ward 2) (DEV034-20) (Files: D09-078 and D14-1692)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONFIRMATION BY-LAW

Moved by: Deputy Mayor, B. Ward
Seconded by: Councillor, R. Thomson

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

BY-LAW
2021-011

Bill #011

A By-law of The Corporation of the City of Barrie to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting held on the 25th day of January, 2021.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Councillor, N. Harris
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor, B. Ward

That the meeting be adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

CARRIED

Mayor, J. Lehman

Wendy Cooke, City Clerk