



BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: February 29, 2024, 6:00 pm

Members Present Councillor Tim Balasiuk, Councillor Gary Burroughs, Councillor Wendy Cheropita, Councillor Maria Mavridis, Councillor Sandra O'Connor, Councillor Nick Ruller, Councillor Adriana Vizzari, Councillor Erwin Wiens, Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa

Staff Present Shaunna Arenburg - Deputy Clerk, Kirsten McCauley - Director of Community and Development Services, Jay Plato - Fire Chief, Kyle Freeborn - Director of Corporate Services/ Treasurer, Grant Bivol - Town Clerk/Manager of Legislative Services, Bruce Zvaniga, CAO (Interim)

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Deputy Lord Mayor Wiens called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved By Councillor Wendy Cheropita

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

APPROVED

3. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None were declared.

4. **BUSINESS**

4.1 **2024 Draft Operating Budget Running Total**

Director Freeborn gave a presentation on the 2024 Draft Operating Budget Running Total including:

- Contract Conversions

- Budget Reduction Strategies

Director Freeborn answered questions of clarity throughout the presentation.

4.1.1 Contract Conversions – BC2024-30 (updated)

Director Freeborn walked Council through the attachments and answered questions of clarity.

4.1.2 Budget Reduction Strategies

Director Freeborn walked Council through the attachments and presented two options on budget reduction.

- Option 1 - Eliminate approved positions from lowest to highest Business Case Ranking
- Option 2 - Potential One-Time Reserve Funding Opportunities

Director Freeborn answered questions of clarity throughout the presentation.

Moved By Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa

That Option 2 in 4.1.2 be incorporated into the budget for approval.

APPROVED

4.2 2024 Draft Operating Budget Summary – Consolidated Levy and Rate Budgets

Council discussed and asked questions regarding partners including:

- NOTL Tourism
- The Niagara-on-the-Lake Library

Clerk Grant Bivol will notify the Chamber of Commerce of the deferral.

Moved By Councillor Sandra O'Connor

That the Town does not fund Tourism NOTL because they receive 50% MAT for such activities and further that money from parking otherwise allocated to Tourism NOTL be applied to the reduction of the operating budget.

DEFERRED

4.3 2024 Salaries Summary

Director Freeborn answered questions of clarity on items 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5.

Moved By Councillor Maria Mavridis

That Council wages be increased and additional 2.4 % for a total of 4.9%.

DEFEATED

4.4 2024 Proposed Studies

4.5 2024 Proposed Debt

Moved By Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa

That items 4.1 to 4.5 be received.

APPROVED

4.6 CIB Funding - Letter of Support

Council asked clarifying questions about the funding such as who else in the region is contributing, how much are the other municipalities contributing, and if we are ahead of the times with irrigation why the Town is contributing.

Moved By Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa

That a letter of support from Niagara-on-the-Lake re: Piped Irrigation System be approved and;

That the Support of the Town be approved in the amount of \$50,000 for both 2024 and 2025 for a total contribution of \$100,000.

APPROVED

5. NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of new business.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By Councillor Gary Burroughs

That this Council adjourn at 8:08 p.m. to the next regular Committee of the Whole
- Planning meeting of March 5, 2024, and if a special meeting is required, it will
be held at the call of the Lord Mayor.

APPROVED