



**The Corporation of the Municipality of Brockton**

**Special Council Meeting Minutes  
(2022 Municipal Budget)**

**Wednesday, January 26, 2022, 7:00 p.m.  
Electronic Meeting**

**Council Present:** Chris Peabody, Mayor  
Dan Gieruszak, Deputy Mayor  
Steve Adams, Councillor  
Tim Elphick, Councillor  
Kym Hutcheon, Councillor  
James Lang, Councillor  
Dean Leifso, Councillor

**Staff Present:** Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer  
Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk)  
Sarah Johnson, Deputy Clerk  
Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer  
Chris Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services  
Gregory Furtney, Director of Operations  
John Strader, Roads Supervisor  
Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services  
Dieter Weltz, Building and Planning Manager/CBO  
Paulette Peirol, Community Development Coordinator  
Sharon Bross, Brockton Child Care Centre Supervisor

**1. Acceptance of Special Council Agenda**

**Resolution 22-04-01**

Moved By: James Lang

Seconded By: Dean Leifso

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton accept the Agenda for the Special Council Meeting on January 26, 2022 as presented.

**Carried**

## **2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof**

## **3. Tax Supported Operating Budget (Continued)**

### **3.1 Fire Services**

Fire Chief, Chris Wells provided an overview of the significant changes for the department.

Chief Wells responded to questions from Council about the overall complement of firefighters and the number of recent firefighters that were trained.

Chief Wells also clarified the reason for the increase in wages within the Walkerton Fire Department and within the Emergency Services budget. Chief Wells noted that the vehicle maintenance being budgeted was consistent with previous years.

Council discussed the change to the budget for dispatching services. Chief Wells clarified that the increase in the budget was driven by a recent contract change with the dispatcher and updated population numbers. It was noted that a competitive process would be undertaken in 2022 for dispatching services, but the contract required a one-year notice provision such that the budgeted amount should remain as is for 2022.

### **3.2 Emergency Management**

Chris Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services provided an overview of the emergency management budget.

### **3.3 Health and Safety**

Chris Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services provided an overview of the health and safety budget.

## **4. Tax Supported Municipal Capital Requests**

Chief Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services presented the capital projects being proposed over the next year, noting that there were significant increases in the need for equipment.

Council inquired on the impact of COVID-19 on the budget.

**Action: Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer will investigate the specific increases and decreases as a result of the pandemic.**

Ms. Serratore described the budgeting software which is funded by a grant, advising that the software would be used for the 2023 budget. Ms. Serratore responded to inquiries from Council regarding the efficiency of the software,

resolving time management constraints, and reducing the potential for errors when compiling documentation for the budget, and allowing staff to complete multi-year budgets. Ms. Serratore advised that the cost is unknown at this time as the negotiation process has not been completed, noting that a report will be brought forward to Council as part of the procurement process. Ms. Serratore responded to an inquiry on the training process for the software.

Gregory Furtney, Director of Operations, provided a summary of the capital requests related to cemeteries, material management and public works. Mr. Furtney noted that there was a large list of capital projects, particularly for roads.

Mr. Furtney responded to questions from Council about the proposal to replace heavily degraded sidewalks along sections of Napier street. Mr. Furtney noted that the increased cost was due to the fact that some sections would need to be engineered as a retaining wall would likely be necessary.

Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services provided an overview of the proposal capital projects for the recreation project, noting that some grant applications were not successful. Mark Coleman provided additional information about the details related to the proposed retaining wall and possible methods for collecting user fees for the tennis courts.

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer, described the proposal to erect a sign for the East Ridge Business Park and the servicing investment for the East Ridge Business Park.

**5. Recess (if required)**

**6. Council Discussion on Budget**

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer reviewed the summary of changes within the 2022 budget which directly impact the tax rate. Ms. Serratore presented a list of items for Council's consideration that were not initially included in the budget.

Ms. Serratore responded to a question from Council clarifying that the MPAC reassessments had been postponed until 2024.

Council inquired about the impact for the long-term debt repayments for the Riversdale and Yonge Street bridges, as well as the reconstruction of Concession 14. Ms. Serratore advised that in 2022 the Municipality will leverage loans to the end of the year without an impact to taxpayers this year, but advised that these significant capital projects will impact operating costs for future years.

Council discussed the growth currently being experienced and predicted for the community.

Council noted their preference to keep the tax rate increase between 3-4%.

Council suggested committing to the reconstruction of Concession 14, investigating additional grant opportunities for recreation projects, and using the Westario reserve funding as applicable within Walkerton.

Council further discussed Concession 14, and the importance of updating playgrounds to ensure they are compliant with safety standards.

**Action: Council requested that a report come forward regarding long-term planning for the full reconstruction of Concession 14 to ensure commitment from future Councils.**

Ms. Serratore advised that the education rate was set for 0%, and noted the resolution passed by Council in 2021 to transfer \$50,000 into reserves for the Child Care Centre.

Council agreed to schedule a fourth budget meeting on Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

## **7. Current Tax Rate Implications**

Currently with the 6.8% increase, the impact on the average household would be approximately \$148.53 per year.

## **8. Confirmation of Proceedings**

### **Resolution 22-04-02**

Moved By: Steve Adams

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton authorize that the following by-law be read, enacted, signed, sealed, and numbered as follows:

- By-Law 2022-014 - January 26, 2022 Confirmatory By-Law

**Carried**

**9. Adjournment**

**Resolution 22-04-03**

Moved By: Dan Gieruszak

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton does now adjourn at 9:05 p.m. to meet again on February 8, 2022.

**Carried**

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Mayor - Chris Peabody

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Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) – Fiona Hamilton