



The Corporation of the Municipality of Brockton

## Special Council Meeting Minutes (2023 Municipal Budget)

Thursday, January 26, 2023, 3:00 p.m.

Bruce County Council Chambers - 30 Park Street, Walkerton, ON

**Council Present:** Chris Peabody, Mayor  
James Lang, Deputy Mayor  
Mitch Clark, Councillor  
Tim Elphick, Councillor  
Kym Hutcheon, Councillor  
B. Carl Kuhnke, Councillor  
Gregory J. McLean, 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  
Jessica Pinkse, Deputy Treasurer/Tax Collector  
Paulette Peirol, Community Development Coordinator  
Sharon Bross, Brockton Child Care Centre Supervisor  
Chris Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services  
Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services  
Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations  
John Strader, Operations Manager  
Dieter Weltz, Building and Planning Manager/CBO

1. **Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statement**
2. **Acceptance of Special Council Agenda**

### **Resolution 23-02-01**

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton accept the Agenda for the Special Council Meeting on January 26, 2023 as presented.

**Carried**

3. **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof**

None disclosed at this time.

4. **General Budget Overview**

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer, summarized the wider economic conditions impacting the budget and the challenges facing many municipalities within the over financial context. Ms. Watson noted the goal of working collaboratively to approve a reasonable and responsible budget for the Municipality of Brockton.

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview of the budget agenda and the methodology used in arriving at the draft budget. Ms. Serratore

reviewed information relating to the tax rate effect over the past ten years and a summary of the breakdown of what services the tax dollars were funding.

Ms. Serratore also explained the delay to the 2020 assessment update announced by the provincial government due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Ms. Serratore summarized the growth in revenue from reclassified or newly built properties. The inflation rate increase was noted including higher fuel rates and the increase in long-term borrowing rates resulting from the federal base interest rate hikes. The impact of these factors on both the operating budget and the planned capital projects were explained by Ms. Serratore.

Ms. Serratore then provided a summary of current long-term debt commitments and illustrated the change in those commitments from 2020. She highlighted which debts would come due in the next few years, and which loans we have not yet drawn funds for, namely the Yonge Street reconstruction and the East Ridge Business Park loan that was still in the construction phase.

Along with these summaries, Ms. Serratore also reviewed the changes in revenue that Brockton would be receiving through the main provincial funding models. It was also noted that 2.73% was highlighted as the target reinvestment rate for the Asset Management Plan, which would represent an increase from historic investment rates.

It was noted that the draft budget was 13.1% inclusive of the assessment growth from new development. Ms. Serratore summarized the major changes within the 2023 draft budget.

## **5. Tax Supported Operating Budget**

### **5.1 Council**

Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) reviewed the Council budget, noting that the 2022 election was a large project for Brockton, which resulted in a significant variance for the 2023 budget as funds were moved into reserves for the remaining Council term in order to prepare for the next election which would be held in 2026. Ms. Hamilton noted the reduction in areas such as service agreements and advertising as the election had concluded. Ms. Hamilton reviewed the major changes in the 2023 budget including the change in Integrity Commissioner which resulted in a higher hourly rate, and the increased training budget to support new Council members. Ms. Hamilton noted the new Code of Conduct to ensure funding be available and offer Council members the opportunity to obtain advice on matters.

Ms. Hamilton advised Council of the decreases as a result of the election, and the benefit of putting funds into reserves over the previous years, and suggested that an initial reserve fund transfer may not be required this year for the 2026 election.

Council inquired on approximate monies being transferred to reserves for 2023. Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer advised that \$7,000 were being transferred to reserves for the Integrity Commissioner in case of an investigation, and for the election.

### **5.2 General Government**

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer provided a summary of the projects and initiatives that were completed in 2022, including use of a Municipal App, FormBuilder, budgeting software, and the 2022 Municipal and School Board Election.

It was noted that the 2023 proposed projects included a legislated Building Assessment Condition Study, and a study for development charges to support growth and development. Increased insurance costs were accounted for, along with the decrease from the Westario dividend. Ms. Serratore explained the purpose of reducing the rate stabilization fund.

### 5.3 Human Resources

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer explained the extent of the third-party consultant use for specific human resources matters and for the overall Salary and Compensation Review. The 2023 budget included resuming an in-person Christmas gathering and continuing to update human resources matters.

There was a small increase due to service recognition awards and recognition of staff. There was also \$3,000 set aside for the volunteer recognition event. The largest increase was to set funds aside for a third-party human resources consultant if the need arose.

### 5.4 East Ridge Business Park

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer explained the phases that were completed through the East Ridge Business Park with some costs being off-set from lot sales that would likely close in the next few months. Brockton did purchase additional lands in 2022 to plan for the future expansion of the business park.

Ms. Watson noted that staff had been working with the engineers on costing for the next phase, phase 3 of the East Ridge Business Park. Ms. Watson noted that staff would finalize the plans and issue the tender for an early construction in 2024 to allow all land sales to close and in recognition of the increase to the long-term borrowing.

Ms. Watson noted the need to continue with the bird study and off-set in revenue for the land sales. There was also a significant increase in repayment due to the purchase of the Kleist lands.

### 5.5 Economic Development

Paulette Peirol, Community Development Coordinator summarized some of the positive programs undertaken over the past year within the economic development portfolio, including advancing the market garden project, and a new residents guide. The key objectives for 2023 were business outreach and further expansion under the Community Improvement Program. New signage and marketing and promotional materials to show off the new businesses in the East Ridge Business Park were also proposed for 2023.

Ms. Watson noted that the natural gas project was ongoing, but legal fees associated with the project should be minor and thus the reduction in the studies line of the budget.

### 5.6 Tourism/Visitor Information Centre

Paulette Peirol, Community Development Coordinator noted that there very few additional expenses, but some increases to assume total responsibility for Shop Walkerton and Win and the Hometown Christmas Market. It was noted that the revenue from Shop Walkerton and Win did off-set the cost of advertising the event.

It was noted that Brockton did have a Visitor's Information Centre at Lobies Park through the summer and a social media campaign known as the "seven wonders

of Brockton" that was very popular with residents and completed by the summer student.

Ms. Peirol summarized how Brockton could use a summer student and some of the programs that were planned over the next year.

Ms. Peirol responded to questions from Council about the changes to wages and benefits, noting that was supported by the Canada Summer Jobs grant application. Ms. Peirol further responded to questions about the expenses included in the additional \$4,500, noting they were largely associated with the Shop Walkerton and Win promotion and the Hometown Christmas Market. Ms. Serratore noted the Shop Walkerton and Win promotion revenue was sufficient to cover the expenses associated with that promotion.

#### 5.7 Cemetery

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer provided a summary of the changes from 2022, including a new cemetery by-law and winter interment project. Ms. Serratore noted the goals were to complete trimming of dead limbs for trees and install a new columbarium.

#### 5.8 Animal Control/By-Law Enforcement

Dieter Wertz, Building and Planning Manager/CBO provided a summary of the initiatives undertaken in 2022, including the continuation of the dog count and the pound keeping agreement. Some expenses had increased due to the potential need for legal services and restructuring the department to account for fuel and vehicle expenses.

#### 5.9 Heritage

Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) provided a summary of the Heritage Budget, noting that the Heritage archive collection was moved from the Walkerton Fire Hall to the Greenock Shop to allow for additional courses to be held at the Regional Training Centre. Previously the Committee paid rent for the storage of their collection at the Fire Hall which will no longer continue. Ms. Hamilton also noted that several historic documents were scanned and sent to the Bruce County Museum and Archives to assist with storage space.

\$7,500 has been included to allow for an outside resource or recognize staff time required in order to launch Doors Open 2024. It was noted that the event was supposed to be held in 2020 but was postponed due to the pandemic, and the Committee intends to allocate funds over the next two years in order to plan for the 2024 event.

Some additional expenses were included for cloud storage of the Heritage Committee's files and photographs which were previously stored on physical hard drives. These documents have now been saved to a secure cloud-storage system through Microsoft.

Council inquired on the digitizing project completed with funding for a legislative assistant. Ms. Hamilton advised that the Heritage budget does not include funding for a summer student as the position was previously supervised at the Fire Hall and with the collection being moved to the Greenock Shop, there are not the same opportunities for adequate supervision and safety. Ms. Hamilton noted that the Municipal Modernization Fund grant was extended to December 2023 and funds would be available to complete other scanning projects to maximize the grant.

Ms. Hamilton responded to an inquiry on the \$500 budgeted for mileage, advising that the Committee had budgeted mileage for Committee members to travel to the Greenock Shop to access the collection.

Council discussed the difference in budget over the past few years, and Ms. Hamilton explained the large increase was the result of the Committee's mural project, noting that the Committee wished to continue and expand the mural program to install future murals at the Walkerton Arena and possibly the hamlet communities of Brockton. It was noted that the Committee had approached property owners about the expansion of the project in 2021, and had planned to continue the project. Ms. Hamilton explained that the recently updated murals in Walkerton were as a result of the former murals deteriorating and causing safety concerns.

Council discussed the cloud storage whether there would be a cost to migrate data to the cloud. Ms. Hamilton noted that the project was included in Service Agreements, costing approximately \$100 for the cloud program through Microsoft and that the data had already been migrated from the hard drives and saved in multiple locations through the Municipality in order to ensure its security. Ms. Hamilton noted that the cloud storage would assist both Committee members and the public wanting to access documents for certain projects rather than borrowing physical hard drives.

#### 5.10 Library

Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services provided an overview of the library services, noting that Brockton provided the physical spaces for the Walkerton and Cargill spaces while the Bruce County Library provides the programming. Mr. Coleman provided a summary of the successful grants that were obtained for the facility and the need to refresh an Agreement with the owners of the Cargill branch for a water use agreement.

Mr. Coleman confirmed that were otherwise no significant changes within the proposed library budget.

#### 5.11 Brockton Child Care Centre

Sharon Bross, Brockton Child Care Centre Supervisor explained the changes in the budget as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and retirements which resulted in adjustments to wages and benefits. Ms. Bross noted that the Centre opted into the Canada-wide \$10/day program, and reviewed the 2023 goals and objectives including increasing capacity to shorten the waitlist, recruit Early Childhood Educators, and continue cross training.

Council inquired on the OMERS benefits available for part-time staff. Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer advised that as of 2023, OMERS now requires benefits to be offered to all staff including part-time employees. Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) noted it was a legislated change for the entire Municipality.

#### 5.12 Fire Services

Chris Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services provided a summary of the major changes in the past year to upgrade the building, update radios and pagers, and outfit 5 new firefighters. The Regional Training Centre successfully hosted the courses necessary to achieve required standards. Mr. Wells noted the expansion of a training regime for the new pumper truck and the courses to be offered through the Regional Training Centre.

### 5.13 Emergency Management

Chris Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services noted the shift from Covid-19 related emergency meetings to standard meetings and provincially mandated training with a new CEMC within the contract with the County of Bruce.

### 5.14 Health and Safety

Chris Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services provided an overview of the main initiatives, including de-escalation training and a focus on sharps training. A community risk assessment and updating policies and procedures were proposed over the next year.

### 5.15 O.P.P. and Brockton Police Services Board

Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) reviewed the O.P.P. and Brockton Police Services budget noting the large increase as a result of the O.P.P. contract which the Municipality has little control over, though we have been aggressive in our advocacy efforts. Council discussed the role of the Police Services Board and the funding model under the Agreement with the Ontario Provincial Police. The limited mandate of the Police Services Board was mentioned and Council discussed the distinction between municipal policing and community policing. The financial implications related to policing rest with Brockton Council to be diligent about the cost of the police services.

Council noted that the Community Safety and Policing Act had not yet been sworn into force which could see changes to the Board structure, possibly seeing a combined South Bruce O.P.P. Detachment Board, though Brockton would support continued advocacy for Brockton to have a stand-alone Board for increased monitoring and such.

Council may need to be mindful of the calls for service as can be the number of motor vehicles stolen in our community with an invoice to our community.

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions from Council about the termination date in the contract with the Ontario Provincial Police based on the introduction of the Community Safety and Policing Act.

Mayor Peabody mentioned a meeting with the Ministry of the Solicitor General about the overall policing costs and the lack of headway with the Solicitor General about the policing costs.

### 5.16 Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer noted the expenses for the ongoing cliff study were included under the SVCA budget. In 2023 the proposal was to complete the Environmental Assessment process and design for the cliff study project. The SVCA budget had also been increased by 17%. Jennifer Stephens would be updating Council on January 31, 2023 to update Council on the new mandate.

Mayor Peabody noted the SVCA budget was receiving a lot of attention due to the fact that the budget was increasing by 17% although they would no longer be commenting on natural heritage features. Mayor Peabody noted that the SVCA budget may not be accepted by all member municipalities.

### 5.17 Planning

Dieter Wertz, Building and Planning Manager/CBO noted the Ministerial Zoning Order as a successful project in 2022 along with the delegation of authority to staff for Site Plan Control applications. Mr. Wertz noted the funds for updating the

local official plan review and the zoning by-law and cost recovery for site plan control.

#### 5.18 Municipal Drains

Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) noted that the budget is legislated by the Drainage Act, advising on the strict timelines and processes involved with municipal drains, noted that they are usually funded through long-term borrowing. Ms. Hamilton explained the assessment process, noting that Brockton may incur significant debt over a number of years until assessments were finalized and monies could be recuperated from landowners. Ms. Hamilton noted that at time regulatory permits were required from outside agencies, and the process could take a number of years to be completed.

Ms. Hamilton reviewed the changes in the budget, including petitions for new drains being the Young and Dales Drains, and that the Engineer's Report was accepted for improvements to the Zettler Municipal Drain, further noting that perhaps the Russell Municipal Drain may be able to be billed out to landowners.

Council inquired about the process for reviewing drainage services. Ms. Hamilton advised that Brockton may complete the review this year, and have analyzed the amount for the service agreement to the drainage superintendent, though staff could issue an RFP for the service, noting that the amounts budgeted would still ensure the work could be completed. Ms. Hamilton explained the processes involved with appointing engineers to the municipal drains.

#### 5.19 Recreation

Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services, provided an overview of the recreation budget, noting new staff recruitment and failing equipment that required emergency repairs. It was noted that the programming did show growth, but were not yet back to the pre-pandemic levels. Mr. Coleman noted that Brockton had initiated the Master Recreation Plan which would be presented in early March.

The Market Garden fundraising was on-going at over \$200,000, with construction slated to begin as soon as weather conditions were favourable.

Mr. Coleman summarized all the upgrades that were completed at the Walkerton Community Centre over the past year.

Mr. Coleman noted that infrastructure repairs and upgrades would continue to be a priority, along with implementing any recommendations in the Master Recreation Plan and a feasibility study for a potential arena complex at some time in the future. The 2023 budget revenues were updated for actuals with some minor fee and rate changes for 2023.

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer, noted that all reserve fund transfers had been cut in half to reduce the potential impact on the tax rate. Ms. Serratore responded to questions from Council noting that some funds were being transferred to a reserve fund rather than paying down the long-term debt as some loans did not allow for early repayment.

Mr. Coleman explained the budget carry over of the Master Recreation Plan for completion in the 2023 year with an off-set grant.

Ms. Serratore provided an overview of the grant application regime and the services available to assist with preparing grant applications and the numerous considerations that are involved in each grant application. Ms. Serratore noted

the increase in the wages was partly due to a reallocation of positions as no new positions were being proposed.

Mr. Coleman noted that a new application could be submitted for the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the resurfacing of the tennis courts with some external review to ensure competitiveness.

Ms. Watson confirmed that the electric vehicle charging stations were installed as part of an agreement with Westario and Bruce Power, noting that residents could not be charged for the use of the stations within the first year.

Mr. Coleman responded to a question from Council about the revenue produced by Walkerton Minor Soccer in comparison to the expenses associated with using the fields. It was noted that not all sports within the market place were charged at similar rates. It was noted that the fees for the soccer fields were increased in the past year, noting they were in line with comparable facilities.

Council discussed the possibility to transition to electric vehicles to avoid the fuel spike. Ms. Watson noted that Brockton staff have been looking at a Fleet Management Plan that would consider where the transition to electricity would be more cost-effective. Mr. Coleman noted that the transition to equipment on smaller equipment such as grass cutting, etc. was being explored.

## 5.20 Materials Management

Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations, presented the Materials Management budget. Mr. Schnurr noted that weekly break-ins for e-waste were continuing to be a problem. Mr. Schnurr noted that service agreements had been adjusted to better align with actuals related to garbage pick-up.

Mr. Schnurr responded to questions from Council about the County of Bruce's consideration of a potential green bin program.

Council also discussed the amount being transferred to reserves for the post-closure costs of Brockton's various landfills and the fact that organics were large producers of leachate that Brockton was also paying to treat.

Ms. Serratore noted the transfer to the reserve for the Hanover Walkerton Landfill was not reduced for the 2023 budget and confirmed that the post closure costs were reviewed annually.

Mayor Peabody noted that the producer pay responsibility regime would impact the Bruce Area Solid Waste Recycling budget with the hope that any cost saving through the producer pay regime could be transferred to an organics program.

## 6. Dinner

### **Resolution 23-02-02**

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton does now hereby recess from the Open Session at 5:06 p.m.

**Carried**

### **Resolution 23-02-03**

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton does now hereby return to Open Session at 5:52 p.m.



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

### **7.1 Physician Recruitment**

Kelly Fotheringham and Ryan Fullerton attended the meeting to present the budget submitted by the Physician Recruitment Committee. Mr. Fotheringham noted there has been fluctuation in the physician roster in Brockton and South Bruce, but anticipate that at least three new physicians will be required in the next two-three years to replace retirements.

Mr. Fotheringham confirmed the Committee had good success in the past year with a physician in Walkerton and another in Mildmay to take over from two retiring physicians. As a result, the request for funding was less than the last year as there was still some funding in the reserve to recruit up to three physicians. The Committee was asking for an increase in the operating budget as there has not been a paid recruiter for nearly a decade due to the high amount of time required to train a recruiter. The Committee noted that there was an ideal candidate that was already trained. The paid recruiter would allow relief for Dr. Paul McArthur in recognition of Dr. McArthur's high number of on-call hours.

Mr. Fullerton noted that the overall proposed budget was \$24,000 less than the previous year. Ms. Serratore noted it was actually line item 1344, noting \$20,000 for a part-time recruiter.

Mr. Fotheringham noted that the Committee held a rural retreat for physicians and their partners with 21 physicians attending with local recruitment Committees speaking about their respective communities. The event would be held in Kincardine this year with invitations to first and second year residents to welcome them to Brockton.

### **7.2 Public Works**

Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations provided an overview of the successful projects completed in the last year. Mr. Schnurr highlighted the increase in fuel costs to be in line with actuals over the last year.

### **7.3 Streetlights**

Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations, noted that no streetlights were upgraded in 2022. Mr. Schnurr noted the proposal to replace the streetlights in the East Ridge Business Park on Creighton Road and converting the lights in downtown Walkerton to LED fixtures for cost savings.

John Strader, Operations Manager, responded to questions from Council about the time period by which the conversion to LED would recover the cost of the conversion. Mr. Strader noted the fixtures had a ten year warranty and a 75% savings in wattage for those lights.

Ms. Serratore responded to questions from Council about the reserve fund balances for Council. Ms. Serratore noted it could be cut in half to be consistent with other departments. Ms. Serratore noted that the Westario Reserve Fund could be used for any capital projects in Walkerton.

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

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer clarified other funding requests that Brockton has received or for Council's consideration, including the Chepstow Lion's Club donation request, the Walkerton Capitals request and the \$25,000.00 from Victoria Jubilee Hall.

Otherwise, Ms. Serratore provided a summary of the overall tax rate funded capital projects.

#### Fire and Emergency Services

Chris Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services reviewed the capital projects being proposed, including equipment and turnout gear that were carried over from the previous year. The radio pagers were included as a capital project with a few being replaced each year. The bunker gear needed to be completely replaced every ten (10) year such that some was replaced annually.

#### Public Works

John Strader, Operations Manager reviewed the tax supported capital requests for public works and the rationale for each capital project. Mr. Strader explained which projects would be funded through the equipment reserve or grant funding, or which required tax rate funding.

Mr. Strader responded to questions from Council about the projects that could be deferred or funded from reserves to avoid the high cost of long-term borrowing. Mr. Strader responded to questions from Council about the potential cost of leasing a sweeper or contracting out the sweeper services. Mr. Strader noted those contractors would likely not be able to sweep the roads until well into the summer season.

Council discussed the potential to plan for \$200,000 through the tax rate for the sweeper this year, and if it was delivered have \$250,000 from the reserve fund, noting that the sweeper may not be delivered until 2024. Council discussed whether a portion could be borrowed with the remainder potentially pulled from reserves upon delivery.

John Strader, Operations Manager noted there were eight poles in downtown Walkerton that require replacement as the concrete was seriously degrading, but at a cost of closer to \$50,000. Staff were reviewing whether any portion of the project could be covered by a rural economic development grant.

#### Cemetery

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer then explained the need for a new columbarium, noting the projected cost an additional \$15,000 were required to be tax rate funded. The current columbarium had only two niches remaining.

#### Recreation

Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services provided a justification for the request for mobile fencing for ball fields to be funded from the parks reserve fund.

Mr. Coleman discussed the resurfacing of the tennis courts with at least one converted to pickle ball. The project was estimated to be \$214,000 noting that another application could be brought forward to the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Mr. Coleman provided a status update on the elements of the Market Garden that had been approved by Council noting that some savings had been realized in the hope of trying to arrive at a budget of \$400,000 for the completion of that project.

The Optimist Park Phase 2 involved including an accessible swing and other accessible components with Brockton's share potentially being funded from grants and \$23,000 from a reserve fund.

Some of the other proposals were for the Walkerton Lawn Bowling Club green improvements and the need to repair the brine leaks at the Walkerton Community Centre.

Mr. Coleman responded to questions from Council about the potential user fees that could be charged for use of the tennis or pickleball courts. Mr. Coleman confirmed that if funds were provided for the tennis courts, it would be possible for the courts to be resurfaced in the fall, but it would depend on the availability of the contractor.

Trish Serratore responded to questions from Council about whether there were any restrictions on the funds in the Brockton Infrastructure Reserve Fund. Council discussed the potential for a Committee to assist with fundraising for the courts.

**Action: Staff were directed to bring forward a report about how to move forward with funding for the reconstruction of the tennis courts.**

Ms. Serratore responded to questions from Council about whether Brockton could capitalize on holding the reserve funds in a longer term investment to earn greater interest, noting that while possible in theory, Brockton was drawing on the reserve funds frequently such that we had historically not be able to take advantage of those longer-term investment possibilities.

#### East Ridge Business Park

Proposed replacement of the LED sign at the East Ridge Business Park as it was old technology with some lights that have been burned out. Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer confirmed that the LED sign was proposed to be tax rate funded. Council discussed whether the potential timing of the replacement of the sign. Ms. Watson noted that some signage was required along County Road 19 such that individuals would be aware of the entrance to that park. Council discussed deferring the installation of the sign until such time as building has started.

Ms. Watson that the streetlights were required to be installed along Creighton road which would be \$15,000 to be funded through the tax rate.

### **9. Council Discussion on Budget**

Council discussed the current tax rate, and past budgeting practices focusing on keeping the tax increase minimal, noting the challenges associated with inflation, and the suggestion of maintaining a property tax increase between 6 to 8% increasing the cost to service, and whether a one-time levy could be added to the tax rate for 2023.

Council noted the importance of maintaining infrastructure and having funds in reserves.

Council inquired on alternatives the Municipality could pursue to generate interest on certain projects.

Council discussed the projects for consideration which were not included in the 2023 budget including increased funding of \$15,000 for Victoria Jubilee Hall, a \$10,000 study for the JDR Subdivision Park Development, the tennis court refurbishment, Chepstow Lions Club donation request of \$20,000, and request from Walkerton Capitals Jr. C Hockey Club for a reduction of \$7,500. Council discussed the projects mentioned.

Council suggested removing the mileage and mural project within in Heritage budget, and deferring the East Ridge Business Park sign replacement, including

reducing the Facade Improvement Program by \$15,000, and further that the downtown Walkerton streetlights be funded through the Westario Reserve Fund. Council suggested the donation for Victoria Jubilee Hall remain at \$10,000 and that the Chepstow Lions Club project could be supported over two years.

Council supported deferring the JDR Subdivision Park Development study.

Council discussed alternatives for funding the tennis court refurbishment/pickleball courts, including fundraising efforts by users.

Council discussed the Saugeen Municipal Airport Commission budget. Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) explained the structure of the Commission's budget. Council discussed that the Commission is requesting a 10% increase from all three municipalities, with Brockton as the largest contributor. It was noted that the Commission has \$60,000 in donations and sponsorship revenue and \$11,000 in reserves. Council were not supportive of the airport budget and suggested comments be send back to the Commission.

Council expressed appreciation for staff in preparing the budget meetings.

## **11. Confirmation of Proceedings**

### **Resolution 23-02-04**

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

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 2023-006 - January 26, 2023 Special Council Meeting  
Confirmatory By-Law

**Carried**

## **12. Adjournment**

### **Resolution 23-02-05**

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Gregory J. McLean

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton does now adjourn at 8:05 p.m. to meet again on January 27, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. for an additional Budget Meeting.

**Carried**

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Mayor - Chris Peabody

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