



The Corporation of the Municipality of Brockton

Special Council Meeting Minutes (2023 Municipal Budget)

Friday, January 27, 2023, 9:00 a.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
Chris Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services
Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations
John Strader, Operations Manager
Dieter Weltz, Building and Planning Manager/CBO
Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services
Sharon Bross, Brockton Child Care Centre Supervisor
Paulette Peirol, Community Development Coordinator

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

Resolution 23-03-01

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton accept the Agenda for the Special Council Meeting on January 27, 2023 as presented.

Carried

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

Councillor Elphick and Deputy Mayor Lang declared conflicts of interest in relation to the funding request from the Walkerton Capitals.

4. **Tax Supported Operating Budget (Continued)**

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer, provided an overview of the plan for the Non-Tax Supported Budget presentation and the next steps in the budgeting process.

5. **Non-Tax Supported Budget**

- 5.1 Water and Wastewater

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the overall proposed Non-Tax Supported Budget, and presented the water rate increases that were approved as part of the legislated water plan.

Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations reviewed the 2022 accomplishments, including the construction of the Walker West Booster Pumping Station and the replacement of the Trunk Main from Well 7 and 9 into Walkerton. The objectives for the next year were to complete an assessment of the water and wastewater needs that would be required to support future development.

The 2023 plans included the replacement of the sanitary sewer on Yonge Street in Walkerton and the gate and fencing around the Wastewater Treatment Facility and the Automatic Screen for the Wet Well.

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer, responded to questions from Council about the utilities budget, noting that any surplus would be transferred to the utilities reserve fund.

Council requested a staff report about the options available for reviewing the drinking water system operators in the fall of 2023.

John Strader, Operations Manager, noted that the bio-generator at the wastewater treatment facility was not working properly which explained some of the fluctuations in the utilities budget in the wastewater budget.

5.2 Budgeted Capital Projects (Utilities)

Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations reviewed the capital projects proposed for the utilities budget. Council discussed the need for on-going maintenance to the standpipes to ensure contamination prevention.

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer noted that the water capital projects that would be borrowed would add to the overall municipal long-term debt.

Council discussed the need to balance between the investment in reserve funds and the need to reduce long-term borrowing. Council also discussed the rates based on the financial plan that was created when the rates of inflation were not as high.

Ms. Serratore responded to questions from Council about the rates set in the financial plan.

5.3 Building/Property Standards

Dieter Weltz, Building and Planning Manager/CBO presented the main accomplishments for the building and property standards budgets, including the launch of the e-permitting software.

6. Council Discussion on Budget

Council discussed the impact of previous budgets that were under the cost of living and the need to plan for critical infrastructure.

Council discussed the increase in wages, and the forecast for 2023. Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer advised that wages were allocated January 1st for the year including the Cost of Living increase and explained the budget impact of that increase was 2.9% which was approved by the previous Council.

Council suggested obtaining options for managing long-term debt, and the importance of maintaining infrastructure. Council noted the significant long-term debt for the Municipality and suggested using reserve funds to mitigate long-term

debt in the future. Council asked for a breakdown in investments and whether additional details could be obtained to show the increase in wages.

Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services provided an overview of the methods for financing a new build and emphasized the need for healthy reserves to off-set the cost of borrowing for the facility.

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer recognized the commentary from Council about the concerns with incurring long-term debt, the need to invest in reserve funds and noted that development charges could help to ease the funding pressures.

Council suggested including the Reserve Fund for a new recreation facility in the budget.

Council discussed whether additional staff could be hired to be responsible for grants on a full-time basis, and the benefits of having current staff complete grant applications in-house.

Council discussed the Saugeen Municipal Airport budget and the comparison with other neighbouring communities selling municipal airports. Council noted the 10% increase, and suggested that hangar fees and/or landing fees should be increased.

Action: Council directed Staff to pursue Option 2 to provide the Saugeen Municipal Airport Commission the same budget as in 2022.

Resolution 23-03-02

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton does now hereby recess from the Open Session at 10:40 a.m.

Carried

Resolution 23-03-03

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton does now hereby return to Open Session at 10:50 a.m.

Carried

Council discussed the request from the Walkerton Capitals Jr. C Hockey Club, with Deputy Mayor Lang and Councillor Elphick declaring conflicts of interest in relation to the discussion.

Council discussed the rate stabilization reserve fund and whether these could be used to minimize taxes. Ms. Serratore cautioned Council on using more than allocated in the budget, noting that the balance is \$300,000 with \$150,000 taken out to subsidize the tax rate. If a deficit occurred and the reserve fund was depleted monies would need to be included in the 2024 budget to subsidize the deficit.

Council supported waiting until the SVCA budget was presented at the January 31st Council Meeting before discussing the Conservation Authority budget.

7. Current Tax Rate Implications

8. Confirmation of Proceedings

Resolution 23-03-04

Moved By: B. Carl Kuhnke

Seconded By: James Lang

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 2023-007 - January 27, 2023 Confirmatory By-Law

Carried

9. Adjournment

Resolution 23-03-05

Moved By: James Lang

Seconded By: B. Carl Kuhnke

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton does now adjourn at 11:39 p.m. to meet again on January 31, 2023 for the regular Council Meeting.

Carried

Mayor - Chris Peabody

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