



The Corporation of the Municipality of Brockton

Special Council Meeting Minutes (2023 Municipal Budget)

Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 7:00 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
Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services
Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations
John Strader, Operations Manager
Dieter Weltz, Building and Planning Manager/CBO
Chris Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services

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

Resolution 23-05-01

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Gregory J. McLean

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton accept the Agenda for the Special Council Meeting on February 7, 2023 as presented.

Carried

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

Councillor Elphick and Deputy Mayor Lang declared a conflict of interest in relation to any discussion involving the Walkerton Capitals.

Dieter Weltz, Building and Planning Manager/CBO joined the meeting at 7:02 pm.

4. **Reports**

- 4.1 **Rehabilitation of Walkerton Tennis Courts**

Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services, outlined the options discussed in the report in terms of the funding and timing for construction of the courts.

Council discussed the benefits of the various options and the uptick in popularity in pickleball. Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services described what

other potential projects would be available for funding through the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Mr. Coleman also confirmed that the funding approval would need to be granted prior to starting the project under the parameters of the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Council approved proceeding with Option B to fund the project using the proceeds from the armoury sale.

Resolution 23-05-02

Moved By: Gregory J. McLean

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2023-05 – Rehabilitation of Walkerton Tennis Courts, prepared by Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services as information; and further that Council directs staff to proceed to with Option B.

Carried

4.2 2023 Draft Budget Update

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview of the proposed changes to the 2023 budget with the addition of the court security and prisoner transportation grant.

Council discussed the existing reserve fund transfer and what those reserve funds could be properly used for. Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer, noted that there would be approximately \$21,000 that could be used for any capital funding, including any changes to the proposed parking lot.

Resolution 23-05-03

Moved By: Gregory J. McLean

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton approves rescinding Resolution 21-03-04 Brockton Child Care Reserve Fund Transfer.

Carried

Councillor Elphick and Deputy Mayor Lang declared conflicts of interest in relation to motion 23-05-04 because of their role with the Walkerton Capitals.

Resolution 23-05-04

Moved By: Gregory J. McLean

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby approves proceeding with option 1 in relation to the request from the Walkerton Capitals.

Carried

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview of the options for the Walkerton Capitals funding request and confirmed that the fees and charges by-law already included a discounted rate if both the ice and the hall were rented together.

Council discussed the funding request and the potential options to support the Walkerton Capitals, with Council deciding to support Option 1 which was a reduction in corkage fees.

Council discussed the funding request from Victoria Jubilee Hall and the reason for those requests.

John Strader, Road Supervisor, responded to questions from Council about the street sweeper, noting that the plan was to order the street sweeper this year, although it may not arrive until 2024.

Council discussed funding the street sweeper entirely through the reserve fund, proceeding to pass a motion regarding paying back the Roads Reserve Fund over a certain number of years rather than incur more debt as interest rates were high.

Resolution 23-05-05

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

That Council of the Municipality of Brockton approves the purchase of the street sweeper to be funded entirely through the Roads Reserve Fund and pay back the reserve fund 112,500.00 in addition to the usual reserve fund transfer of \$400,000.00 to the Roads Reserve Fund over the next four (4) years beginning in 2024.

Carried

Council discussed the potential time frame by which the funds should be repaid to the Roads Reserve Fund, noting that while the debt would have been carried over many years, Council did not want to bind the next term of Council.

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer, responded to questions from Council about the potential funding sources for the electric vehicle charging stations.

Council discussed the option of transferring a portion of the reserve funds into higher interest-bearing investments. Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer noted that staff had started researching different investment options and bring forward a report in accordance with the Investment Policy in the future. Any interest earned in the reserve funds would go back into the reserve fund rather than funding on-going operations.

Action: Staff will bring forward a report about possible municipal investment opportunities.

Ms. Serratore responded to questions from Council and confirmed the *Municipal Act, 2001* provisions that restricted certain types of investments.

Council discussed the projects proposed for completion in 2023, and whether there were any additional opportunities to find savings. Sonya Watson, CAO discussed the benefits of the studies being proposed, such as the Development Charges Study, to gain revenue for the multiple developments occurring in the community that Brockton has missed out on in the past.

Council discussed the donation to Victoria Jubilee Hall. Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) advised that staff could approach the Victoria Jubilee Hall Board about submitting a grant application for monies from the Community Heritage Reserve Fund.

Action: That the donation to Victoria Jubilee Hall be reduced to \$10,000 and staff continue to work with the volunteers on submitting a grant application to be funded through the Community Heritage Reserve Fund.

Council discussed the preference to reduce long-term debts. Trish Serratore, CFO noted that this option was included in the Council Report, advising that the choice was not recommended as there were few variable loans involved, and the departmental reserve funds would not be sufficient to fund the loans.

Council discussed the costs associated with the increase in utilities in the Recreation and Parks Budget. Ms. Serratore noted that there was a reallocation of the water for the splash pad, and remaining funds are for existing watering in the department.

Resolution 23-05-06

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton direct staff to come forward with a budget under a 6.8% tax rate increase, while researching opportunities to pay off loans, therefore deferring approving the 2023 Municipal Budget.

Defeated

Resolution 23-05-07

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Gregory J. McLean

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number FIN2023-03 – 2023 Draft Budget Update, prepared by Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer and in doing so approves bringing forward a By-Law to accept the 2023 Municipal Budget in the levied amount of \$11,483,398.00 with a tax rate increase of 7.43%.

Carried

5. Council Discussion on Budget

6. Current Tax Rate Implications

7. By-Laws

Resolution 23-05-08

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Gregory J. McLean

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

- By-Law 2023-013 - Approve 2023 Non-Tax Supported Budget By-Law
- By-Law 2023-014 - Approve 2023 Water Service Rates and Charges By-Law
- By-Law 2023-015 - Approve 2023 Municipal Budget By-Law

Carried

8. Confirmation of Proceedings

Resolution 23-05-09

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Gregory J. McLean

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 2023-016 - February 7, 2023 Confirmatory By-Law

Carried

9. Adjournment

Resolution 23-05-10

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Gregory J. McLean

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton does now adjourn at 8:31 p.m. to meet again on February 14, 2023.

Carried

Mayor - Chris Peabody

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