



Minutes
Special Council meeting
Municipality of West Grey

Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 10 a.m.
West Grey municipal office, council chambers and virtual

Members present: Mayor Kevin Eccles
 Deputy Mayor Tom Hutchinson
 Councillor Scott Foerster
 Councillor Doug Hutchinson
 Councillor Joyce Nuhn
 Councillor Geoffrey Shea
 Councillor Doug Townsend

Staff present: Laura Johnston, Chief Administrative Officer
 Jamie Eckenswiller, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
 Kerri Mighton, Director of Finance/Treasurer
 Karl Schipprack, Director of Development/CBO
 Geoff Aitken, Manager of Public Works
 Kodey Hewlett, Corporate and Community Initiatives Officer
 Sile Ferguson, Communications Coordinator
 Sarah Bothman, Legislative Services Coordinator

1. Call to order

Mayor Eccles called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. Moment of reflection

Mayor Eccles called for a moment of reflection.

3. Declaration of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof

There were no declarations of interest.

Staff reviewed instructions for members of the public to participate via Zoom or telephone, and how to contact staff for assistance if disconnected. It was noted that this meeting will be livestreamed to the West Grey YouTube channel.

4. Delegations / presentations

4.1 Presentation from the Director of Finance/Treasurer Re: 2023 Draft Budget

The Director of Finance/Treasurer provided an overview of the budget changes summary, advising that the tax levy increase is at 9.5 percent, noting that the break down for this is a 3.3 percent tax levy support increase for capital budget and a 6.2 percent tax levy increase for the operating budget.

Ms. Mighton advised that the Saugeen Municipal Airport budget was estimated to be \$44,650, but the actual budget request was \$45,875, resulting in a \$1,223 increase to what was estimated.

S-230221-001

Moved by Councillor Shea

Seconded by Councillor Townsend

"THAT in consideration of the 2023 draft budget, council accepts the Saugeen Municipal Airport budget as presented."

Carried

Ms. Mighton advised that there is a budget request from the Elmwood Chamber of Commerce for repairs of the Elmwood sign. The total cost for repairs is \$4,500. The Elmwood Chamber of Commerce contributing \$1,500 and is requesting that West Grey contributing the remaining balance of \$3,000.

S-230221-002

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Foerster

"THAT in consideration of the 2023 draft budget, council directs staff to allocate \$1,500 towards the Elmwood Chamber of Commerce sign repair budget request, contingent on \$1,500 being received from the Municipality of Brockton."

Carried

Council inquired about moving funds from the Beautification budget towards the Garafraxa bridge baskets. The Corporate and Community Initiatives Officer advised that light standards will be installed on the bridge and hanging baskets will be hung on them to replace the bridge baskets.

During discussions regarding the budget request form for the auto start - Generac generator, the Chief Administrative Officer addressed the inquiry about the modernization fund and noted that the waste management study has yet to be started, noting that funds could be reallocated from that project to the generator auto-start project.

S-230221-003

Moved by Councillor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Nuhn

"THAT in consideration of the 2023 draft budget, council directs staff to reallocate \$15,000 from the waste management study project to the Generac generator auto-start project."

Carried

Mr. Hewlett spoke to the Banner Program budget request form, advising that the increase is for the upkeep of the banner program.

S-230221-004

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Shea

"THAT in consideration of the 2023 draft budget, council directs staff to increase the downtown banner program budget by \$4,000 in the 2023 draft budget."

Carried

Mr. Hewlett spoke to the budget request form for the replacement of the digital sign at the West Grey administration building, advising that the sign was assessed and cannot be salvaged as the motherboard and modules to the sign are inoperable and parts for the sign are no longer manufactured.

S-230221-005

Moved by Councillor Nuhn

Seconded by Councillor Shea

"THAT in consideration of the 2023 draft budget, council directs staff to include \$25,000 in the 2023 budget levy for the replacement of the digital sign at the West Grey municipal office."

Defeated

Ms. Johnston highlighted the corporate training budget, advising that currently there is \$5,000 allocated for administrative staff training. The request is for an additional \$5,000 for this budget cycle. Ms. Johnston advised that the municipality has been working with the Wilfrid Laurier University MBA students who have developed a customer service strategy, noting that the priority in the strategy is staff training.

S-230221-006

Moved by Councillor Shea

Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson

"THAT in consideration of the 2023 draft budget, council directs staff to include an additional \$5,000 in the 2023 budget levy for staff training with \$2,000 being allocated to customer service training and \$3,000 being allocated to the general staff training budget."

Carried

Mr. Hewlett provided an overview of the holiday trees/community flagpoles budget request, advising that lights on four of the five focal trees for the holiday season need to be replaced. It was proposed to move to a flagpole-based flag system which the tree lighting would be transferred to.

Council requested that funds in the commercial beautification budget be re-prioritized to Christmas tree lights in 2023.

Council recessed at 11:29 a.m. and reconvened at 11:37 a.m.

Council discussed the Mulock Road project and put forward the following motion.

S-230221-007

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson

"THAT in consideration of the 2023 draft budget, council directs staff to reallocate \$180,000 from the Mulock Road project to the Concession 2 EGR project in the 2023 draft budget."

Carried

Ms. Mighton provided a summary of the meeting, highlighting that council added a net of \$11,723 to the 2023 draft budget, bringing the tax levy increase to \$1,143,135 or 9.6 percent which is a 3.3 percent tax levy increase to capital and 6.3 percent tax levy increase to operating.

Ms. Mighton advised that the County has not yet set the tax rates and tax ratios, therefore it is an estimated 5.93 percent tax increase overall, or \$72.25 per \$100,000 of residential assessment.

S-230221-008

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson

"THAT in consideration of the 2023 draft budget, council:

- 1. approves the 2023 draft budget in principle; and**
- 2. directs staff to issue a notice of public meeting and intention to pass a budget bylaw to be held on March 7, 2023."**

Carried

5. Bylaws

5.1 Bylaw No. 2023-016 - Confirming the proceedings of council

S-230221-009

Moved by Councillor Foerster

Seconded by Councillor Townsend

"THAT Bylaw 2023-016, being a bylaw to confirm the proceedings of council, be read a first, second and third and final time."

Carried

6. Adjournment

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Mayor Eccles adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Mayor Kevin Eccles

Clerk Jamie M. Eckenswiler