



The Corporation of the Municipality of Brockton

Special Council Meeting Minutes (2024 Municipal Budget)

Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 6:00 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)
Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer
Sarah Johnson, Deputy Clerk
Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services
Brad Thomson, Parks and Facilities Maintainer
Dieter Weltz, Building and Planning Manager/CBO
Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations
Chris Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services

1. Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statement

2. Acceptance of Special Council Agenda

Resolution 24-07-01

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton accept the Agenda for the Special Council Meeting (2024 Budget) on February 20, 2024 as presented.

Carried

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

4. Minutes

4.1 Special Council Minutes (2024 Budget) - February 6, 2024

Resolution 24-07-02

Moved By: Gregory J. McLean

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton adopt the minutes of the Special Council Meeting (2024 Budget) on February 6, 2024 as presented.

Carried

5. Business Arising From the Minutes

6. Reports

6.1 Walkerton Lawn Bowling Fence Request

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer responded to an inquiry from Council on the role of the Walkerton Lawn Bowling Club and maintenance from the Parks and Recreation Department, advising that the Municipality owns the land and maintains it providing access to the Club.

Brad Thomson, Parks and Facilities Maintainer responded to an inquiry on the fencing perimeter proposal to separate the lawn bowling grounds from the Armoury Building.

Resolution 24-07-03

~~Moved By: Kym Hutcheon~~

~~Seconded By: Mitch Clark~~

~~That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number FIN2024-07 – Walkerton Lawn Bowling Fence Request, prepared by Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer and in doing authorizes the \$12,000 for inclusion in the 2024 budget to be funded from the tax rate.~~

Carried

Council discussed the Walkerton Lawn Bowling Club's fencing request again, inquiring if there was an opportunity to use money from the Recreation Equipment Reserve Fund to fund the purchase. Trish Serratore, CFO advised that a significant amount of the reserves was used in 2023 for upgrades to the Walkerton Community Centre with only \$250,000 in the reserve fund for 2024. Council discussed the previous resolution and requested to revisit the motion and obtain a secondary vote for clarity on the outcome of the resolution.

Resolution 24-07-08

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby reconsider the resolution regarding the Walkerton Lawn Bowling Club fencing request.

Carried

Resolution 24-07-09

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number FIN2024-07 – Walkerton Lawn Bowling Fence Request, prepared by Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer and in doing authorizes the \$12,000 for inclusion in the 2024 budget to be funded from the tax rate.

Defeated

6.2 Cargill Greenock Swamp Promotional Association Financial Assistance Request

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer responded to an inquiry on the use of the financial request, advising that the \$2,000 would cover the association's insurance costs.

Resolution 24-07-04

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Gregory J. McLean

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number FIN2024-09 - Cargill Greenock Swamp Promotional Association Financial

Assistance Request, prepared by Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer and in doing so provides the following direction to staff: include the \$2,000 donation to the Cargill Greenock Swamp Promotional Association in the 2024 Municipal Budget.

Carried

6.3 2024 Draft Budget Update Version 3

Council thanked staff for their diligent work on budget revisions.

Council noted the requirement to be diligent in managing the financial affairs of the municipality and responding to ratepayer's needs, and expressed concerns over the tax rate impact for future years. Council discussed the 2024 budget survey results.

Council agreed to reconsider removing the Salary and Compensation Review from the 2024 Municipal Budget.

A recorded vote was requested by Councillor Elphick.

Resolution 24-07-06

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: James Lang

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby reconsider Resolution 24-05-04 that was defeated at the February 6, 2024 Special Council Meeting regarding the removal of the Salary and Compensation Review from the 2024 Municipal Budget.

Carried

Resolution 24-07-07

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: James Lang

That the Salary and Compensation Review of \$12,000 be removed from the 2024 Municipal Budget.

Member of Council	Yea	Nay
Clark, Mitch	X	
Elphick, Tim	X	
Hutcheon, Kym		X
Kuhnke, B. Carl		X
Lang, James	X	
McLean, Gregory J.	X	
Peabody, Chris	X	
Totals	5	2

Carried

Council discussed the pickup truck request, inquiring on the possibility of purchasing a used truck instead. Trish Serratore, CFO advised that a used truck could be purchased if available, however the interest rates would likely be higher. Council discussed whether vehicles could be shared between departments. Ms. Serratore noted that all vehicles are being used by their departments. Ms.Serratore noted the pickup truck was not tax rate funded, such that the budget could be finalized with an additional staff report coming forward about the pickup truck in the future.

Council advocated for the Asset Management Plan to identify vehicle replacement needs rather than continuing to make single vehicle purchases.

Council discussed the Council Reserve Fund Transfer, and inquired on the amount in the reserves. Ms. Serratore advised that the contribution to reserves is \$11,500 for the 2026 Municipal Election and Integrity Commissioner fees with a projected reserve fund of \$26,000 for 2024.

Council discussed the Tourism/Visitor Centre budget and proposed commitments. Ms. Watson listed the programs and promotions budget of \$10,000 for the Summer Streetfest, Hometown Christmas Market, and Shop Walkerton and Win campaign, noting that the 2024 Visitor's Guide with Walkerton Herald Times is currently underway with a budget of \$4,000. Ms. Watson noted the remaining projects being the VisitWalkerton.com website of \$4,200/year and advertising at \$5,000 for events.

Ms. Serratore responded to an inquiry from Council on the current tax rate being 6.41% at this time.

Council expressed their appreciation for staff on the revisions to the budget in order to achieve savings. Council further noted the impact on ratepayers and concern with future budget impacts.

Councillor Kuhnke requested a recorded vote.

Resolution 24-07-10

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: James Lang

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number FIN2024-08 – 2024 Draft Budget Update Version 3, prepared by Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer and in doing so approves bringing forward a By-Law to accept the 2024 Municipal Budget in the levied amount of \$12,531,038 and tax rate increase of 6.41%.

Member of Council	Yea	Nay
Clark, Mitch		X
Elphick, Tim		X
Hutcheon, Kym	X	
Kuhnke, B. Carl	X	
Lang, James	X	
McLean, Gregory J.	X	
Peabody, Chris	X	
Totals	5	2

Carried

- 7. **Council Discussion and Questions on Tax Supported Operating Budget**
- 8. **Council Discussion and Questions on Capital Requests**
- 9. **Adoption of 2024 Tax-Supported Budget**
- 10. **By-Laws**

Resolution 24-07-11

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

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 2024-016 - Approve 2024 Municipal Budget By-Law

Carried

11. Confirmation of Proceedings

11.1 By-Law 2024-017 - February 20, 2024 Special Council Meeting (2024 Budget)
Confirmatory By-Law

Resolution 24-07-12

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 2024-017 - February 20, 2024 Special Council Meeting (Budget)
Confirmatory By-Law

Carried

12. Adjournment

Resolution 24-07-13

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Gregory J. McLean

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton does now adjourn at 6:55 p.m. to meet again for the regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Carried

Mayor - Chris Peabody

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