



The Corporation of the Municipality of Brockton

Special Council Meeting Minutes (2019 Municipal Budget)

Thursday, February 21, 2019, 9:00 a.m.

Walkerton Clean Water Centre

20 Ontario Road

Walkerton, Ontario

Council Present: Chris Peabody, Mayor
Dan Gieruszak, Deputy Mayor
Dean Leifso, Councillor
Steve Adams, Councillor
James Lang, Councillor
Kym Hutcheon, Councillor
Chris Oberle, Councillor

Staff Present: Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer
Fiona Hamilton, Clerk
Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer
John Strader, Roads Supervisor

1. Acceptance of Council Agenda

The Special Council Meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Mayor Peabody.

Resolution 19-05-01

Moved By: Dean Leifso

Seconded By: James Lang

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton accept the Agenda for the Special Council Meeting on February 21, 2019 as presented.

Carried

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

None disclosed at this time.

3. Reports

3.1 Walkerton UV Disinfection System

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions from Council and confirmed that if the grant application was approved the costs would be included in the 2020 utilities budget.

Resolution 19-05-02

Moved By: Chris Oberle

Seconded By: Dan Gieruszak

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number PW2019-08, Walkerton UV Disinfection System, prepared by Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer, for information purposes and further directs staff to

proceed with the grant application through FCM for the Walkerton UV Disinfection upgrade in the amount of \$626,000.

Carried

4. Tax Supported Operating Budget

4.1 Waste Management

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer, and John Strader, Roads Supervisor, presented the proposed Waste Management Budget for 2019 and confirmed that one of the goals for the upcoming year would be to update the joint agreement with the Town of Hanover for the Walkerton/Hanover Landfill.

John Strader, Roads Supervisor, clarified the hours of operation for the Brant and Greenock landfills and confirmed that staff would provide additional information to Council in the future about potentially adding an additional day of service at the Greenock landfill.

Council then discussed the fact that the collected bag tag revenue did not match the cost of the service agreement for garbage pickup and noted that the amount budgeted for tipping fees from the Brant landfill did not align with the actual amounts from previous years. Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer, confirmed that the amounts spent in previous years would be reviewed prior to presenting the second draft of the 2019 Tax Supported Operating and Capital Budget.

Councillor Oberle then provided Council with an update about a potential program at the Walkerton/Hanover Landfill to use predator birds to reduce the number of seagulls and confirmed the terms of the current service agreements for waste management services with staff.

Council then discussed the financial benefits of the arrangement with the Bruce Area Solid Waste Recycling.

4.2 Public Works

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer, summarized some of the major public works projects from the previous year, including the reconstruction of Cayley Street in Walkerton, Phase 1 of the McCurdy Bridge project and snow clearing for the Chepstow sidewalks. Staff confirmed to Council that the proposed budget recognized an increase in long-term debt, the need to maintain aging infrastructure and proposed transfers to reserve funds for future equipment needs.

John Strader, Roads Supervisor, responded to questions from Council and confirmed that the proposed purchase of a new Trackless machine was needed because it would otherwise take too long to clear the sidewalks and it was prudent to have a back-up in case repairs were needed. Mr. Strader further confirmed that the proposed purchase of a truck and trailer would allow staff to move the Trackless machine to clear the snow from sidewalks in other communities in Brockton.

Council discussed the number of roads that would require attention in the near future throughout the Municipality of Brockton and recognized the needs to complete the roads study to prioritize reconstruction projects. Council then discussed how to ensure that funds were directed towards strategically repairing roads and infrastructure in a manner that was transparent and accountable to taxpayers.

Members of the general public in attendance at the meeting were invited to speak and encouraged Council to adopt a balanced approach towards funding road reconstruction.

4.3 Street Lights

John Strader, Roads Supervisor, informed Council about the extent of the streetlights that had been upgraded throughout the Municipality of Brockton and confirmed which areas remained outstanding. John Strader, Roads Supervisor, responded to questions from Council and confirmed that all the fixtures used met the required standards and then reviewed the terms of the installation and maintenance service agreements.

Council asked about additional solar powered street lights in rural areas of Brockton and John Strader, Roads Supervisor informed Council that he would bring forward a report to council with more information about streetlights.

Action: Staff will bring forward a report to Council with more information about streetlights in the future.

5. Recess

Resolution 19-05-03

Moved By: James Lang

Seconded By: Dean Leifso

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

Carried

Resolution 19-05-04

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Steve Adams

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton does now hereby return to Open Session at 10:29 a.m.

Carried

6. Capital Projects

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer, described the capital projects proposed for 2019 and explained funding recommendations for each capital project. Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer, also provided information about the amounts historically borrowed for capital projects.

Council discussed some of the larger infrastructure projects that were being proposed, such as the reconstruction of roads and potential consideration of bridges and debated the merits of long-term borrowing to fund these projects.

7. Review of 2019 Municipal Budget

Mayor Peabody provided Council with the tax rate increase approved by the County of Bruce and then Council discussed the approaches adopted at other municipalities. Council then discussed the 2019 Municipal Budget and agreed that, rather than go line by line, staff would be directed to review and revise the proposed budget with a specified tax rate increase range as a goal. Council emphasized the importance of being accountable and transparent to the ratepayers and directed staff to explore ways in which to highlight the funds being directed towards infrastructure and roads.

Council debated the merits of a larger tax rate increase rather than long-term borrowing. Each Member of Council stated the tax rate range they would be comfortable supporting as well as their main priorities and some sections of the budget for staff to review. Staff were directed to revise the 2019 Municipal Budget to reflect a tax rate increase between 3-5% with a special emphasis on roads and infrastructure.

8. Confirmation of Proceedings

8.1 By-Law 2019-023 - February 21, 2019 Confirmatory By-Law

Resolution 19-05-05

Moved By: Dan Gieruszak

Seconded By: Chris Oberle

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 2019-023 - February 21, 2019 Confirmatory By-Law

Carried

9. Adjournment

Resolution 19-05-06

Moved By: Chris Oberle

Seconded By: Dan Gieruszak

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton does now adjourn at 11:50 a.m. to meet again on March 6, 2019.

Carried

Mayor - Chris Peabody

Clerk – Fiona Hamilton