



The Corporation of the Municipality of Brockton

Special Council Meeting Minutes (2021 Municipal Budget)

Wednesday, January 20, 2021, 9:00 a.m.
Electronic Meeting

Council Present: Chris Peabody, Mayor
Dan Gieruszak, Deputy Mayor
Tim Elphick, Councillor
Kym Hutcheon, Councillor
James Lang, Councillor
Dean Leifso, Councillor

Council Absent: Steve Adams, Councillor

Staff Present: Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer
Fiona Hamilton, Clerk
Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer
Sarah Johnson, Jr. Deputy Clerk
Gregory Furtney, Director of Operations
John Strader, Roads Supervisor
Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services
Paulette Peirol, Community Development Coordinator

1. Acceptance of Special Council Agenda

Resolution 21-03-01

Moved By: James Lang

Seconded By: Dean Leifso

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton accept the Agenda for the Special Council Meeting on January 20, 2021 as presented.

Carried

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

3. Tax Supported Operating Budget - Continued

Materials Management

Gregory Furtney, Director of Operations, presented the Materials Management Budget. Gregory Furtney described the additional monitoring occurring in Area C of the Brant Landfill, and updated Council on the amount being charged by Hanover for bag tags as well. Mr. Furtney responded to questions from Council and confirmed that debit services were not currently available at the landfill sites in Greenock and Brant because consistent and reliable internet service is not available. Council decided to keep the bag tag fees at the current rate to deter residents from illegal dumping.

Council noted that the Bruce Area Solid Waste Recycling increase was 2%, as they received some grants and drew on reserves to fund shortfalls. Mr. Furtney also responded to questions from Council about styrofoam recycling and

confirmed that all residential styrofoam was being picked up by a third party at this time.

Deputy Mayor Gieruszak assumed the role of Chairperson at 9:20 a.m. to allow Mayor Peabody an opportunity to attend a meeting with the Medical Officer of Health about the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions.

Public Works

Gregory Furtney, Director of Operations, explained differences in the budgeting process and noted the decrease in reserve fund transfers by \$60,000.00, and noted the completion of major projects in the past year. Mr. Furtney also informed Council that the public works department had increased winter maintenance in the downtown area to allow businesses to continue with curb-side pick-up. Council discussed additional line painting on particular roads that have faded in the past year, particularly the Chepstow Road and Concession 6, and budgeting for ditch cleaning. John Strader, Roads Supervisor, clarified the procedure that if the water from the road was not draining properly, the ditch would be cleaned by the Public Works Department.

Street Lights

Gregory Furtney, Director of Operations, presented the Street Light budget indicating the plan to complete Phase 5 of the LED street light replacement program. Gregory Furtney, Director of Operations, responded to questions from Council about areas that may be too dark and confirmed that staff could explore options. Council directed that Gregory Furtney, Director of Operations, bring back additional reports to Council about consideration for particular intersections.

4. Tax Supported Municipal Capital Requests

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer, responded to questions from Council and confirmed which projects were only planned to be completed if grant funding was received.

Consideration of Request from Chepstow Lion's Club

Council expressed support for the request and discussed the appropriate amount and whether the donation should be spread over two years. Council discussed the level of involvement as project management as needing to be commensurate with the donation amount. Gregory Furtney, Director of Operations, noted that the letter did not specify the cost of hydro and maintenance. John Strader, Roads Supervisor, informed Council that staff would need to be involved in the project as Hydro-One would not allow any installation of lights without the consent of the Municipality of Brockton.

Action: Council directed staff to bring forward a report at the next Council meeting with additional information about the long-term arrangements to be made with the Chepstow's Lion Club prior to any decision being made.

Mayor Peabody resumed as Chairperson at 10:06 a.m.

5. Recess

Resolution 21-03-02

Moved By: James Lang

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton does now hereby recess from the Open Session at 10:08 a.m.

Carried

Resolution 21-03-03

Moved By: Kym Hutcheon

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton does now hereby return to Open Session at 10:22 a.m.

Carried

6. Council Discussion on Budget

Budget Discussion Points

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer, displayed a list of discussion points arising out of the previous meeting and the impact on the tax rate. Ms. Serratore noted that with the adjustments, the tax rate was 1.5%, but did not include a separate \$200,000.00 for a new arena facility. Ms. Serratore suggested that rather than estimating an assessment amount to be included in the 2021 Operating Budget, any assessment growth when determined could be directed into a dedicated reserve fund. Ms. Serratore also pointed out some adjustments to the reserve fund balances as the Bruce Power Soccer Field upgrades would be borrowed if the grant was successful.

Council expressed support for repaying the loan associated with the Brockton Child Care Centre facility. Ms. Serratore noted that she would need to do an investigation for all loans to see which could be repaid earlier and which reserve funds had sufficient funds to do so and prepare a report.

Council discussed the proposal to reduce the Council wages and the fact that a Committee made recommendations to avoid the difficulty in making that determination and deciding that the wages should be determined when all of Council was present.

Council decided to move forward with the implementation of eScribe for webcasting with the amount of rent to the County of Bruce reduced by half given due to the closure of the Bruce County Administration Building and also to reduce the amount allocated to beautification to \$5,000.00 from \$8,000.00.

Ms. Watson, Chief Administrative Officer, noted that the \$10,000.00 budgeted in the Economic Development budget was to support recommendations arising out of the Community Improvement Plan. The goal of the revised Community Improvement Plan was to include the smaller hamlets of Brockton so those businesses would then be eligible to take advantage of grants of a kind similar to the facade grant program.

Paulette Peirol, Community Development Coordinator, clarified the proposal for tourism initiatives at Lobies Park and in Cargill in conjunction with the Cargill/Greenock Swamp Tours and responded to questions about the summer students that would be hired. Council requested that staff explore key performance indicators that can be used to determine the success of this program.

Council approved reducing the emergency measures budget and considered using \$100,000.00 from the Police Reserve Fund to off-set the cost of the large, unexpected reconciliation. Council also suggested using some funds from that reserve fund for costs associated with going to tender for policing services in the Municipality of Brockton.

Council discussed approaching the County of Bruce about making use of the former Walkerton jail facility for archival expansion and supported bringing forward a notice of motion at a regular Council meeting.

Resolution 21-03-04

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Dan Gieruszak

That the Council of the Municipality approves paying the loan attributable to the relocation of the Brockton Child Care Centre, being loan number 8833052, using funds from the Brockton Child Care Centre reserve fund in January 2021 with a commitment to include \$50,000.00 per year over the next four years to be transferred back into that reserve fund.

Carried

Ms. Serratore clarified that the tax rate increase was 1.5% without an additional contribution to reserves for recreation.

Council suggested making an estimate of impending MPAC property assessments in order to understand the available funds that could be used for recreation reserve funds. Ms. Serratore recommended that Council direct staff to include new assessment costs into the recreation facility reserve fund once the final amounts have been received from MPAC.

Council discussed the intent of Councillor Lang's notice of motion. Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services explained the costs of maintenance needs addressed in the Needs Assessment Report, noting the need to replenish reserves for the maintenance program over the next nine years. Mr. Coleman further described past experience using loans through Infrastructure Ontario for infrastructure replacement of a recreational facility, advising on the importance of contributing reserves to a specific reserve fund towards the new facility. Mr. Coleman noted that additional funding was also required for design processes since Infrastructure Ontario only funds construction.

Fiona Hamilton, Clerk suggested Council taking a recess to allow staff time to breakout additional components currently being discussed by Council, and provide possible language in assist in structuring the debate following the recess.

Resolution 21-03-05

Moved By: Dan Gieruszak

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton does now hereby recess from the Open Session at 12:25 p.m.

Carried

Resolution 21-03-06

Moved By: Dan Gieruszak

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton does now hereby return to Open Session at 1:00 p.m.

Carried

Councillor Lang was not present following the return from recess as he was on a phone call related to the Regional Fire Training Centre to be established at the Walkerton Fire Hall.

Council favored putting funds into recreation reserve funds to plan ahead for infrastructure needs, but debated the timelines and priorities required prior to building a new facility, such as first completing the Recreation Master Plan.

Resolution 21-03-07

Moved By: Dan Gieruszak

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton direct staff to establish a dedicated reserve fund to save funds towards a future new recreational facility.

Carried

Councillor Lang returned to the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Resolution 21-03-08

Moved By: Dean Leifso

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That Council of the Municipality of Brockton directs staff to bring forward a report to be used for future planning purposes outlining a potential timeline and high-level implementation plan for a new recreational facility.

Tied, Defeated

Council debated options of how to fund the new recreational facility reserve fund and sought clarity on the overall amount in the existing recreation reserve fund.

Council further directed staff to come back with proposals for how the new assessment growth should be considered and proposals for funding the recreation reserve fund while maintaining a 1.5% tax rate increase.

Council thanked staff for their work on preparing the 2021 draft Budget.

7. Confirmation of Proceedings

Resolution 21-03-09

Moved By: Dean Leifso

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 2021-009 - January 20, 2021 Confirmatory By-Law

Carried

8. Adjournment

Resolution 21-03-10

Moved By: Dan Gieruszak

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton does now adjourn at 1:36 p.m. to meet again on January 26, 2021.

Carried

Mayor - Chris Peabody

Clerk – Fiona Hamilton