

**- ADDENDUM -**  
**- GUELPH CITY COUNCIL MEETING -**  
**April 29, 2013**

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**PRESENTATION**

- b) Tara Sprigg, Corporate Manager of Corporate Communications - presentation of the Canadian Public Relations Society (CPRS) Pinnacle Award for Communications Management to Marina Grassi, Communications Coordinator for the program "Give Waste A New Life".

**DELEGATIONS**

**CSS-2013.11 Community Engagement Framework**

- Dave Sills on behalf of Guelph Civic League

**CON-2013.10 Addendum Agenda Production Cycle / Public Correspondence and Delegation Deadlines**

- Dave Sills on behalf of Guelph Civic League
- Judy Martin

Correspondence:

- John Gruzleski, Old University Neighbourhood Resident's Association Inc.

**CONSENT REPORTS**

**CAFE-2013.8 2013 Property Tax Policy**

Correspondence:

- Dr. Hugh Whiteley

**CAFE-2013.11 2104 Budget Workshop Follow-up and Response**

**FIN 13.15 Supplementary Report to FIN-13-14 2014 Budget Workshop Follow up and Responses**

1. That CAFE Report FIN-13-11 entitled "2014 Budget Workshop Follow Up and Responses" be received at the Council meeting of April 29, 2013.

2. That staff proceed with their budget preparation work using the principles of the budget model and guideline as proposed.
3. That staff report back in September 2013 with results of their additional research on growth (volume) measures.

***"THAT By-law Numbers (2013)-19551 to (2013)-19568, inclusive, are hereby passed."***

<b>BY-LAWS</b>
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<p>By-law (2013)-19566 A by-law to authorize the acquisition of property described as Part Lots 3, 21 and 22, Division A, (formerly Guelph Township), designated as Part 11, Reference Plan 61R20047.</p>	<p>To authorize the acquisition of land.</p>
<p>By-law Number (2013)-19567 A by-law to authorize the acquisition of a temporary Easement in favour of the Corporation of the City of Guelph, over Part of Lots 21 and 22, Division A, (formerly Guelph Township), designated as Parts 3, 6 and 9, Reference Plan 61R20047, City of Guelph.</p>	<p>To authorize the acquisition of a temporary easement.</p>
<p>By-law Number (2013)-19568 A by-law to confirm the proceedings of a meeting of Guelph City Council held April 29, 2013.</p>	<p>To confirm the proceedings of a meeting of Council held April 29, 2013.</p>

Gov's Bridge



Linking the Old University Neighbourhood to the City of Guelph since 1827

## Old University Neighbourhood Residents' Association Inc.

Mayor and City Council  
City Hall  
1 Carden St  
Guelph, Ontario

Sent by email to [clerks@guelph.ca](mailto:clerks@guelph.ca)

Dear Mayor Farbridge and Members of Council,

The Old University Neighbourhood Residents' Association (OUNRA) wishes to state its concerns with the proposed changes to the Procedural By-law which would, in our view, unduly restrict the ability of residents to provide input to Council and its standing committees. Currently, residents can register as delegations and/or have their written comments appended to the agenda for Council and Council Committee meetings on the same day as the meetings. The new process would require residents to register as delegations or submit written comments 5-7 days prior to the meetings.

The staff report states that this will result in "a more timely and seamless publication and distribution process" and also "strengthens information sharing practices as well as the public's ability to provide input to Council."

It is the opinion of the OUNRA that residents who lead busy lives but who still wish to participate in municipal affairs will be negatively affected by this change in policy. It effectively restricts anyone who, for whatever reason, only becomes aware of an important agenda item between one and six days prior to the meeting. The City's communications strategy has not advanced to the stage that it can guarantee that all interested citizens will be aware of agenda items a full 7 days prior to meetings.

The City is currently developing a far reaching project designed to enhance citizen engagement and to involve neighbourhoods. It appears that the conclusion in this staff report about deadlines—that it will strengthen the public's ability to provide input to council—was reached without consulting the public. It should not be assumed that the recommended policies would enhance public engagement. Prior to adopting this change in policy, we suggest it would make sense to ask the public its opinion about what would improve the public's ability to provide input to council. Therefore we would urge Council not to adopt these new restrictions on public participation.

John E. Gruzleski, President OUNRA

**Submission to City Council April 29 2013 Regarding Tax Ratio Policy**

**Submitted by Hugh Whiteley**

**In making decisions on Tax Ratios City Council should choose ratios that best support the long-term prosperity and sustainability of Guelph. The goals of prosperity and sustainability are supported when city policies attract new business investment and help maintain and replace existing business investment.**

**Tax ratios set at the fairness ratio will be attractive to investors not only because of the monetary incentives involved but also because the city will gain a reputation for fairness and forward thinking that is encouraging to investors interested in long-term business viability.**

**The City has already intervened in the multi-residential sector by setting the Tax Ratio to 1 for new multi-residential units and applying this ratio for the medium term (35 y). It is now time to remove the unfair distinction in treatment between newer and older multi-residential units by a four year transition to a ratio of 1 for all multi-residential units.**

**The City faces challenges to attract the needed industrial-sector investment needed to maintain and replace its industrial jobs. A similar phasing over four years to a more attractive fairness ratio at or near 1 for industries would be very useful as a sales pitch in the campaign to inform industrial investors of the advantages Guelph provides.**

**I am less convinced that movement toward the fairness ratio will have much influence on decisions in the Commercial sector. However there is no justification for excluding this sector from the fairness criterion and adoption of the fairness ratio for Commercial property establishes the bone-fides of Guelph as a consistently business-friendly city.**

**It appears that York, almost alone among Ontario communities, has seen the advantage of being fair and business-friendly in its Tax Ratio policies. I suggest that Guelph would be well advised to follow this example.**

**If a new business-friendly tax ratio policy is adapted a four year transition is sensible. The substantial increase in the share of tax revenue shifted to single-family homes would have to be sold to the community and the long-term benefits in terms of attracting investment to secure future prosperity and sustainability would have to be carefully documented and explained.**

# STAFF REPORT



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TO City Council

SERVICE AREA Finance & Enterprise Services

DATE April 29, 2013

**SUBJECT Supplementary Report to FIN-13-14 2014 Budget Workshop follow up and responses.**

REPORT NUMBER FIN 13.15

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To recommend receipt of the CAFE Report FIN-13-11 entitled 2014 Budget Workshop Follow Up and Responses and request staff to conduct further work on the proposed budget guideline (target) and report back in September, 2013.

### KEY FINDINGS

Based on significant deliberation of the 2014 Budget Workshop Report at the CAFE Meeting of April 15, 2013, and the February 12, 2013 Budget Workshop with Council it is evident that:

- a) There is interest in exploring other potential measures used in the budget guideline formula; and,
- b) Further research is desired surrounding the appropriate measure used and definition applied to the recommended budget guideline formula growth (volume) component.

It is therefore recommended that the CAFE Report FIN-13-11 entitled '2014 Budget Workshop Follow Up and Responses' be received at the Council meeting of April 29, 2013.

It is further recommended that staff proceed with their budget preparation work using the principles of the budget model and guideline as proposed and report back in September 2013 on the results of their additional research on growth (volume) measures.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications of this report. A recommended 2014 Tax Supported Budget will be provided for Council deliberation and approval late in 2013.

# STAFF REPORT

## **ACTION REQUIRED**

It is recommended that Council consider the amended recommendations included below.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- a) CAFE Report FIN-13-11 entitled 2014 Budget Workshop Follow Up and Responses be received at the Council meeting of April 29, 2013;
- b) Staff proceed with their budget preparation work using the principles of the budget model and guideline as proposed;
- c) Staff report back in September 2013 with results of their additional research on growth (volume) measures.

## **BACKGROUND**

At its meeting of April 15, 2013 the Corporate Administration, Finance and Enterprise (CAFE) Committee considered the Finance staff report FIN-13-11 entitled 2014 Budget Workshop Follow Up and Responses. This report contained several recommendations on the 2014 Budget process arising from discussions held at the February 12, 2013 workshop aimed at providing greater predictability. The recommendations included

- 1) Adopting a multi-year budgeting cycle
- 2) Streamlining the budget model to include just two components
  - a. Base (including growth)
  - b. New
- 3) Confirm a policy based formula approach to develop a predictable budget guideline.

The predictable budget guideline would include three components:

- 1) Consumer Price Index (CPI) as a measure of inflation
- 2) Number of properties to measure growth (volume)
- 3) An investment factor.

The components recommended if calculated for 2013 would yield a 3.87% budget guideline to target staff work.

## **REPORT**

During CAFÉ's deliberation of the 2014 Budget Workshop Report, staff received significant feedback about the proposed budget guideline (target) formula. It appeared that Committee members and visiting Councillors held differing interpretations of the guideline and its application. Issues of clarity surrounded the components of the proposed budget guideline formula; specifically the definition of volume and the most appropriate measure for its inclusion. Based on this feedback,

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the intention was to reshape the proposed budget guideline formula and its use for consideration of the report at Council, Monday, April 29, 2013.

Unfortunately, the amount of work necessary to refine the formula in addition to the continued need for Committee input made a quick turnaround problematic. Therefore, Staff recommends that this work continue over the Spring/Summer with frequent check-ins with Committee to refine the formulaic guideline. The current supplemental report recommends receipt of the Finance report FIN 13-11 2014 Budget Workshop Responses and Follow Up to allow time for further research.

As context for the future efforts, Staff acknowledges Councillors' feedback and recognizes there are questions. Council's uncertainty appears to be tied to budget targets having historically been indicative of (or equated with) the proposed property tax increase. While the recommended budget guideline (target) formula isn't proposing a tax rate increase, Staff appreciates how it might be interpreted this way, given historical considerations. Therefore, Staff seeks time to clarify the language and intent. At the same time, staff will begin their 2014 Budget as scheduled with consideration of developing recommendations for levels that are up to the target derived from the proposed 2014 Budget Guideline formula and revise these as appropriate while the formula components are further refined/changed.

## **CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN**

- 1.2 Develop collaborative work teams and apply whole systems thinking to deliver creative solutions
- 2.2 Deliver Public Services better
- 2.3 Ensure accountability, transparency and engagement
- 3.3 Strengthen citizen and stakeholder engagement and communications

## **DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATION**

Executive Team  
Finance Department  
CAO's Office  
Corporate Communications

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

A communications plan will be worked on to complement the roll out of the 2014 Budget recommendations and guideline formula used.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

None

# STAFF REPORT

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"original signed by al Horsman"

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**Authored and Approved by**

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**Approved By**

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