



**Minutes of Guelph City Council
Held in the Council Chambers, Guelph City Hall on
Monday, November 30, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.**

Attendance

Council: Mayor C. Guthrie
Councillor P. Allt
Councillor B. Bell
Councillor C. Billings
Councillor C. Downer
Councillor D. Gibson
Councillor J. Gordon
Councillor J. Hofland
Councillor L. Piper
Councillor M. MacKinnon
Councillor M. Salisbury
Councillor A. Van Hellemond
Councillor K. Wettstein

Staff: Ms. A. Pappert, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. M. Amorosi, Deputy CAO, Corporate Services
Mr. D. Thomson, Deputy CAO, Public Services
Ms. J. Sheehy, General Manager, Finance/Treasurer
Ms. T. Agnello, Deputy City Clerk
Mr. D. McMahon, Council Committee Coordinator

Open Meeting (6:00 p.m.)

Mayor Guthrie called the meeting to order.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures.

2016 Operating Budget Delegations

Mr. Brad Howcroft, Chair, Accessibility Advisory Committee, and Ms. Julia Phillips, Vice Chair, spoke in support of the operating budget expansion request of \$483,000 to install curb ramps to intersections in Guelph.

Mr. Joseph St. Denis discussed the current state of snow removal on sidewalks & suggested volunteers or property owners be responsible for removal.

Mr. Ted Pritchard, on behalf of the Guelph Fair Tax Campaign, urged Council to adopt recommendations included in the Storm Water Management Master Plan which would allow for the pick-up of residential waste from condominiums in Guelph.

Ms. Carolyn Lentz, a member of the Guelph Fair Tax Campaign, asked Council to adopt recommendations included in the Storm Water Management Master Plan to allow for the pick-up of residential waste from all condominiums in Guelph. Additionally, Ms. Lentz asked Council to create a condominium advisory group to provide advice to Council on issues relating to condominiums.

Ms. Vlad Kovac, a member of the Guelph Fair Tax Campaign, spoke in support of the current Storm Water Management Master Plan and specifically the purchase of specialized vehicles required to pick-up residential garbage from high rise condominiums.

Ms. Jakki Prince, on behalf of vendors of the Guelph Farmer's Market, spoke against the proposed increase in rates for market vendors. Additionally, Ms. Prince suggested that a differentiated rate for different types of vendors or a phase in of the proposed increase would be preferred.

Ms. Sian Matwey urged Council to vote against decreases to Guelph Transit Sunday service as it reduces the ability of residents who rely on transit to get to work, spiritual centers or other social events.

Mr. Thomas Goettler spoke against the proposed Guelph Transit fare increase and service reductions.

Mr. Paul Mahony also spoke against the proposed Guelph Transit fare increase and service reduction.

Mr. Andrew Cleary, President, ATU Local 1189, spoke in support of increasing Sunday transit service as a means of ensuring that those who rely on transit are able to travel on Sundays. Additionally, Mr. Cleary suggested that 30 minute service is detrimental to transit riders as drivers are unable to complete the current routes in 30 minutes.

Ms. Randalin Ellery, Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination, detailed the history of the affordable bus pass program and suggested the proposed service reduction would hurt vulnerable Guelph residents. Furthermore, Ms. Ellery suggested that the criteria for access to the affordable bus pass program change to be based on the low income measure (LIM) instead of the low income cut off (LICO). In addition, Ms. Ellery indicated her support for and annual investment of \$500,000 for the affordable housing reserve fund.

Ms. Tina Brophey spoke about the negative impact of any increase in the cost of transit for Guelph residents living in poverty or on social assistance.

Mr. James Smith suggested that increases to Guelph Transit fares and decreases to service would reduce Guelph's modal split and negatively impact the City's ability to meet its future goals for transit ridership. Mr. Smith suggested tying the cost of transit fares to the CPI and/or social assistance payments, the introduction of once per week free transit days for seniors, amending the one hour transfer to be valid for return trips, and a transportation demand management program.

Ms. Christine Hassan spoke against the proposed Guelph Transit fare increase and service reduction and suggested that any service cut will reduce ridership and push riders to find other means of transportation.

Mr. Ted Poiulin was not present.

Ms. Judith Carson, representing the Guelph Wellington Seniors Association, described how seniors in Guelph use Guelph Transit to attend spiritual events, social gatherings and conduct daily business. Ms. Carson suggested public transit should increase in frequency, routes and duration, and that all fare increases be reasonable.

Ms. Marcia Santen suggested that Guelph Transit fares should be reduced and service levels increased. In addition, Ms. Santen recommended that the City residents be responsible for residential leaf collection and snow removal as a means of saving money and preventing cuts to transit.

Mr. Steve Petric suggested that transit primarily benefits those in lower income brackets and is a strong economic driver. Mr. Petric suggested that there are several businesses in Guelph which struggle to hire and retain employees because of their inability to use transit on Sundays to get to work.

Ms. Juanita Burnett, instead of Peter Miller, on behalf of the University of Guelph Central Students Association, spoke about the importance of Sunday transit service to students. Ms. Burnett highlighted the increased number of students studying over the summer and their need to reach campus seven days a week and at a variety of hours.

Ms. Lise Rogers urged Council to fund the installation of outdoor lightning at the Off Leash Dog Park at the Lee Street Park. Ms. Rogers suggested that this activity is as important as the sporting activities taking place at other parks which have lighting.

Council recessed for 10 minutes and reconvened immediately thereafter.

Ms. Laura Murr asked Council to install curb cuts at all City intersections, update the 2005 Guelph Wellington Transportation Plan, update the 2009 Open Space Policy, update the 2009 Parks and Recreation Plan and provide funding to support the Hanlon Creek Watershed Plan.

Mr. Kithio Mwanzia, President and CEO of the Guelph Chamber of Commerce, spoke against above inflation increases to water and wastewater charges and stated that the Chamber's position is that all tax increases be limited to the rate of inflation. Specifically, the Chamber of Commerce recommends funding the service rationalization and a review to reduce industrial and multi-residential tax rates.

Ms. Janice Folk Dawson, President, Guelph and District Labour Council, spoke in support of tax increases over the proposed 1.58% to fund projects such as library improvement, the Community Energy Initiative, improving aging infrastructure and transit. Additionally, Ms. Folk Dawson suggested that the City needs to move beyond property taxes as the primary source of municipal funding and instead look at increasing development charges, user fees and other means of revenue generation.

Martin Collier was not present.

Mr. Pat Fung suggested that Guelph's per capita operating budget is high compared to comparator municipalities as per data in the BMA study. Mr. Fung discussed the per capita cost the City of Guelph spends on roads, parks, solid waste collection, fire services, open government and corporate asset management.

Ross Kirkconnell was not present.

Ms. Jennifer Mackie, Director of Organizational Development for the Guelph Family Health Team, spoke in support of the Guelph Wellington Community Paramedicine Program and asked Council to provide additional funding for the program in 2016.

Ms. Bonnie Burgess, representing the Age Friendly Leadership Team, also spoke in support of the Community Paramedicine Program as an effective way to reduce health costs and provide quality services to residents.

Constable Chris Probst, Games Manager, 2016 Special Olympics Spring Games, and Ms. Dominique O'Rourke, highlighted the costs and benefits associated with holding the games and asked that the City provide in kind support through the use of the Sleeman Centre, provision of transportation through off-duty Guelph Transit busses and advertising through City publications and Guelph Tourism.

Ms. Nicole Abouhalka asked Council to immediately implement traffic calming measures on Downey Road.

Sandy Nicholls was not present.

Ms. Susan Ratcliffe urged Council to remove funding for the replacement of the Niska Road Bridge from the proposed 2016 capital budget.

Mr. Rob McLean spoke in support of funding for the Open Guelph initiative. Mr. McLean suggested that Open Guelph offers several benefits to the City and community at large.

Mr. Brad Van Horne urged Council to support funding for the Open Guelph initiative. Mr. Van Horne described the progress Open Guelph has made over the past twenty months and the need for funding to secure the completion of four key projects in 2016.

Mr. Will Mactaggart, a member of the Downtown Advisory Committee, suggested that Council be open to making trades and using leverage to produce the best possible returns for Guelph tax payers.

Mr. James Doran asked Council for \$50,000 to fund Innovation Guelph. Mr. Doran suggested that as Guelph grows Innovation Guelph can act as a key player in the growth of business, an entrepreneurial ecosystem, regional economic goals and support of community initiatives that improve quality of life.

Mr. Glen Tolhurst spoke about the impact of tax increases above the rate of inflation, increases in FTE's above the rate of population growth and high increases in the cost of curbside waste collection.

Ms. Mira Clarke, Executive Director of Action Read, spoke in support of providing increased funding to the Guelph Public Library and literacy programs that the library offers.

Ms. Karen Calzonetti, Program Manager, J.O.E (Jobs, Opportunities and Enterprise), described how J.O.E, a program which offers persons with disabilities the opportunity to serve coffee and backed goods in the Public Library, has generated positive results thanks to the help of Public Library staff. Ms. Calzonetti asked Council to increase funding for the Guelph Public Library.

Ms. Suzanne Swanton, Co-Chair of the Wellington Guelph Housing Committee, asked Council to fund the Affordable Housing Reserve Fund in the amount of \$500,000 annually. Ms. Swanton outlined several ways in which the Affordable Housing Reserve fund has benefited the community in the past and how it can continue benefiting the community in the future.

Mr. Bruce Ryan, President of the Old University Neighbourhood Residents Association, spoke in support of the proposed walking and cycling trail extension along the Speed River, redevelopment of Hugh Guthrie Park and funding for a proactive zoning by-law inspector.

Staff clarified information provided by delegates and offered further information regarding the budget process.

Adjournment (10:06 p.m.)

3. Moved by Councillor Downer
Seconded by Councillor Hofland

That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Minutes to be confirmed on December 14, 2015.

Mayor Guthrie

Tina Agnello – Deputy City Clerk