

Council Chambers
December 2, 2008

Council convened in formal session at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Farbridge, Councillors Beard, Bell, Billings, Burcher, Farrelly, Findlay, Hofland, Kovach, Laidlaw, Piper, Salisbury and Wettstein

Staff Present: Mr. H. Loewig, Chief Administrative Officer; Mr. M. Amorosi, Director of Human Resources; Chief S. Armstrong, Director of Emergency Services; Dr. J. Laird, Director of Environmental Services; Mr. D. McCaughan, Director of Operations; Ms. M. Neubauer, Director of Finance; Ms. A. Pappert, Director of Community Services; Ms. L.E. Payne, Director of Corporate Services/City Solicitor; Mr. J. Riddell, Director of Community Design and Development Services; and Mrs. L.A. Giles, Director of Information Services/City Clerk

The Mayor advised that the purpose of the meeting was to hear the staff presentation on the 2009 Tax Supported Budget.

DECLARATIONS UNDER MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT

There was no declaration of pecuniary interest.

The following representatives from the County of Wellington were present: Warden Green, Councillor Gordon Tosh, Scott Wilson CAO and Craig Dyer, Treasurer. They provided information with respect to various budgets.

The Chief Administrative Officer outlined the process followed by staff to date in developing the budget.

The Director of Finance outlined the impact of the proposed budget to the City residents and the 2008 reassessment impact, including impacts to the Corporation such as:

- inflation increases;
- annualization of 20 minute transit, land ambulance and youth shelter;

- loss of investment income;
- growth pressures on service levels; and
- additional funding for strategic priorities and responding to input from the Customer Service Survey.

She provided information on the 2009 levies requested by the various service providers, recent revisions to the proposed budget which reduced fuel sensitive expenditures, and deferral of capital projects impacting the operating budget. Also highlighted were the various departmental, general expenditures, general revenues, other service areas and shared services operating budgets, as well as the new service recommendations.

The Director of Finance highlighted the capital budget financing from the tax levy and capital projects which amount to \$81.3 million. She advised that the 2009 operating budget is responsive to the service needs and community input and is aligned with the Strategic Plan goals and objectives.

1. Moved by Councillor Findlay
Seconded by Councillor Beard

THAT staff report back on a recommended approach to reach a 2009 Operating Budget with a total increase of 3.75%, with potential areas for adjustment to include, but not limited to:

- Consideration of new service recommendations
- Review of reserve funding
- Reconsideration of capital projects
- Spread capital costs over time, by increasing debt funding
- Increasing user fees
- Examination of existing service levels.

2. Moved in Amendment by Councillor Kovach
Seconded by Councillor Billings

THAT increasing debt funding not be included in the recommendations to reach a 2009 Operating Budget with a total increase of 3.75%.

VOTING IN FAVOUR: Councillors Bell, Billings, Farrelly and Kovach (4)

VOTING AGAINST: Councillors Beard, Burcher, Findlay, Hofland, Laidlaw, Piper, Salisbury, Wettstein and Mayor Farbridge (9)

Defeated

3. Moved in Amendment by Councillor Hofland
Seconded by Councillor Beard

THAT reducing existing service levels not be included in the recommendations to reach a 2009 Operating Budget with a total increase of 3.75%.

VOTING IN FAVOUR: Councillor Hofland (1)

VOTING AGAINST: Councillors Beard, Bell, Billings, Burcher, Farrelly, Findlay, Kovach, Laidlaw, Piper, Salisbury, Wettstein and Mayor Farbridge (12)

Defeated

4. Moved by Councillor Findlay
Seconded by Councillor Beard

Ms. M. Neubauer
Ms. H. Loewig

THAT staff report back on a recommended approach to reach a 2009 Operating Budget with a total increase of 3.75%, with potential areas for adjustment to include, but not limited to:

- Consideration of new service recommendations
- Review of reserve funding
- Reconsideration of capital projects
- Spread capital costs over time, by increasing debt funding
- Increasing user fees
- Examination of existing service levels.

VOTING IN FAVOUR: Councillors Beard, Bell, Billings, Burcher, Farrelly, Findlay, Hofland, Kovach, Laidlaw, Piper, Salisbury, Wettstein and Mayor Farbridge (13)

VOTING AGAINST: (0)

Carried

Staff were requested to provide additional information in a number of areas.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 o'clock p.m.

Minutes read and confirmed December 22, 2008.

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Mayor

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Clerk