



**Minutes of Guelph City Council
Held in the Council Chambers, Guelph City Hall on
Wednesday, February 25, 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 K. Wettstein

Councillor J. Hofland
Councillor M. MacKinnon
Councillor L. Piper
Councillor M. Salisbury
Councillor A. Van Hellemond
Councillor J. Gordon

Staff: Ms. A. Pappert, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. M. Amorosi, Deputy-CAO, Corporate Services
Mr. D. Thomson, Deputy-CAO, Public Services
Mr. A. Horsman, Deputy-CAO, Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise
Ms. S. Purton, Manager, Financial Planning and Budgets
Ms. K. Dedman, General Manager, Engineering Services/City Engineer
Ms. K. Scott, General Manager, Parks and Recreation
Mr. A. McIlveen, Manager of Traffic and Parking
Mr. P. Meagher, General Manager, Guelph Transit
Mr. R. Keller, General Manager, Operations
Mr. D. Wyman, General Manager, Solid Waste
Mr. B. Labelle, General Manager, Technology and Innovation
Mr. D. Kudo, Deputy City Engineer/Manager of Transportation Infrastructure
Mr. M. Neumann, Manager, Forestry
Ms. C. Clack, General Manager, Culture, Tourism and Community Investments
Ms. T. Agnello, Deputy City Clerk
Mr. D. McMahon, Council Committee Coordinator

Open Meeting (6:04 p.m.)

Mayor Guthrie called the meeting to order.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures.

Presentation of the 2015-2017 Tax Supported Capital Budget and Forecast

Al Horsman, Deputy-CAO, Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise, presented the 2015-2017 Tax Supported Capital Budget and Forecast. The presentation included a high level budget overview, highlights of major capital projects, challenges, assumptions, sources of funding, and next steps.

Delegations addressing the 2015-2017 Tax Supported Capital Budget and Forecast

Mr. Daren Lin gave a presentation in favour of enforcing and marking 30km/hour school speed zones. He requested that Council move funding associated with the marking of school speed zones from 2016 to 2015.

Ms. Maggie Laidlaw gave a presentation in support of returning \$300,000 to the active transportation budget in 2015. Ms. Laidlaw outlined the positive impacts the funding could have by providing commuter/multiuse paths on Speedvale Avenue. In addition, Ms. Laidlaw spoke in favour of funding a new downtown library.

Ms. Yvette Tendick, President of the Guelph Coalition for Active Transport, supported the delegation and presentation given by Mr. Daren Lin before speaking in favour of returning the \$300,000 to active transportation. Additionally, Ms. Tendick urged Council to align the capital budget with Council's Shared Agenda which recognizes trails as a priority.

Ms. Marcia Santen spoke in support of returning \$300,000 in active transportation funding to 2015 capital budget.

Ms. Frances Dietrich-O'Connor outlined the need for active transportation infrastructure in Guelph as well as the risks posed by a lack of active transportation infrastructure.

Mr. Patrick Sheridan spoke in favour of returning \$300,000 in active transportation funding to the 2015 capital budget. He concurred with the presentations given by Ms. Tendick, Ms. Santen and Ms. Dietrich-O'Connor.

Mr. Gerrit Atkinson concurred with the presentations given by Ms. Tendick, Ms. Santen, Ms. Dietrich-O'Connor, and Mr. Sheridan.

Ms. Richelle Forsey spoke regarding the dangers posed by the lack of active transportation infrastructure on Woodlawn Road. Specifically, Ms. Forsey identified the lack of sidewalks and bike paths as making it dangerous to navigate Woodlawn Road without a car. In addition, she identified the bus stops along Woodlawn Road as hazardous because the lack of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.

Ms. Anne Gajerski-Cauley spoke about the importance of the downtown library for the hundreds of Guelph children who are home schooled and lack access to a school library. She encouraged Council to provide funding for a larger downtown library in the 2015 capital budget.

Mr. Taylor Moran, a member of the GOT Bike advocacy group, identified himself as an avid cyclist concerned about cuts to active transportation. Mr. Moran outlined the positive benefits cycling tourism has on cities with robust cycling infrastructure. He identified Silvercreek Parkway to Woodlawn road as a gateway to cycling in Guelph and an opportunity to join the cycling tourism trend.

Mr. Cosmo Carere, owner of Speed River Bicycle, discussed the economic value of active transportation and supported returning funding for active transportation to the 2015 budget.

Mr. Dylan White spoke in favour of funding the Woodlawn active transportation corridor in close agreement with Mr. Moran and Mr. Carere.

Council recessed at 7:35pm and reconvened at 7:45pm.

Ms. Mary Anne Young, a member of the GOT Bike advocacy group, concurred with Mr. Moran, Mr. Carere and Mr. White while identifying that the City of Guelph Official Plan supports the argument for active transportation.

Mr. Evan Ferrari indicated he was in agreement with previous delegates who spoke in favour of returning \$300,000 in active transportation funding to 2015.

Mr. Ted Pritchard, speaking as part of the Fair Tax Campaign launched by the Canadian Condominium Association, identified a petition that was delivered to Council showing community support for garbage cart collection in condominiums. Mr. Pritchard would like funding identified in the capital budget to go towards purchasing vehicles to deliver garbage cart collection for condominium owners and residents.

Mr. Ken Chupa, a member of the Guelph-Wellington Seniors Association, spoke in favour of increasing the 2015 capital budget to build a south end recreation centre that will serve the needs of seniors and the broader community.

Ms. Susan Watson talked about the increased ability of the community to absorb new tax increases as a result of low unemployment, the decrease in gas prices and the cost of household food thrown out annually compared to a comparable tax increase. Ms. Watson also spoke in favour of reviewing the City's tax deferral program for low income households so that it was more accessible to those in need.

Ms. Sian Matwey challenged councillors to use Guelph Transit as their primary mode of transportation for one week. Ms. Matwey indicated that many Guelph residents in need are unable to drive or cycle and must rely on transit. She does not support the Guelph transit priority project and suggested new routes, which take into account those who cannot safely walk, drive or bike, are needed.

Mr. Martin Collier recommended that the City adopt a new transportation funding hierarchy that prioritizes the maintenance of current infrastructure before new projects, ensures sustainable transportation modes are considered more important than uninterrupted traffic flow and places a high value on projects that increase quality of life.

Ms. Laura Greenway-Balnar, speaking on behalf of the Community Older Adult Leadership Team, spoke in support of the City of Guelph Older Adult Strategy and the need to include funding for a south end recreation centre in the 2015 capital budget.

Main Motion

Moved Councillor Hofland
Seconded by Councillor MacKinnon

1. That the 2015 - 2017 Tax Supported Capital Budget and Forecast, in the amount of \$141,433,900, including \$50,867,900 for 2015, be received for information.
2. That the 2015 – 2017 Tax Supported Capital Budget be referred to the March 25, 2015 Council meeting for final deliberation and approval of the 2015 requirements.

Mayor Guthrie indicated that Councillors questions should fall into three categories: clarity, impact and intent.

In response to Council discussion staff clarified:

- That returning \$300,000 in active transportation funding to the 2015 capital budget will not result in the addition of active transportation infrastructure in 2015 due to a total project cost of \$900,000 that has yet to be funded over multiple years. Staff noted that there are a variety of bike and multiuse path projects identified in the capital budget.
- That the City Hall Ice Resurfacers is past its life cycle and requires replacement.
- That the public library reserve is \$700,000 and information regarding the impact of moving an additional \$250,000 into the reserve will be provided to Council.
- That an inadvertent omission in the Trees for Guelph project was made and the appropriate capital amounts are \$25,000 each year in 2015, 2016 and 2017.
- That traffic calming initiatives are unfunded in the 2015 capital budget.
- That the City of Guelph received \$150,000 from GO Transit and Metrolinx to support the construction of bus shelters.
- That a recommendation regarding a review of the City of Guelph tax deferral program for low income households may be forwarded by Council to the relevant standing committee for review.
- That \$20,000 included in the 2016 school speed zone project is to accommodate growth in the number of schools requiring signage and marking and not to add marking or signage to existing schools.
- That there is no funding for Solid Waste in the 2015-2017 capital budget because it is not required; any additional funding for Solid Waste will be brought forward as part of the operating budget. In addition, clarity was provided regarding the impact of the removal of the Eastview Methane Collector from the 2015 capital budget.
- That there are no projects or initiatives underway to provide garbage cart collection for residents of condominiums and that the \$350,000 included in the capital budget is to purchase an additional full size collection vehicle to accommodate population growth.
- That the Information Technology GIS upgrade expansion will come forward as part of the operating budget.
- That the Niska Road Bridge is at the end of its structural life cycle and the funding provided in the capital budget in 2016 is to implement whichever option is recommended by the review and environmental assessment process.
- That no money has been set aside for a south end recreation centre. Funding is pending a completed Request for Proposal of Interest (RFPOI) which will provide more information on the total project costs.

- That the beginning of work on a new downtown library and the Baker Street project is approximately three years away.
- That the replacement of Guelph Transit fare boxes had been pushed to 2016 because the adoption of the Trapeze Passenger Transportation Management System is behind schedule and no additional staff capacity is available.
- That washrooms and/or amenity buildings are being considered as part of the Eastview Park project.
- That \$100,000 in funding for a parking systems study in 2017 is to complete research into new systems which could be adopted following the implementation of a parking management system this year.
- That \$400,000 has been allocated in the capital budget for the purchase of new and replacement trees.
- That the planning process for parks and playgrounds includes accessibility criteria.
- That the Sleeman Sponsorship Program includes tax-supported funds in the amount of \$12,000 to provide a stable \$70,000 in funding per year.

Staff indicated they would forward the following to Council:

- Cost information relating to the Niska Bridge.
- Research on the impact of urban forestry and green infrastructure on the costs associated with storm water management.
- Information on projects included as part of the Community Energy Plan.
- The impact of a \$500,000 deposit to a downtown library reserve fund.
- Information on the York Road project scheduled for 2017.
- Information on the provincially mandated Claire Road and Hanlon interchange, including the payment schedule.

Council identified the following intentions for the 2015 capital budget moving forward:

- To move \$500,000 into the Affordable Housing Reserve Fund.
- To move \$21,000 and \$22,000 in school speed zone funding to 2015.
- To fund storm water in the amount of \$1,000,000 in 2015.
- To move the \$250,000 allocated in the 2017 traffic calming budget to be distributed in equal parts over 2015, 2016 and 2017.
- To fund the York Road environmental assessment in the amount of \$200,000 in 2015
- To restart the sidewalk budget as previously allocated.
- To fund the Woodlawn Road active transportation corridor in the amount of \$600,000.

- To explore further options to complete the Woodlawn Road active transportation corridor
- To create a dedicated library reserve fund.
- To explore options to bring together partnerships/relationships that allow us to move forward large capital projects, like the south end recreation centre, downtown library and Baker Street, in shorter time frames than currently forecast.
- To defer spending for the Niska Bridge project by three years.
- To add funding to forestry tree and shrub replacement.

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VOTING IN FAVOUR: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Allt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury, Van Hellemond and Wettstein (13)

VOTING AGAINST: (0)

CARRIED

Adjournment (10:02 p.m.)

3. Moved by Councillor Billings
Seconded by Councillor Allt

That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Minutes to be confirmed on March 23, 2015.

Mayor Guthrie

Tina Agnello - Deputy City Clerk