

Ms. Susan Ratcliffe was not in favour of the reconstruction of the Niska Bridge. She suggested that the Niska Bridge should be designated as a heritage site.

Ms. Nicole Abouhalka spoke in favour of maintaining the current Niska Bridge.

Mr. Bhaju Talmot read a statement, on behalf of Ms. Sandy Nichols, in favour of removing the Niska Bridge project from the proposed 2015 budget while adding additional traffic control officers, red light cameras, stop signs and other traffic calming measures as a means of slowing down traffic on Niska Road.

Mr. John Hart suggested the existing Niska Bridge be repaired. Mr. Hart presented information on the cost of repairing versus replacing the current bridge.

Mr. John Gruzleski, President of the Old University Neighbourhood Residents Association (OUNRA), spoke in favour of adding an additional Zoning Inspector and implementing a communication and education plan related to shared rental housing.

Mr. Allan Dyer concurred with John Gruzleski.

Ms. Kathryn Hofer, Manager of Off-Campus Living at the University of Guelph and Co-Chair of Guelph's Town and Gown committee, echoed Mr. Dyer and Mr. Gruzleski's suggestion that the shared rental housing inspector and communication plan be approved.

Mr. Lars Sterne, President of the Waterloo Regional Apartment Management Association, spoke in support of adding the inspector staff and maintaining the communication plan related to shared rental housing. Mr. Sterne also suggested that property taxes for rental apartment buildings be lowered to align with basic residential rates.

Ms. Elizabeth Smith gave a presentation in support of funding a communication and education plan for shared rental housing.

Ms. Yvette Tendick, President of the Guelph Coalition for Active Transportation, gave a spoke in support of returning \$300,000 for active transportation, and adding an additional \$300,000, to the 2015 budget.

Mr. Kithio Mwanzia, President and CEO of the Guelph Chamber of Commerce, discussed the businesses environment in Guelph and the need to develop a strong and responsive transit system and all day two-way GO Transit service. Mr. Mwanzia also suggested that City of Guelph budget actuals should be released publicly and that the cost of doing business in Guelph be examined.

Mr. Bill Gardner presented in favour of keeping sidewalk snow plowing in the proposed 2015 budget.

Ms. Oxanna Adams spoke in favour of a budget that addresses the total level of taxation as well as the services provided to citizens. Ms. Adams suggested added funding for a new downtown library and south end recreation centre in the 2015 budget.

Mr. Allan Boynton recommended that variances which increase the size of driveways be permitted to reduce on street parking and that a parking strategy to reduce the amount of on-street parking be considered.

Council recessed at 8:00 pm and reconvened at 8:10 pm.

Mr. Ted Pritchard argued that condo owners should not pay taxes to fund a solid waste system that does not provide services to them. Mr. Pritchard encouraged Council to hire private contractors to collect garbage at condominiums or internally implement the recommendations of the Solid Waste Master Plan and limit tax increases to inflation.

Ms. Carolyn Lentz, on behalf of Fair Tax Campaign Guelph, spoke in favour of providing solid waste services to condo owners as a matter of fairness. In addition, Ms. Lentz pointed out that the current policy increases the amount of recycling and organic waste that goes to land fill.

Mr. Ken Jeffrey, President of Condo Corporation 42 – Riverridge Condominiums, spoke in support of providing solid waste collection at condominiums across Guelph. In addition, Mr. Jeffrey spoke about the need to ensure that condo owners receive the same level of service as other residential home owners.

Ms. Maggie Laidlaw suggested that many residents are not opposed to tax increases to fund services that provide value and do not support lower taxes if they affect services.

Mr. Keith Poore spoke in favour of maintaining Guelph Transit service at current levels to ensure those going to religious services arrive on time and those without access to cars can move around the City on Sundays.

Mr. Jason Dodge was not present.

Ms. Susan Watson suggested that it was unethical to cut services that affect low-income or vulnerable residents. Ms. Watson suggested low gas prices, low unemployment and the cost of household food thrown out annually indicate that now is a good time to raise taxes and deliver stronger services. She also suggested that tax deferral program be reviewed and updated.

Mr. Reid Gilmore presented to Council regarding the need to control taxes and suggested that reducing capital costs to fund operating budgets was risky.

Ms. Laura Murr spoke regarding the monitoring and clean-up for contaminated or potentially contaminated sites. In addition, Ms. Murr suggested the plan for the Niska Bridge was completed too quickly and its funding should be reallocated to the Hanlon Creek Conservation Area.

Mr. Alexandre Cote was in favour of maintaining Guelph Transit service levels so those who work on Sundays and holidays have an affordable means of travelling to and from work. Mr. Cote encouraged Council to reallocate funding for FTEs to maintaining or increasing Sunday and holiday bus service.

Mr. Steven Petric spoke against the reduction of Guelph Transit service levels, suggesting this service is especially important for children, low income people and those without cars. In addition Mr. Petric suggested that a five year Transit Master Plan should be developed to improve service levels across the City.

Staff indicated they would forward the following to Council:

- Detailed information on the proposed Niska Bridge project and funding.
- Background information on the Affordable Housing Reserve Fund.

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

- to adjust the proposed user fee increases.
- consideration of solid waste services to condominiums.
- an efficiency target.

Adjournment (9:30 p.m.)

3. Moved by Councillor Hofland
Seconded by Councillor Gibson

That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Minutes to be confirmed on April 27, 2015.

Mayor Guthrie

Tina Agnello – Deputy City Clerk