

Council Chambers
November 23, 2011 7:00 p.m.

A meeting of Guelph City Council

Present: Mayor Farbridge, Councillors Bell, Burcher (arrived at 7:18 p.m.), Dennis, Findlay, Furfaro, Guthrie, Hofland, Kovach, Laidlaw, Piper, Van Hellemond and Wettstein

Absent: Councillor Laidlaw

Staff Present: Ms. A. Pappert, Chief Administrative Officer; Mr. M. Amorosi, Executive Director of Corporate & Human Resources; Ms. C. Clack, Interim Executive Director of Community & Social Services; Ms. S. Aram, Acting City Treasurer; Ms. T. Agnello, Acting City Clerk; and Ms. D. Black, Assistant Council Committee Co-ordinator

DECLARATIONS UNDER MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT

There was no declaration of pecuniary interest.

The Mayor provided a brief synopsis of the budget process.

DELEGATIONS

Ms. Nadia Martin, St. Joseph's Foundation Board member, provided a summary of services and programs they offer.

Ms. Mary DuQuesnay, President and CEO of St. Joseph's Foundation provided information regarding the expansion of their day programs. She stated they are asking for a \$1.2 million pledge over three years, starting in 2013 for their affordable housing project.

Ms. Sue Bennett, Chair, Volunteer Centre of Guelph/Wellington stated that she believes the fee for police checks will deter volunteers and negatively affect their volunteer base numbers. She requested that the City not support a fee for police checks and explore alternative methods within the budget to provide for the costs of providing volunteer police checks.

Ms. Cathy Taylor, Executive Director, Volunteer Centre of Guelph/Wellington, stated they feel charging fees for police checks would be a detriment to their volunteer

numbers and would create a barrier for potential volunteers. She stated the fee may alter volunteer screening processes to become more lenient and increase risk to those being served. She stated volunteers are needed more now in difficult economic times but the fee would deter many from volunteering. She stated that the volunteer screening process needs to be reassessed by organizations which could result in less volunteers being required to obtain a police check. She asked that the implementation of a police check fee for volunteers be delayed so that a review of the volunteer screening process could be completed.

Ms. Kate MacDonald, Manager, Guelph Synchronized Swim Club stated that they are in a rebuilding phase and even a slight increase of fees could jeopardize their club. She stated they are required to pay their coaches and costs are spread out over only twenty-two members. She advised all their executive members are volunteers and the requirement to pay for the required police check may deter members from serving on the executive. She stated their costs have risen approximately 22% over the past five years and another 3% would create a hardship.

Ms. Elizuk and Mr. Storey were not present.

Ms. Joanne Shoveller, Chair, Board of Trustees, MacDonald Stewart Art Centre gave a synopsis of the programs and services they provide. She stated they are requesting an additional 3% operating increase (approx \$5,000) and an increase for capital funds. She advised that required emergency work will cost \$66,000.00 and stated that if they are in a deficit, it will affect their government funding opportunities. They are requesting \$20,600.00 from the City and the same amount from the University of Guelph.

Ms. Erin Harvey, Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination, stated they are in support of the affordable transit pass program. She stated the Poverty Task Force is pleased the City is not capping the program and that the pilot has been set for two years which provides an opportunity for better evaluation.

Mr. Marty Williams, Executive Director, Downtown Guelph Business Association, stated that they are disappointed that the capital projects of the Wilson Street Parkade project and the Central Library have been removed from the ten year plan. He does not agree with some of the conclusions used to determine the budget priorities. He stated the City's telephone survey should have asked

about a downtown levy, parking in the downtown core or about the need for a new central library. He said the viability for downtown businesses is at stake. He asked council to reevaluate the capital budget, after it has determined the value and cost of the parking inventory. He requested the parking restrictions be left in place until a study can be done.

Mr. Ross Kirkconnell, Executive Director, Guelph Family Health Team, stated they wish to establish a team on Farley Drive with space for up to eight family physicians and clinicians. He stated that McMaster University Family Practice is interested in developing a teaching unit in Guelph. He is requesting one million dollars over a five year period to pay for the necessary renovations and to open an office in 2012. He stated they have a two year lease.

Ms. Nancy Fowler, McMaster University was not present.

Mr. Chuck Miller, Guelph Youth Sports Advisory Council, provided information regarding the various sports groups use of arenas. He stated there are approximately 500 different users that would be affected by the increase of rink fees. He requested Council to approve subsidizing ice time at the University of Guelph until the City can provide more facilities.

Ms. Tracey Ryan, Guelph Girls Hockey Association, stated the increase of rink fees would limit their enrollment. She stated their organization will also be impacted by the volunteer police check costs and the increases will result in a 10% increase in costs overall.

Mr. Gary Grewal, owner of a property proposed for expropriation was present. He advised he has lost tenants as a result of the proposed expropriation because no one wants to lease space there. He stated he has had not been able to rent out his units since 2008 and he is losing a great deal of money. He advised he was provided offers but nothing was definitive. He requests the City to make a decision quickly to stop the uncertainty.

Mr. Bill Mungall, Guelph Hiking Trail Club, highlighted various survey results that identified trails as a priority. He requested that Council adhere to their trail funding commitments and consider providing funding to some smaller scale local trails. He requested increases in 2013 and 2014.

Staff were requested to provide the following information:

- numbers if the ice subsidy at the University subsidy was carried through to April and/or what the numbers would be if half subsidy of 23.75% was provided for the year;
- a briefing on the history of offers made to Gary Greywal and information regarding any other businesses in a similar position;
- where to place the cost for volunteer police checks into the budget - police budget or elsewhere;
- how other communities are handling the costs of the volunteer police check fees;
- clarity regarding how bonusing might impact the budget and the interpretation of "bonusing" within the Municipal Act;
- an examination of the process for subsidy requests from the numerous sports agencies to determine an equitable way of prioritizing the requests;
- whether the removed park planner position resulted in no new parks and trails projects;
- examination of whether the trail link of the west end trail could be moved up to the 2013 budget;
- whether other municipalities are able to provide Guelph organizations with prime rink time;
- information on status of the downtown buildings involved with the central library development;
- budget impacts of the implementation of the affordable bus pass program in 2012;
- the feasibility of approving the request of the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre;
- capital budget information regarding costs to build new ice rinks to address need for ice time during peak periods;
- the costs of adding two ice pads to the West End Recreation Centre;
- clarification of the City's healthcare funding role;
- figures regarding the costs of contracting maintenance for Market Square compared to City staff costs;
- a budget summary and comments showing the impact if all the budget requests were approved.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 o'clock p.m.

Minutes read and confirmed December 19, 2011.

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Mayor

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Acting Clerk