

Council Chambers
November 27, 2012, 6:00 p.m.

A meeting of Guelph City Council.

Present: Mayor Farbridge, Councillors Bell, Burcher, Dennis, Findlay, Furfaro, Guthrie, Hofland, Kovach, Laidlaw, Piper, Van Hellemond and Wettstein

Staff Present: Ms. A. Pappert, Chief Administrative Officer; Mr. M. Amorosi, Executive Director, Corporate & Human Resources; Mr. D. McCaughan, Executive Director, Operations, Transit & Emergency Services; Ms. C. Bell, Executive Director, Community & Social Services; Mr. A. Horsman, Executive Director, Finance & Enterprise/Chief Financial Officer; Ms. T. Agnello, Deputy City Clerk; and Ms. D. Black, Council Committee Co-ordinator

DECLARATIONS UNDER MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT

There was no declaration of pecuniary interest.

The Mayor outlined the budget process and the purpose of this meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

2013 Local Boards & Shared Services Budget Presentation

Mr. A. Horsman, Executive Director, Finance & Enterprise/Chief Financial Officer, provided a brief financial overview and addressed the prior year's assessment growth and legislation affecting budgets. He explained the breakdown of social services, cost allocations and the City's contribution.

2012 Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Preliminary Budget Forecast

Ms. Carole Desmeules, Director, Finance and Corporate Services, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health, provided an overview of their services and regulatory requirements. She explained the public health funding sources, expenditures and their relation to the City's budget. She addressed key budget pressures and said the city's share amounts to a 2.3% increase on the overall base operating budget. She also explained the provincial funding and the City's levy.

County of Wellington

Councillor Gord Tosh, Chair, County of Wellington Social Services Committee, provided a breakdown of the total amount needed for their budget. He said they are requesting a 3% increase in the City's levy. He stated there are significant changes in social services resulting in the need to reorganize and transfer some positions and duties from one division to another. He said they are considering combining Ontario Disability Support Program and Social Services. He also explained that child care services are in flux due to the kindergarten age group changes and the provincial funding for this is done. He said the County is projecting a 7% increase for social housing, 12% decrease for Ontario Works and a 9% increase for child care services.

He said utility costs savings for the co-op and non-profit housing is a result of several upgrades to the properties. He addressed the transferring of four positions into housing services and the introduction of two new positions; a maintenance supervisor and a housing community support worker.

Councillor Tosh advised that the slightly decreased caseload has resulted in an expected budget decrease for Ontario Works. He said they have created two new positions to assist their clients with resumes and reducing barriers to transition into the workforce.

He explained the child care services increase is due to fewer grants for the kindergarten transition period. He said they have two new teachers and an assistant position to address the requirement of a higher ratio of caregivers to infants.

Councillor Tosh explained that the Wellington Terrace budget for the City is based upon the funding formula agreed upon by the City and County. He explained the increased number of tenants requiring a higher level of care has resulted in the need for more support workers. He said that the roof replacement will be paid for by the County and is not within the City budget.

He said there is a need to discuss the emergency measures program to determine the level of service but they have input the same amount as in 2012 until further discussion can occur.

Downtown Guelph Business Association

Mr. Mary Williams, Executive Director, Downtown Guelph Business Association, highlighted the components of their budget. He stated their budget aligns with their strategic plan and has been reviewed by their Executive Director and Executive Board members. He said their request is less than a 3% increase. He noted their reserve funds have been used and requested a levy increase of \$12,000 from the Business Improvement area.

In response to questions, he stated they are collecting data from businesses regarding the Carden Street funding this past spring and will bring a report to Council with the results.

Guelph Police Services Board

Ms. Judy Sorbara, Chair, Guelph Police Services Board, advised the budget being presented has been approved by their board. She stated the past year has been one of transition, but they have established a strategic business plan for 2013 -2015 which will allow them to be more proactive.

Chief Larkin, Guelph Police Services, advised of their development process and advised they are conducting an organizational review of operations and administration. He stated there is no new programming and/or human resources being proposed within the 3.64% increase of their operating budget. He noted that in 2012 they introduced enhanced call diversion including online reporting; introduction of a new cruiser; and the ability to reassign resource officers. He said they are working on right sizing their fleet which should result in a 15% reduction. He also said they are addressing an anti-idling component, enhancing major event planning and looking at shared services possibilities.

He stated the budget increases are largely due to compensation and collective salary agreements and the reductions are a result of salary vacancies, grant recoveries and operating expenses reduction. Chief Larkin then provided a high level summary of their 2013-2015 strategic business plan and advised adjustments will be made to accommodate the Hamilton Ti-Cats this year.

Councillor Kovach left the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Guelph Public Library

Ms. Jennifer Mackie, Chair, Guelph Public Library Board, outlined the role and purpose of the library. She noted the library budget constitutes 4.2% of the City's budget and has a 2.9% increase over 2012. She noted there is no request of growth, just continued delivery of library services.

Ms. Kitty Pope, Chief Executive Officer, provided highlights of the library services, including circulation and card holder numbers. She noted that the Community Access Program is ending in 2013 and will now cost six thousand dollars. She also provided Information Services statistics. She confirmed the budget numbers stated by Ms. Mackie and outlined the operating expenses and projected revenue for 2013 for the library.

2012 Local Boards and Shared Services Budgets

1. Moved by Councillor Findlay
Seconded by Councillor Van Hellemond
Mr. A. Horsman
Ms. A. Pappert
THAT the 2012 Local Boards and Shared Services budgets be received for information;

VOTING IN FAVOUR: Councillors Bell, Burcher, Dennis, Findlay, Furfaro, Guthrie, Hofland, Laidlaw, Piper, Van Hellemond, and Wettstein and Mayor Farbridge (12)

VOTING AGAINST: (0)

Carried

ADJOURNMENT

2. Moved by Councillor Burcher
Seconded by Councillor Dennis
THAT the meeting of Guelph City Council of November 27, 2012, be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 o'clock p.m.

Minutes read and confirmed December 17, 2012.

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Mayor

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Deputy City Clerk