

Council Chambers
December 8, 2009

Council convened in session at 6:00 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; Ms. T. Agnello, Deputy Clerk; and Ms. J. Sweeney, Council Committee Co-ordinator

DECLARATIONS UNDER MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT

There was no declaration of pecuniary interest.

The Mayor advised that the purpose of the meeting was to hear delegations on the proposed 2010 budget.

Virginia Gillham, Chair of Friends of Guelph Public Library was present and expressed concern that the new central library project has been moved out in the capital forecast. She urged Council to find innovative ways to fund this project and that a naming donation should be pursued. She also suggested that the funding model used for the River Run Center be applied to a new central library.

Brigid Porter expressed concern with the proposed reductions to the South End Community Centre. She requested that Council consider eliminating non-essential items and keep the South End Community Centre moving forward. The City needs safe places for children to go to.

Stacey Cooper expressed concern with the delay to the South End Community Centre as this facility is needed as there are no other facilities in the south end.

Ned Coates was present on behalf of the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre and provided information on the benefits of the Centre to the City with respect to: promotion of local artists; broad community engagement

with the various programs run; growing tourist attraction as it is a nationally recognized gallery. He requested that funding not be cut to this Centre.

Sandy Ferguson, Vice-Chair of the Guelph Non-Profit Housing Corporation provided a brief history of the corporation. She also provided information on the funding shortfall for Paisley Place, which is located at 747 Paisley Road and requested that the City pay the current operating arrears of \$149,846 for the years 2006 to 2009 and provide a commitment of funding over the next 3 years in the amount of \$40,000 per year.

Richard Vollans was present on behalf of the Guelph Arts Council and spoke on behalf of the various arts groups who receive funding through the current community grants program. He requested that grants to community arts groups and events remain intact along with the annual allocation to the Guelph Arts Council.

Gord Tosh was present on behalf of the Joint Social Services Committee, County of Wellington and expressed concern with the proposed reduction to the County. He suggested that it would not be possible for the County to reduce the social services budget as the majority of the costs are mandatory. He advised that daycare programs in Guelph are discretionary. He also requested that the land ambulance budget be postponed until the Land Ambulance Committee has reviewed the proposed budget.

Jane Cabral on behalf of the Neighbourhood Support Coalition provided information on the various activities of the Coalition. She thanked the Council and staff for their support over the years. She presented Council with a petition requesting the continuation of full funding of the grant to the Neighbourhood Support Coalition and its affiliated neighbourhood groups in 2010.

Jeff Buisman was present on behalf of a number of local churches and expressed concern with the reduction in provincial funding to the community development workers. He requested that the City continue the financing of the neighbourhood groups and provide temporary funding for the Community Development Workers for 2 years to allow the neighbourhood groups time to implement a strategy of shared and alternative funding.

Amanda Webb advised that she was a member of the Onward Willow Neighbourhood Group and now is part of the Brant Avenue Neighbourhood Group. She advised

that this neighbourhood group is just starting their various programs and if funding is cut, there will be no place for the neighbourhood children to go.

Shinthu Puwaneshwaran of the Onward Willow Better Beginnings, Better Futures neighbourhood group was present and advised of the various programs she has participated in and the various activities offered to the youth of the neighbourhood. She requested that Council retain the full funding to all neighbourhood groups and the Neighbourhood Support Coalition.

Pierre Desmarais was present on behalf of the Guelph-Wellington Seniors Association and provided information on the various programs offered to seniors at the Evergreen Seniors Centre. He expressed concern with the proposed closure of the dining room as this service provides affordable and healthy meals to seniors. He urged Council to keep the dining room open and that the Seniors Association is willing to work with the City to ensure that the dining room remains open.

Brian Holstein was present and expressed concern with the proposed closure of the Evergreen Seniors Centre Dining Room. He suggested that this service is not a luxury but an essential service to seniors which meets their dietary needs and an opportunity of socializing. He also requested that the City find a way to save John Galt Day, by finding sponsors to support it.

Chuck Miller of the Sports Advisory Council advised of the importance of minor sports to the City. He expressed concern with the proposed youth subsidy reduction as there was no discussion of this with the various minor sports groups and suggested that such a reduction could force the groups to reduce their registration. He also expressed concern that the closure of facilities would put a further strain on the groups. He advised that the Sports Advisory Council would offer their assistance in helping to reduce the costs if were given the opportunity.

Clive Smith on behalf of Guelph Minor Hockey provided information on the number of children participating in the association. He expressed concern with the proposed closure of Centennial Arena which would drastically impact the programs they offer. He also expressed concern with the proposed increase for ice rentals and the reduction to youth subsidies.

Mr. Burton was present on behalf of the Guelph Marlins and provided information on the club membership and the swim programs provided. He advised that if Centennial

Pool is closed it would drastically impact the programs they would be to offer. He advised that the club would be willing to meet with staff to go over ideas that could increase revenues and decrease the operating costs. He urged Council to not close Centennial Pool.

Rod Finnie, Mayor of the Town of Erin was present with respect to the land ambulance budget and the provision of an ambulance for the Town of Erin. He suggested that the current standard relating to response time is not met in the Town of Erin and that their fire department responds to medical assists calls. He advised that if an ambulance for the Town is not provided, they will provide their own service and charge the cost to the City. He requested that 12 hour a day, 7 day a week ambulance service for the Town of Erin be reinstated into the 2010 budget.

Lou Maieron, County of Wellington Ward 9 Councillor advised that the Town of Erin is receiving more ambulance response from Halton Region than the City of Guelph. He advised that if the City of Guelph will not provide an ambulance for the Town of Erin another party will. He also advised that the Town has a place to house the ambulance.

Ken Chapman, Town of Erin Councillor suggested that the Town of Erin is being left out of being informed with respect to ambulance service for their area. He suggested that the Town of Erin should look after their own ambulance service.

Cynthia Folzer expressed concern with respect to the proposed reductions to city grants, Evergreen Seniors Centre dining room, university bus pass, two hour downtown parking and City Hall job cuts. She expressed concern with the proposed budget impact on the environment. She suggested that reallocation the funding for the Hanlon Creek Business Park would assist the city's deficit, eliminate the reductions and pay for an urban forestry department also for a new library and the remediation of brownfields.

Audrey Jamel on behalf of Downtown Guelph Business Association suggested that parking is a vital part of the downtown infrastructure and is essential for the health and vitality of the downtown businesses. She advised that there is a need for the Wilson Street parking garage. She further advised that the various construction projects in the downtown area have greatly impacted the local businesses. She urged Council to work with the

Association to keep the 2 hour free parking within the downtown core.

Barb Minett advised that there is overwhelming support for the 2 hour free parking in the downtown. She urged Council to keep the downtown 2 hour free parking program.

Paul Zisschedyk was not present.

Brenda Gibson, Executive Director of the Guelph Music Centre requested that the City not approve proposed reductions to the summer camps. She advised that these camps provide the opportunity to introduce children to the arts.

Courtney Oud was present on behalf of Supporting Kids in Camp, a project which represents various organizations providing support to children with special needs. She advised of the benefits special needs children receive from attending day camps.

Lloyd Longfield representing the Guelph Chamber of Commerce suggested that the City needs to keep the balance between residential, non-residential, and the ICI sectors in order to be competitive in attracting business to the City. He proposed that future development should be considered through public/private partnerships. He further suggested that business helps fund growth.

Brad Kelloway, President of CUPE Local 241 who represent 295 full-time outside workers suggested that the City's public services keeps the community strong and that the residents expect these services in good or bad times. He expressed concern with the proposed service cuts and the impact they would have the citizens. He suggested that rather than cut services the City look into other options such as reducing the number of contracted out services to private contractors.

Dave Peshnak, President of CUPE Local 973 being the 197 inside workers, expressed concern with respect to the proposed staff cuts. He suggested that City staff keep the city safe and vibrant and provide vital services. He urged Council to consider the vital importance of the provision of public services.

Brenda Whiteside was present on behalf of the University of Guelph with respect to the proposed reduction to the universal bus pass. She advised that all university students are required to purchase a bus pass regardless

of whether they use the service or not. She urged Council to keep the universal bus pass.

Galen Fick spoke on behalf of the Graduate, Undergraduate and Students of the University of Guelph regarding the proposal to eliminate the universal bus pass. He advised that this pass allows the students to get around the City and be stewards of the environment. He questioned if the City wants to gamble this stable source of income. He urged Council to not adopt the recommendation to eliminate the universal bus pass and that they would be willing to work with eth city to come to a mutual solution.

Chris Morrison expressed concern the funds allocated to the Hanlon Creek Business Park. He suggested that the City consider deferring this funding for 2 years and reallocate those funds to other services. He suggested that the proposed reductions would directly impact the citizens and indirectly impact the environment.

Council requested the following additional information:

- possible alternative funding options of working with the various groups, the process involved and the potential outcome
- potential cost recovery for the operation of the Evergreen Seniors Centre dining room
- number of day camps operated and the number of children participating
- feasibility of the Town of Erin providing their own ambulance service
- background information on the Guelph Non-Profit Housing Corporation Paisley Place, 747 Paisley Road of where it is in the proposed budget and its impact
- the next steps relating to the discussion of the universal bus pass and the decision points that will have to come before Council
- historical data relating to transit fare increases with respect to the University of Guelph fees and the late night service
- what a communication plan would look like relating to transit stakeholders

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 o'clock p.m.

Minutes read and confirmed December 21, 2009.

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Mayor

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Deputy Clerk