



MINUTES
BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2019
WELLAND CIVIC SQUARE, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Committee Members present:

Councillor D. McLeod (Chair)
Mayor F. Campion (left at 7:40 p.m.)
Councillor J. Chiocchio (arrived at 5:07 p.m.)
Councillor T. DiMarco (left at 7:25 p.m.)
Councillor B. Fokkens
Councillor B. Green
Councillor J. Larouche (arrived at 5:29 p.m.)
Councillor G. Speck (arrived at 5:06 p.m.)
Councillor L. Spinosa
Councillor L. Van Vliet

Staff present:

Chief Administrative Officer – Gary Long (arrived at 5:06 p.m.)
General Manager, Corporate Services, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer – Steve Zorbas
Manager of Budgets and Financial Reporting/Deputy Treasurer – Elizabeth Pankoff
Deputy Clerk – Carmela Radice
Manager, Engineering Services – Chris Anders
Supervisor, Infrastructure Planning & Development – Marvin Ingebrigtsen
General Foreman, Public Works – Vince Beaudoin
Revenue Services Manager – Michael Lostrocco
Administrative Finance Coordinator, Corporate Services – Nicci Hingley

1. OPEN BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

Call Meeting to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Approve Agenda

Motion moved by Mayor Campion to approve the agenda.

CARRIED

Disclosure of Interest

Mayor Campion declared a pecuniary interest for discussions with respect to the Capital Budget regarding the West Main Street Area Infrastructure Improvements, as his business is located within the project area.

Procedural Matter – Approve Minutes of the Meeting of January 21, 2019

Motion moved by Councillor Spinosa to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 21, 2019.

CARRIED

2. OPENING REMARKS

The Budget Review Committee (BRC) Chair and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and made opening remarks to the proceedings of this evening's meeting.

The CFO noted that the 2019 wholesale and water rates were approved last Thursday by Niagara Region Budget Committee. The impact of that is that the wholesale costs will increase for 2019, which is reflected in the updated sheets that were circulated at tonight's meeting. The scheduled date for Regional Council approval is February 14, 2019. As a result, water rates will go up to 2.77% for City of Welland, and wholesale costs will go up to 6.65%, based on the adjusted and reconciled wastewater flows from 2018. These figures are substantially higher than what was communicated back in September.

3. PUBLIC INPUT – PROPOSED 2019 WATER & WASTEWATER OPERATING & 2019-2028 CAPITAL BUDGETS

No members of public came forward to speak.

4. 2019 COMMENTS/FEEDBACK RECEIVED FROM YOUR CHANNEL

All comments are summarized from feedback received from January 16, 2019 at 12 p.m. up to January 23, 2019 at 12 p.m.; all of which is also available to the public on the City's website through YourChannel.

Motion moved by Councillor Green that the Budget Review Committee receives for information the update received from YourChannel between January 16 and 23, regarding the proposed 2019 Budgets.

CARRIED

5.1 2019 PROPOSED WATER/WASTEWATER OPERATING BUDGETS & 2019 RATES – OPTION #1 AND #2 UPDATED

The CFO provided the Committee with updates regarding the proposed 2019 water/wastewater operating budget options and 2019 rates.

Staff directed to provide update to Budget Review Committee on the cost to the City to hire a contractor to make final cuts to the sanitary lateral cleanout pipes.

The Committee requested and were provided with Option #1B and #2B which removed the FTE that was proposed in the original Options #1 and #2 that were circulated with tonight's agenda.

Motion moved by Councillor Green that the Budget Review Committee approve the 2019 Water/Wastewater Operating Budget Option #1b to increase funding for Water & Wastewater Infrastructure by \$500,000, and request Council approval at the February 19, 2019 Council meeting.

The Committee discussed the motion.

A recorded vote was requested.

Yeas – Councillors Fokkens, Larouche, Green, Speck, McLeod, and DiMarco.

Nays – Mayor Campion, Councillors Spinosa, VanVliet, and Chiocchio.

CARRIED

The Committee recessed at 7:25 p.m.

The Committee reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

5.2 2019 PROPOSED WATER/WASTEWATER CAPITAL BUDGET

The CFO provided the Committee with updates regarding the proposed 2019 Water/Wastewater Capital Budget.

Mayor Campion left Council Chambers at 7:40 p.m. due to a previously declared pecuniary interest.

Staff directed to provide a status report on the Hunters Point project at the February 5 Council meeting

Motion moved by Councillor Larouche that the Budget Review Committee approve an increase of \$400,000 for cast iron pipe replacement, and \$100,000 for the Water Meter Replacement Program for the 2019 Water/Wastewater Capital Budget, and request Council approval at the February 19, 2019 Council meeting.

The Committee discussed the motion.

A recorded vote was requested.

Yeas – Councillors Spinosa, Fokkens, McLeod, Larouche, Green, and Speck.

Nays – Councillors VanVliet and Chiocchio.

CARRIED

5.3 PROPOSED 2020-2028 WATER/WASTEWATER CAPITAL BUDGET FORECAST

The CFO provided the Committee with updates regarding the 2020-2028 water/wastewater capital budget forecast.

Motion moved by Councillor Spinosa that the Budget Review Committee approve the 2020-2028 Water/Wastewater Capital Budget Forecast, and request Council approval at the February 19, 2019 Council meeting.

CARRIED

5. NEW BUSINESS

None.

6. ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 29, 2019.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion moved by Van Vliet to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

CARRIED

UNAPPROVED