



CITY OF Welland

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2023 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING CIVIC SQUARE, COUNCIL CHAMBERS 60 EAST MAIN STREET

Council met in open session at 5:04 p.m. on the above date.

His Worship Mayor Frank Campion in the Chair.

Members Present:

Councillors J. Chiochio, T. DiMarco, B. Fokkens, B. Green (5:10 p.m. virtual), M.A. Grimaldi (virtual), J. Lee (5:07 p.m. virtual), D. McLeod (5:07 p.m. virtual), A. Moote, C. Richard (virtual), S. Setaram (5:06 p.m.), G. Speck, and L. Van Vliet.

Members of Staff and Others Present:

Chief Administrative Officer, R. Axiak

City Clerk, T. Stephens

Interim Director of Finance/Chief Finance Officer/Treasurer, E. Pankoff

Fire Chief & Community Emergency Management Coordinator, A. Eckhart

Director of Infrastructure Services, SM. Millar

Director of Planning and Development Services, G. Munday

City Solicitor, C. Woodsford

Acting Manager of Budgets and Financial Reporting/Deputy Treasurer, A. Vuksan Scott

Revenue Service Manager, M. Lostracco

Executive Assistant Finance Services, M. Stadnik-Misener

Manager of Economic Development, L. DeChellis

Interim Director of Community Services, A. Degazio

- Manager of Engineering, L. McEachern
- Manager of Parks, Forestry, Cemeteries, Operations and Development, D. Steven
- Corporate Communications Manager, M. MacDonald
- Manager of Fleet, Equipment & Purchasing, A. Beres
- Information Systems Manager/Network administrator, S. Barnes
- Manager of Public Works, J. Sticca
- Manager of Human Resources, A. Daisley

(Councillor Speck disclosed an interest and did not take part in any consideration or discussions related to the Welland Historical Museum, Welland JackFish, The Hope Centre, Faith Welland Outreach, Welland FloatFest and Pathstone Foundation as his company provides apparel to these organizations).

(Councillor Setaram disclosed an interest and did not take part in any consideration or discussions related to the FloatFest).

COUNCIL CONSIDERED ADDITIONAL PROPOSED AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL.

2023 - 506

23-4 Moved by Moote and Grimaldi
 THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND receives for information Report FIN-2023-34: 2024 Budget Amendments - Meeting #2.

CARRIED

23-4 Moved by Richard and DiMarco
 THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND conditionally approves to amend and increase the allocated Rose Festival Legacy Grant in the amount of \$50,000 as requested in their detailed presentation.

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23-4 Moved by DiMarco and Setaram
 THAT the funding comes from the Operating Surplus Reserves.

LOST

23-4 Moved by Green and Setaram
 THAT the amendment to the increase allocated to the Rose Festival Legacy Grant in the amount of \$10,000.

LOST

FOLLOWING THE LOST VOTES TO THE AMENDMENTS, THE MAIN MOTION WAS PUT AND

LOST

23-4 Moved by Moote and McLeod
 THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND conditionally approves to amend the budget to include 1d- Engineering Development Plans Examiner.

CARRIED

23-4 Moved by Setaram and Chiocchio
 THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND conditionally approves to amend that Hampton Court be included in the 2024 capital budget for road resurfacing/asphalt rehabilitation (patching) to 130,000.

YEAS: Chiocchio, DiMarco and Setaram.

NAYS: Lee, Green, Speck, McLeod, Richard, Grimaldi, Fokkens, Moote, Van Viet and Mayor Campion.

LOST

23-4 Moved by Fokkens and Setaram
 THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND conditionally approves the decision unit 2e- to include in the 2024 budget the request for Rose City Kids in the amount of \$20,000.

YEAS: Green, Chiocchio, Setaram and Fokkens.

NAYS: Lee, Speck, McLeod, DiMarco, Richard, Grimaldi, Moote, Van Vliet and Mayor Campion.

LOST

23-4 Moved by Setaram and Moote
 THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND conditionally approves to fund the museum exhibit – repair (e.g. Underground Railroad) and other exhibit work/ attraction in the amount of \$20,000.

CARRIED

23-4 Moved by Setaram and McLeod
 THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND conditionally approves to include the expansion of the sidewalk snow clearing program and grass cutting program by purchasing additional equipment of \$130,309 to be funded from the development charges fund. This does not impact the tax levy.

YEAS: Lee, Green, McLeod, Setaram and Moote.

NAYS: Speck, Chiocchio, Richard, Grimaldi, Fokkens, Van Vliet and Mayor Campion.

LOST

23-4 Moved by Green and McLeod
 THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND conditionally approves a 9 year tax supported capital. Vista Park. 2025-2031 at \$250,000 per year. Amend for \$750,000 in 2025, \$500,000 in 2026 and \$500,000 2027.

YEAS: Lee, Green, Chiocchio and Fokkens.

NAYS: Speck, McLeod, DiMarco, Richard, Grimaldi, Setaram, Moote, Van Vliet and Mayor Campion.

LOST

23-4 Moved by Chiocchio and Fokkens
 THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND conditionally approves Costing Centre #20-710 Economic Development #520060 City Promotions Reduce from \$130,000 to \$100,000 Savings of \$30,000.

YEAS: Speck, Chiocchio, DiMarco, Richard and Fokkens.

NAYS: Lee, Green, McLeod, Grimaldi, Setaram, Moote, Van Vliet and Mayor Campion.

LOST

23-4 Moved by Chiocchio and Fokkens
 THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND conditionally approves Costing Centre 20-125 Communications (#520050) Advertising Decreasing from \$85,000 to \$50,000 savings of \$35,000.

YEAS: Lee, Speck, Chiocchio, DiMarco and Fokkens.

NAYS: Green, McLeod, Richard, Grimaldi, Moote, Van Vliet and Mayor Campion.

LOST

23-4 Moved by Chiocchio and DiMarco
 THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND conditionally approves Costing Centre 20-112-00000 (#520100) Professional development Reduce from \$7700 to \$2700 savings of \$5,000.

YEAS: Green, Speck, Chiocchio, DiMarco, Richard and Fokkens.

NAYS: Lee, McLeod, Grimaldi, Moote, Van Vliet and Mayor Campion.

LOST

23-4 Moved by Chiocchio and DiMarco
 THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND conditionally approves Costing Centre 20-406-00000 (#510010) Salaries reduce from \$116,884 to \$56,884 reduction of \$60,000.

YEAS: Speck, Chiocchio, DiMarco and Richard.

NAYS: Lee, Green, McLeod, Grimaldi, Setaram, Fokkens, Moote, Van Vliet and Mayor Campion.

LOST

23-4 Moved by Speck and DiMarco
 THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND conditionally approves to defer item: civic square plaza revitalization -design 10-439-24460. To defer this item to the 2025 Budget.

YEAS: Lee, Green, Speck, Chiocchio, DiMarco, Richard, Grimaldi, Fokkens, Van Vliet and Mayor Campion.

NAYS: McLeod, Setaram and Moote.

CARRIED

23-4 Moved by DiMarco and Chiocchio
 THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND conditionally approves Trail Strategy Implementation \$300,000 remove.

LOST

23-4 Moved by DiMarco and Richard
 THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND conditionally approves Trail Improvements \$75,000 removed.

LOST

23-4 Moved by DiMarco and Richard
 THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND conditionally approves Abbey Road Woodlot Trail \$75,000 removed.

LOST

23-4 Moved by McLeod and Moote
 THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND conditionally approves amend tax supported budget to include a provision for \$400,000 interest on debt, which is to be held in a debt interest reserve account. This plans for future debt servicing costs which the city will realize and is only budgetary savings in 2024 based on lagged borrowing in 2023.

YEAS: McLeod and Moote.

NAYS: Lee, Green, Speck, Chiocchio, DiMarco, Richard, Grimaldi, Setaram, Fokkens, Van Vliet and Mayor Campion.

LOST

23-4 Moved by McLeod and Moote
 THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND conditionally approves amend tax supported budget to provide \$300,000 in incremental capital funding to specifically target the backlog of infrastructure investment.

YEAS: McLeod and Moote.

NAYS: Lee, Green, Speck, Chiocchio, DiMarco, Richard, Grimaldi, Setaram, Fokkens, Van Vliet and Mayor Campion.

LOST

23-4 Moved by Fokkens and Setaram
 THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND conditionally approves to reduce estimated cost of Kalbota Tractor from \$38,000 to \$30,000.

LOST

23-4 Moved by Setaram and McLeod
 THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND conditionally approves to maximize cost savings for taxpayers by purchasing water meters in bulk at the 2023 pricing, provide pre-approval to increase the City's rate self-imposed debit limit from 11% to 12%.

YEAS: Lee, Green, McLeod, Setaram, Moote, Van Vliet and Mayor Campion.

NAYS: Speck, DiMarco, Richard, Grimaldi and Fokkens.

CARRIED

23-4 Moved by McLeod and Moote
 THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND conditionally approves to amend budget to include \$200,000 in incremental funding to address (Water/Wastewater infrastructure backlog).

YEAS: McLeod, Setaram and Moote.

NAYS: Lee, Green, Speck, Chiocchio, DiMarco, Richard, Grimaldi, Fokkens, Van Vliet and Mayor Campion.

LOST

23-4 Moved by McLeod and
 THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND conditionally approves to amend Water/Wastewater budget to a fixed portion of 40%, nearing the provincial average of 41%. The cost difference from 33% to 40% per customer group is to be provided.

NOT PUT

23-4 Moved by McLeod and Moote
 THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND conditionally approves amend Water/Wastewater budget to a fixed portion of 36% if 40% fails. The cost difference from 33% to 36% per customer group is to be provided.

YEAS: McLeod.

NAYS: Lee, Green, Speck, Chiocchio, DiMarco, Richard, Grimaldi, Setaram, Fokkens, Moote, Van Vliet and Mayor Campion.

LOST

THE CHAIR CALLED A 10 MINUTE RECESS.

FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF CONSIDERING ALL COUNCIL AMENDMENTS, THE CONDITIONALLY APPROVED AMENDMENTS WERE CONSIDERED FOR FINAL VOTE.

2023-507

23-4 Moved by McLeod and
 THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND add upwards of \$2,00.00 to increase the wattage of the existing outdoor facility lighting of the Museum (city owned building) in order to improve community/pedestrian safety in front of the building.

NOT PUT

2023-508

23-4 Moved by Fokkens and Moote
 THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND approves "A Tree Give Away Project" for Spring 2024 in conjunction with the Green Advisory Committee and the Parks Division, for planting on private property. To promote residential awareness to improve air quality, fight climate change and increase property values. Estimated cost (per D Steven) \$4,000. To be funded through the Operating Reserve Fund.

CARRIED

2023-509**23-4** Moved by Fokkens and Chiocchio

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND approves to remove from the Capital Budget Project submission. 10-438-24463 - Rosie Smith Pool heater a decrease in the Transfer from Capital of \$225,000. Reasoning: no increase in revenue for programs dept 405 - no budgeting to expand programs or increase in revenue in 2024. Memorial Park has a heated pool, and Maple Park will have one based on the 2024 budget funded through the Reserve Fund - Sports & Culture. That will provide a heated pool on both the East and West side of the canal. refer to the Parks and Recreation & Culture Master Plan. #26. Engage the YMCA of Niagara to discuss ways to collaboratively address the broad range of aquatic programming needs and address aquatics staffing challenges common to itself and the City of Welland.

CARRIED**2023-510****23-4** Moved by Fokkens and Chiocchio

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND approves to remove from Capital Budget Project Submission. 10-430- 24452 Not an immediate required expenditure. This is for Public Works and there are no new hires for this department Savings 75,000 from Operating.

CARRIED**2023-511****23-4** Moved by Fokkens and Lee

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND approves to reduce the Capital Budget Project Submission 10-410-24423 - Dog Park Improvements - Pg 160 to remove increasing the size of the park. This amendment aligns with our Parks and Recreational Master Plan #23 - off leash areas recommendations: Investigate potential sites for a second off-leash area in the northern half of Welland while integrating selected amenities at the Welland Off Leash Dog Park, at a minimum which should include closed-lid waste containers and a provision of shade (through plantings or a shade sail/structure). Reduction in Transfer from Operating TBD - refer to amendment to Capital Budget Project Submission 10-410-24402 Page 147.

CARRIED**2023-512****23-4** Moved by Moote and Lee

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND amend the budget to include: 1a- Supervisor of Plans Examination/Deputy Chief Building Official.

CARRIED**2023-513****23-4** Moved by Moote and Setaram

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND amend the budget to include: 1b - Senior Building Inspector.

CARRIED**2023-514****23-4** Moved by McLeod and Setaram

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND amend the budget to include: Probationary Firefighters (7).

CARRIED

2023-515**23-4** Moved by McLeod and Moote

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND amend the budget to include: Safety Equipment for (7) Probationary Firefighters (Funded by Capital Surplus).

CARRIED**2023-516****23-4** Moved by Moote and Van Vliet

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND amend the budget to include: 1d-Engineering Development Plans Examiner.

YEAS: Lee, Green, McLeod, Setaram, Moote, Van Vliet and Mayor Campion.

NAYS: Speck, Chiocchio, DiMarco, Richard, Grimaldi and Fokkens.

CARRIED**2023-517****23-4** Moved by Setaram and Moote

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND amend the budget to fund the museum exhibit – repair (e.g. Underground Railroad) and other exhibit work/ attraction in the amount of \$20,000.

CARRIED**2023-518****23-4** Moved by Speck and Fokkens

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND defers item: Civic Square Plaza Revitalization -Design 10-439-24460. to the 2025 Budget.

CARRIED**2023-519****23-4** Moved by Fokkens and Chiocchio

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND amend the budget to reduce \$4,849 from the Fleet Capital Budget for John Deere Gator utility vehicle.

CARRIED**2023-520****23-4** Moved by Speck and Fokkens

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND amend FIN-2023-28 Water Budget. NOT to pre-approve option 2 (increasing debt limit and 34%) and/or option 3 (increasing debt and 35%).

CARRIED**2023-521****23-4** Moved by Setaram and Moote

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND approves to maximize cost savings for taxpayers by purchasing water meters in bulk at the 2023 pricing, provide pre-approval to increase the City's rate self-imposed debit limit from 11% to 12%.

CARRIED

BY-LAWS

Moved by Van Vliet and Setaram

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND having given due consideration to the following By-law, as reproduced in this evening's Council Agenda, now read a first, second and third time and pass same, and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign and seal same.

23-1

BYL 2023 - 163

A By-law to adopt, ratify and confirm proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the City of Welland at its meeting held on the 5th day of December, 2023.

YEAS: Lee, McLeod, Grimaldi, Setaram, Moote, Van Vliet and Mayor Campion.

NAYS: Green, Speck, Chiocchio, DiMarco, Richard and Fokkens.

(Councillor Speck asked to be recorded as opposed to the By-law)

CARRIED

Council adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

These Minutes to be approved and adopted by Motion of Council this 9th day of January, 2024.