



MEETING: Committee of the Whole

DATE: Wednesday, January 27, 2021

Reference No. COW – 11/52

OPEN SESSION in S.H. Blake Memorial Auditorium at 5:02 p.m.

Committee of the Whole - Special Session (2021 Capital and Operating Budget)
Vice Chair: Councillor B. Hamilton

ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION: OFFICIALS:

Mayor B. Mauro
Councillor A. Aiello
Councillor M. Bentz
Councillor S. Ch'ng
Councillor A. Foulds
Councillor C. Fraser
Councillor B. Hamilton
Councillor R. Johnson
Councillor B. McKinnon
Councillor K. Oliver
Councillor A. Ruberto
Councillor Peng You

Ms. K. Power, City Clerk
Ms. L. Lavoie, Committee Coordinator

OFFICIALS - ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION:

Mr. N. Gale, City Manager
Ms. L. Evans, General Manager – Corporate Services & Long Term Care
Ms. K. Robertson, General Manager – Community Services
Ms. K. Lewis, Director – Corporate Strategic Services
Ms. K. Ortgiese, Director – Human Resources & Corporate Safety
Ms. E. Westover, Director – Financial Services
Ms. L. Paradis, Manager – Budgets & Long-Term Planning
Ms. K. Sinclair, Accountant
Mr. G. Broere, Director – Facilities, Fleet & Energy Management
Ms. L. Prentice, Director – Recreation & Culture
Ms. A. Morrison, Manager – Central Support
Mr. B. Loroff, Manager – Transit Services
Ms. V. DeGiacomo-Zwadesh, Energy Analyst

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Confirmation of Agenda - Committee of the Whole - Reconvened Special Session - January 27, 2021

MOVED BY: Councillor Aldo Ruberto
SECONDED BY: Councillor Brian McKinnon

WITH RESPECT to the January 27, 2021 Committee of the Whole – Reconvened Special Session meeting, we recommend that the agenda as printed, including any additional information and new business, be confirmed.

CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Unfinished business from the January 21, 2021 Committee of the Whole - Special Session meeting.

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

Proposed 2021 Capital and Operating Budget

Report R 1/2021 (Corporate Services & Long Term Care - Financial Services) relative to the proposed 2021 Capital and Operating Budget, was printed in the January 19, 2021 Committee of the Whole - Special Session agenda.

Memorandum from Ms. L. Paradis, Manager – Budgets & Long-Term Planning, dated December 16, 2020 attaching detailed agendas for January 19, 21, 27 and February 2, 2021 meetings, 2021 Budget Executive Summary, 2021 Tax Supported Operating and Capital Budget, and 2021 Rate Supported Operating & Capital Budget, distributed separately on Monday, December 21, 2020.

Memorandum from Ms. L. Paradis, Manager – Budgets & Long-Term Planning, dated January 14, 2021 attaching a list of 40 one-time cost reduction items for Council’s consideration to reduce the estimated impact of COVID-19 in 2021, sorted by Special Committee of the Whole meeting date, distributed separately on Thursday, January 14, 2021.

Memorandum from Ms. L. Paradis, Manager – Budgets & Long-Term Planning, dated January 15, 2021 containing proposed 2021 Budget amendments, distributed separately on Friday, January 22, 2021.

Memorandum from Mr. G. Broere, Director – Facilities, Fleet & Energy Management, dated January 25, 2021 containing information requested at the January 21, 2021 Committee of the Whole – Special Session meeting, relative to the Whalen Building, distributed separately on Monday, January 25, 2021.

Memorandum from Ms. L. Paradis, Manager – Budgets & Long-Term Planning, dated January 25, 2021 relative to revised estimated 2020 Safe Restart funding available for 2021, distributed separately on Monday, January 25, 2021.

Memorandum from Ms. L. Paradis, Manager – Budgets & Long-Term Planning, dated January 22, 2021 containing 2021 Budget Amendments as approved by Committee of the Whole, distributed separately on Tuesday, January 26, 2021.

CAPITAL AND OPERATING BUDGET REVIEW

TAB 7 - OUTSIDE BOARDS

Waterfront District BIA

Mr. J. Calonego, Treasurer – Waterfront District BIA appeared before Committee via MS Teams and responded to questions.

Victoria Avenue BIA

Mr. J. Hupka, Vice Chair – Victoria Avenue BIA appeared before Committee via MS Teams and responded to questions.

Amending Motion - Victoria Ave BIA

Memorandum from Ms. L. Paradis, Manager – Budgets & Long-Term Planning, dated January 26, 2021 containing a Victoria Ave BIA proposed budget amendment, distributed separately on Wednesday, January 27, 2021.

MOVED BY: Councillor Aldo Ruberto
SECONDED BY: Councillor Peng You

WITH RESPECT to Report R 1/2021 (Corporate Services and Long Term Care - Financial Services) Proposed 2021 Operating and Capital Budget we recommend that Business Improvement Area levy for Victoria Avenue B.I.A. be reduced to \$30,000;

AND THAT the contribution to the Victoria Avenue B.I.A. from the municipal tax levy by reduced to \$30,000.

CARRIED

Amending Motion - Victoria Ave BIA Tree Planting

MOVED BY: Councillor Andrew Foulds
SECONDED BY: Councillor Aldo Ruberto

WITH RESPECT to Report R 1/2021 (Corporate Services and Long Term Care - Financial Services) Proposed 2021 Operating and Capital Budget we recommend that the Parks and Open Spaces budget be increased by \$30,000 to provide for tree planting on Archibald Street and Brodie Street.

CARRIED

Community Economic Development Commission

Mr. E. Zakrewski, CEO - Community Economic Development Commission appeared before Committee via MS Teams and responded to questions.

At the request of the Vice Chair, Councillor A. Ruberto assumed the Chair.

Amending Motion - Recommendation #5 Reduction in Contribution to Reserve Fund – CEDC

Memorandum from Councillor B. Hamilton, dated January 25, 2021 containing a motion relative to Administration's list of one time options to reduce 2021 Covid-19 impacts, distributed separately on Wednesday, January 27, 2021.

MOVED BY: Councillor Brian Hamilton
SECONDED BY: Councillor Albert Aiello

WITH RESPECT to the Memorandum from Councillor B. Hamilton dated January 25, 2021, we recommend that the following one time reduction provided by Administration be approved from the List of One Time Options to Reduce 2021 Covid-19 Impacts;

- Recommendation #5 - \$109,000 – Corporate – Reduction in Contribution to Reserve Fund – Community Economic Development Commission (CEDC)

AND THAT the savings be applied to the Stabilization Reserve Fund as one time savings for 2021.

LOST

Amending Motion - Recommendation #38 One Time COVID-19 Costs – CEDC

MOVED BY: Councillor Brian Hamilton
SECONDED BY: Councillor Albert Aiello

WITH RESPECT to the Memorandum from Councillor B. Hamilton dated January 25, 2021, we recommend that the following one time reductions provided by Administration be approved from the List of One Time Options to Reduce 2021 Covid-19 Impacts;

- Recommendation #38 - \$12,000 – One Time COVID-19 Costs – Outside Boards – Community Economic Development Commission (CEDC)

AND THAT the savings be applied to the Stabilization Reserve Fund as one time savings for 2021.

CARRIED

Amending Motion - Recommendation #39 One Time COVID-19 Costs – CEDC - Tourism

MOVED BY: Councillor Brian Hamilton
SECONDED BY: Councillor Albert Aiello

WITH RESPECT to the Memorandum from Councillor B. Hamilton dated January 25, 2021, we recommend that the following one time reductions provided by Administration be approved from the List of One Time Options to Reduce 2021 Covid-19 Impacts;

- Recommendation #39 - \$38,200 – One Time COVID-19 Costs - Outside Boards – CEDC – Tourism

AND THAT the savings be applied to the Stabilization Reserve Fund as one time savings for 2021.

LOST

Thunder Bay Public Library

Councillor B. Hamilton resumed the Chair.

Dr. R. Togman, Thunder Bay Public Library Board, Ms. C. Braye, Director of Resources – Thunder Bay Public Library and Mr. J. Pateman, Chief Librarian & CEO – Thunder Bay Public Library appeared before Committee via MS Teams and responded to questions.

Amending Motion - Thunder Bay Public Library

Memorandum from Ms. L. Paradis, Manager – Budgets & Long-Term Planning, dated January 15, 2021 containing proposed 2021 Budget amendments, distributed separately on Thursday, January 21, 2021.

MOVED BY: Councillor Andrew Foulds
SECONDED BY: Councillor Kristen Oliver

WITH RESPECT to Report R 1/2021 (Corporate Services and Long Term Care - Financial Services) Proposed 2021 Operating and Capital Budget we recommend that the tax supported budget be amended to reduce the Thunder Bay Public Library operating budget by \$50,000 with a corresponding reduction to the contribution from the Stabilization Reserve Fund.

CARRIED

TAB 1 - MAYOR & COUNCIL & GENERAL

At the request of the Vice Chair, Councillor A. Ruberto assumed the Chair.

Amending Motion - Recommendation #6 Reduction in Contribution to Reserve Fund – Clean, Green & Beautiful

MOVED BY: Councillor Brian Hamilton
SECONDED BY: Councillor Peng You

WITH RESPECT to the Memorandum from Councillor B. Hamilton dated January 25, 2021, we recommend that the following one time reductions provided by Administration be approved from the List of One Time Options to Reduce 2021 Covid-19 Impacts;

- Recommendation #6 - \$100,000 – Corporate – Reduction in Contribution to Reserve Fund – Clean, Green & Beautiful

AND THAT the savings be applied to the Stabilization Reserve Fund as one time savings for 2021.

LOST

Permanent Thunder Bay Word Sign

Councillor M. Bentz assumed the Chair.

At the September 14, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting, a resolution requesting \$100,000 from the MAT reserve fund for a permanent Thunder Bay Word Sign was passed. At the October 5, 2020 city Council meeting, a resolution was passed to refer the decision relative to the Thunder Bay Word Sign to the 2021 budget process.

Memorandum from Ms. K. Power, City Clerk dated January 25, 2021 re-presenting the motion recommending the design and installation of a permanent Thunder Bay Word Sign at the waterfront, distributed separately on Wednesday, January 27, 2021.

Memorandum from Councillor R. Johnson, dated January 25, 2021 relative to the Permanent Thunder Bay Word Sign, for information, distributed separately on Wednesday, January 27, 2021.

Memorandum from Ms. K. Lewis, Director – Corporate Strategic Services, dated January 27, 2021 relative to the permanent Thunder Bay Word Sign, for information, distributed separately on Wednesday, January 27, 2021.

MOVED BY: Councillor Shelby Ch'ng
SECONDED BY: Councillor Andrew Foulds

WITH RESPECT to the memorandum from Councillor S. Ch'ng dated August 18, 2020, we recommend the design and installation of a Permanent “Thunder Bay” Word Sign at the waterfront;

AND THAT up to \$100,000 of funding be approved through the City’s unallocated Municipal Accommodation Tax funds for the design and installation of the Permanent “Thunder Bay” Word Sign;

AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented to City Council for ratification.

Amending Motion - Permanent Thunder Bay Word Sign

MOVED BY: Mayor Bill Mauro
SECONDED BY: Councillor Brian McKinnon

WITH RESPECT to the Permanent Thunder Bay Word Sign, we recommend that the motion be amended to add ‘in principle’ to the end of the first paragraph;

AND THAT the following be added after the second paragraph:

‘AND THAT Administration report back to City Council with a status update on the project and concept of design for Council approval;’

CARRIED

Amended Motion - Permanent Thunder Bay Word Sign

MOVED BY: Councillor Shelby Ch'ng
SECONDED BY: Councillor Andrew Foulds

WITH RESPECT to the memorandum from Councillor S. Ch'ng dated August 18, 2020, we recommend the design and installation of a Permanent “Thunder Bay” Word Sign at the waterfront, in principle;

AND THAT up to \$100,000 of funding be approved through the City’s unallocated Municipal Accommodation Tax funds for the design and installation of the Permanent “Thunder Bay” Word Sign;

AND THAT Administration report back to City Council with a status update on the project and concept of design for Council approval;

AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented to City Council for ratification.

CARRIED

TAB 2 - CITY MANAGER’S OFFICE

At the request of the Chair, Councillor B. Hamilton assumed the Chair.

Amending Motion - Increase in Budget – Food Strategy

Memorandum from Councillor K. Oliver, dated January 26, 2021 containing a motion relative to providing an increase to the Food Strategy budget, distributed separately on Wednesday, January 27, 2021.

MOVED BY: Councillor Kristen Oliver
SECONDED BY: Councillor Aldo Ruberto

WITH RESPECT to Report R 1/2021 (Corporate Services and Long Term Care - Financial Services) Proposed 2021 Operating and Capital Budget we recommend that the Proposed 2021 Operating and Capital Budget be amended to provide an addition of \$15,000 to the Corporate Strategic Services Budget for the Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy as previously requested to Council.

Amending Motion 2 - Increase in Budget – Food Strategy

At the request of the Vice Chair, Councillor S. Ch'ng assumed the Chair.

MOVED BY: Councillor Rebecca Johnson
SECONDED BY: Councillor Aldo Ruberto

WITH RESPECT to the amending motion relative to Increase in Budget – Food Strategy, we recommend that the following paragraph be added:

‘AND THAT the Proposed 2021 Operating and Capital Budget be amended to add \$15,000 each for the Poverty Reduction Strategy and Age Friendly Thunder Bay.’

CARRIED

Amended Amending Motion - Increase in Budget – Food Strategy, Poverty Reduction Strategy and Age Strategy

Councillor B. Hamilton resumed the Chair.

MOVED BY: Councillor Kristen Oliver
SECONDED BY: Councillor Aldo Ruberto

WITH RESPECT to Report R 1/2021 (Corporate Services and Long Term Care - Financial Services) Proposed 2021 Operating and Capital Budget we recommend that the Proposed 2021 Operating and Capital Budget be amended to provide an addition of \$15,000 to the Corporate Strategic Services Budget for the Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy as previously requested to Council;

AND THAT the Proposed 2021 Operating and Capital Budget be amended to add \$15,000 each for the Poverty Reduction Strategy and Age Friendly Thunder Bay.

CARRIED

TAB 3 - COMMUNITY SERVICES

Amending Motion - Fare Free Transit Day

Memorandum from Councillor A. Foulds, dated January 26, 2021 containing a motion relative to a monthly fare free transit day, distributed separately on Wednesday, January 27, 2021.

Memorandum from Mr. B. Loroff, Manager – Transit Services, dated January 27, 2021 relative to fare free transit, for information, distributed separately on Wednesday, January 27, 2021.

MOVED BY: Councillor Andrew Foulds
SECONDED BY: Councillor Aldo Ruberto

WITH RESPECT to Report R 1/2021 (Corporate Services and Long Term Care - Financial Services) Proposed 2021 Operating and Capital Budget we recommend that the Proposed 2021 Operating and Capital Budget be amended to reduce transit revenue by up to \$115,000 from the Transit Budget for the implementation of a pilot project for fare free transit one day a month from March 2021 to February 2022;

AND THAT Administration be tasked with reporting back to Council on the process for implementation of monthly fare free transit day.

Amending Motion 2 - Fare Free Transit Day

MOVED BY: Councillor Andrew Foulds
SECONDED BY: Councillor Cody Fraser

WITH RESPECT to the amending motion relative to Fare Free Transit Day, we recommend that the motion be amended by replacing ‘March 2021 to February 2022’ with ‘May 2021 to April 2022’.

CARRIED

Amended Amending Motion - Fare Free Transit Day

MOVED BY: Councillor Andrew Foulds
SECONDED BY: Councillor Aldo Ruberto

WITH RESPECT to Report R 1/2021 (Corporate Services and Long Term Care - Financial Services) Proposed 2021 Operating and Capital Budget we recommend that the Proposed 2021 Operating and Capital Budget be amended to reduce transit revenue by up to \$115,000 from the Transit Budget for the implementation of a pilot project for fare free transit one day a month from May 2021 to April 2022;

AND THAT Administration be tasked with reporting back to Council on the process for implementation of monthly fare free transit day.

LOST

Amending Motion - Freeze Transit Fares for 2021

MOVED BY: Councillor Andrew Foulds
SECONDED BY: Councillor Aldo Ruberto

WITH RESPECT to the proposed increase in fares for Transit for 2021, we recommend that the total of \$67,900 be deleted from the Proposed 2021 Operating and Capital Budget.

CARRIED

Amending Motion - 2021 Federal Provincial Safe Restart Operating Funding

Councillor M. Bentz resumed the Chair.

Memorandum from Ms. L. Paradis, Manager – Budgets & Long-Term Planning, dated January 15, 2021 containing proposed 2021 Budget amendments, distributed separately on Thursday, January 21, 2021.

MOVED BY: Mayor Bill Mauro
SECONDED BY: Councillor Cody Fraser

WITH RESPECT to Report R 1/2021 (Corporate Services and Long Term Care - Financial Services) Proposed 2021 Operating and Capital Budget we recommend that the tax supported budget be amended to include \$1,240,000 in Federal Provincial Safe Restart Operating funding with a corresponding reduction to the contribution from the Stabilization Reserve Fund.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:53 p.m. it was consensus of Committee to recess until Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.