



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BUDGET MEETING OF COUNCIL

January 24, 2022
3:30 pm
Council Chambers of City Hall
1100 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, BC

PRESENT: Mayor Lyn Hall, Chair
Councillor Frank Everitt <via Telephone> <3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.> and
<via Zoom> <6:01 p.m. to 11:43 p.m.>
Councillor Garth Frizzell
Councillor Murry Krause
Councillor Terri McConnachie
Councillor Cori Ramsay
Councillor Kyle Sampson
Councillor Susan Scott
Councillor Brian Skakun

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Walter Babicz, City Manager
Ms. Deanna Wasnik, Director of Planning and Development
Mr. Kris Dalio, Director of Finance
Mr. Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations
Mr. Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety
Ms. Rae-Ann Emery, Director of Corporate Services
Mr. Andy Beesley, Director of Recreation and Events
Ms. Maureen Connelly, Manager of Legislative Services/Corporate Officer
Ms. Leslie Kellett, Deputy Corporate Officer

A. 2022 Budget and Finance Reference Guide

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved By Councillor Krause

Seconded By Councillor Scott

That the agenda for the Regular Council Budget Meeting scheduled for January 24, 2022, be amended by adding eight (8) items of correspondence at agenda item C., moving report item D.3 and o.1 to immediately follow agenda item G.1, and moving agenda item O.2 to immediately follow agenda item G.2, and that the agenda, BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

Carried Unanimously

C. PUBLIC INPUT (3:30 P.M.)

Handout documents for Council's consideration regarding the 2022 - 2026 Operational Financial and Capital Expenditure Plans included:

- Correspondence dated January 19, 2022 from Fred Wilkinson;
- Correspondence dated January 20, 2022 from Brenda Black;
- Correspondence dated January 20, 2022 from Tahnee Bulmer;
- Correspondence dated January 21, 2022 from Colleen Van Mook, Executive Director, Downtown Prince George;
- Correspondence dated January 20, 2022 from Marco Sabatino;
- Correspondence dated January 23, 2022 from Kim Hayhurst;
- Correspondence dated January 24, 2022 from Andreas Krebs; and
- Correspondence dated January 24, 2022 from Julian Legere.

Mr. John Zukowski attended Centre Table and provided input regarding the proposed 2022 - 2026 Operational Financial and Capital Plans requesting that Council consider a 0% tax levy due to the ongoing financial strain faced by small businesses throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Natasha Allen attended Centre Table and provided input regarding the proposed 2022 – 2026 Operational Financial and Capital Plans requesting that when considering costs of police support services that any proposed funding reductions not result in the loss of the Downtown Safety Unit.

Mr. Todd Corrigan, Chief Executive Officer, Chamber of Commerce, attended Centre Table and provided input regarding the proposed 2022 – 2026 Operational Financial and Capital Plans requesting that Council consider a 0% tax levy due to the ongoing financial strain faced by individuals taxed both as a homeowner and as a business owner and the impacts to businesses resulting from the loss of policing programs, such as the mobile crisis response team, Car60.

Discussion commenced. Mr. Corrigan and K. Dalio, Director of Finance, responded to questions of Council.

Ms. Penny Adams, Northwest Invasive Plant Council, attended Center Table and provided input regarding the proposed 2022 – 2026 Operational Financial and Capital Plans requesting that Council reinstate the funding previously allocated to the Northwest Invasive Plant Council prior to the funding cut in 2021.

Discussion commenced and K. Dalio, Director of Finance, responded to questions of Council.

Ms. Amelia Merrick attended via telephone and provided input regarding the citizen budget survey results in relation to bylaw enforcement and the proposed increase to the Bylaw Services Service Category within the proposed 2022 – 2026 Operational Financial Plan.

Ms. Heather Lamb, Member of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility, attended via telephone and provided input regarding the proposed 2022 – 2026 Operational Financial and Capital Plans in relation to pedestrian safety and requested that additional funding be allocated to the Sidewalk and Walkway Rehabilitation Capital project.

Discussion commenced.

D. BUDGET OVERVIEW AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS

D.1 2022 General Operating Budget

D.2 2022 - 2026 Financial Plan and Presentation

Mr. Walter Babicz, City Manager, Mr. Kris Dalio, Director of Finance, and Ms. Julie Rogers, Manager of Communications, provided a PowerPoint Presentation outlining the proposed 2022 – 2026 Financial Plan including information on the legislative framework, financial overview, public consultation, and capital expenditure plan.

Discussion commenced and K. Dalio, Director of Finance, responded to questions of Council.

Moved By Councillor Frizzell

Seconded By Councillor Scott

That Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report dated January 19, 2022 from the City Manager, titled "2022 General Operating Budget".

Carried Unanimously

Moved By Councillor Sampson

Seconded By Councillor Everitt

That Council APPROVES not utilizing the \$3,072,625 of Safe Restart Funding as set out in the 2021 – 2025 Financial Plan, due to a sufficient surplus being achieved in the 2021 fiscal year for the general operating fund.

Carried Unanimously

E. 2022 - 2026 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN

E.1 2022 - 2026 Capital Plan

Mr. Kris Dalio, Director of Finance, provided an overview of the 2022 – 2026 Capital Plan.

H. RECESS (5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.)

Councillor Everitt left the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Hall called a recess of the Regular Council Budget Meeting at 5:00 p.m.

The Regular Council Budget Meeting reconvened at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance of Council and Staff was the same as at the time the recess was called.

Moved By Councillor Frizzell

Seconded By Councillor McConnachie

That Council AMENDS the agenda to consider item E.1 immediately following agenda item J.2.

Carried Unanimously

Councillor Everitt joined the meeting via Zoom at 6:01 p.m.

I. PUBLIC INPUT (6:00 P.M.)

Ms. Hilda Blokland attended via telephone and provided input regarding the proposed 2022 – 2026 Operational Financial and Capital Plans requesting that consideration be given to reduce the tax levy in order to lessen the impact on seniors and disabled residents.

Discussion commenced and K. Dalio, Director of Finance, responded to questions of Council.

Mr. Byron Burtz attended via telephone and provided input regarding the proposed 2022 – 2026 Operational Financial and Capital Plans and commended City staff for responsiveness to service requests, maintenance of City parks, and snow clearing, and requested consideration be given to rehabilitating sidewalks along main corridor routes with mention of the sidewalk on 5th Avenue between Stuart Drive and Ahbau Street.

Discussion commenced and B. McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, responded to questions of Council.

J. SERVICE AGREEMENTS AND GRANTS

J.1 Prince George Public Library

Mr. Mike Gagel, Chair of the Prince George Public Library Board, and Mr. Paul Burry, Library Director, Prince George Public Library, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed Prince George Public Library 2022 Budget including information on the 2022 Board of Trustees, budget revenue and expenses, and major projects planned for 2022.

Discussion commenced. Mr. Gagel, Mr. Burry, and K. Dalio, Director of Finance, responded to questions of Council.

J.2 Tourism Prince George

Mr. Paul Robison, Chair, and Mr. Jamie Valcourt, Treasurer, Tourism Prince George Board of Directors, and Mr. Colin Carson, Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Prince George, joined the meeting via Zoom and provided a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed Tourism Prince George 2022 Budget including an overview of the projected budget and key focus areas for 2022.

Discussion commenced. Mr. Carson and W. Babicz, City Manager, responded to questions of Council.

E. 2022 - 2026 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN

E.1 2022 - 2026 Capital Plan

Discussion commenced. K. Dalio, Director of Finance, W. Babicz, City Manager, B. McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, and A. Davey, Director of Public Safety, responded to questions of Council.

Moved By Councillor Frizzell

Seconded By Councillor Scott

That Council AMENDS the agenda to consider agenda items G.1, D.3, O.1, G.2, and O.2, and returning to agenda item E.1 at the conclusion of agenda item O.2.

Carried Unanimously

G. PUBLIC SAFETY

G.1 Police Protection

Mr. Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety, and Superintendence Shaun Wright, RCMP, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Police Protection service category.

D.3 RCMP Contract Proposed Budget Reduction of \$1M

Discussion commenced. A. Davey, Director of Public Safety, and Superintendent Wright, RCMP, responded to questions of Council.

O. REQUESTED ENHANCEMENTS

O.1 Police Protection Enhancement

Superintendence Shaun Wright, RCMP, provided an overview of the Police Protection Enhancement.

G. PUBLIC SAFETY

G.2 Fire and Rescue Services

Fire Chief Cliff Warner, Prince George Fire and Rescue Services, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Fire and Rescue Services service category.

Councillor Skakun exited Council Chambers at 8:06 p.m. and returned at 8:08 p.m.

O. REQUESTED ENHANCEMENTS

O.2 Fire and Rescue Services Strategic Plan

Fire Chief Cliff Warner, Prince George Fire and Rescue Services, provided an overview of the Fire and Rescue Services Strategic Plan Enhancement.

Discussion commenced and Chief Warner responded to questions of Council.

Mayor Hall called a recess of the Regular Council Budget Meeting at 8:09 p.m.

The Regular Council Budget Meeting reconvened at 8:22 p.m.

Attendance of Council and Staff was the same as at the time the recess was called.

E. 2022 - 2026 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN

E.1 2022 - 2026 Capital Plan

Discussion commenced. K. Dalio, Director of Finance, W. Babicz, City Manager, B. McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, D. Wasnik, Director of Planning and Development, A. Davey, Director of Public Safety, and R. Emery, Director of Corporate Services, responded to questions of Council.

Mayor Hall exited Council Chambers at 8:42 p.m. and returned at 8:44 p.m.

F. CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

F.1 Office of the City Manager

Mr. Walter Babicz, City Manager and K. Dalio, Director of Finance provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Office of the City Manager service category.

Councillor Krause exited Council Chambers at 9:04 p.m. and returned at 9:07 p.m.

Discussion commenced. W. Babicz, City Manager, and K. Dalio, Director of Finance, responded to questions of Council.

F.2 Mayor and Council

Mr. Walter Babicz, City Manager, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Mayor and Council service category.

Discussion commenced. W. Babicz, City Manager, M. Connelly, Manager of Legislative Services, and K. Dalio, Director of Finance, responded to questions of Council.

F.3 Legislative Services

Mr. Walter Babicz, City Manager, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Legislative Services service category.

Discussion commenced.

F.4 Communications

Mr. Walter Babicz, City Manager, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Communications service category.

Discussion commenced and K. Dalio, Director of Finance responded to questions of Council.

F.5 Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships

Mr. Walter Babicz, City Manager, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships service category.

Discussion commenced. W. Babicz, City Manager, K. Dalio, Director of Finance, and C. Bone, Senior Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships, responded to questions of Council.

G. PUBLIC SAFETY

G.3 Emergency Programs

Mr. Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Emergency Measures service category.

Discussion commenced. W. Babicz, City Manager, and A. Davey, Director of Public Safety, responded to questions of Council.

G.4 Bylaw Services

Mr. Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Bylaw Services service category.

Discussion commenced and A. Davey, Director of Public Safety, responded to questions of Council.

G.5 Off-Street Parking

Mr. Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Off-Street Parking service category.

Moved By Councillor Frizzell

Seconded By Councillor Sampson

That Council EXTENDS the Regular Council Budget Meeting from 10:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Carried Unanimously

K. CIVIC OPERATIONS

K.1 Snow Control

Mr. Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Snow Control service category.

Discussion commenced. K. Dalio, Director of Finance and B. McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, responded to questions of Council.

Councillor McConnachie exited Council Chambers at 10:04 p.m. and returned at 10:09 p.m.

Councillor Frizzell exited Council Chambers at 10:06 p.m. and returned at 10:08 p.m.

K.2 Roads

Mr. Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Roads service category.

Discussion commenced and B. McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, responded to questions of Council.

K.3 Storm Drainage

Mr. Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Storm Drainage service category.

Discussion commenced and K. Dalio, Director of Finance responded to questions of Council.

K.4 Fleet Services

Mr. Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Fleet Services service category.

Discussion commenced. K. Dalio, Director of Finance, and B. McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, responded to questions of Council.

K.5 Street Lighting

Mr. Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Street Lighting service category.

Discussion commenced and B. McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, responded to questions of Council.

K.6 Civic Operations Administration

Mr. Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Civic Operations Administration service category.

Discussion commenced and K. Dalio, Director of Finance responded to questions of Council.

K.7 Solid Waste Services

Mr. Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Solid Waste Services service category.

Discussion commenced. W. Babicz, City Manager, K. Dalio, Director of Finance, and B. McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, responded to questions of Council.

K.8 Cemetery

Mr. Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Cemetery service category.

Discussion commenced and B. McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, responded to questions of Council.

K.9 Sewer Operations

Mr. Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Sewer Operations service category.

Discussion commenced and B. McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, responded to questions of Council.

K.10 Water Operations

Mr. Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Water Operations service category.

K.11 Parks

Mr. Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Parks service category.

Discussion commenced and B. McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, responded to questions of Council.

K.12 Project Delivery

Mr. Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Project Delivery service category.

Discussion commenced and B. McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, responded to questions of Council.

K.13 District Energy

Mr. Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the District Energy service category.

Discussion commenced and B. McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, responded to questions of Council.

K.14 Transportation and Technical Services

Mr. Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Transportation and Technical Services service category.

Discussion commenced and K. Dalio, Director of Finance, responded to questions of Council.

L. RECREATION AND EVENTS

L.1 Aquatics

Mr. Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Aquatics service category.

L.2 Recreation and Events Administration

Mr. Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Recreation and Events Administration service category.

Discussion commenced and W. Babicz, City Manager, responded to questions of Council.

L.3 Facility Maintenance

Mr. Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Facility Maintenance service category.

L.4 Entertainment Services

Mr. Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Entertainment Services service category.

L.5 Event Services

Mr. Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Event Services service category.

L.6 Event Operations

Mr. Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Event Operations service category.

Discussion commenced and K. Dalio, Director of Finance, responded to questions of Council.

Moved By Councillor Ramsay

Seconded By Councillor Krause

That Council EXTENDS the Regular Council Budget Meeting from 11:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

Carried

Councillor Everitt opposed.

M. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

M.1 Development Planning and Administration

Ms. Deanna Wasnik, Director of Planning and Development, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Development Planning and Administration service category.

Discussion commenced and D. Wasnik, Director of Planning and Development, responded to questions of Council.

M.2 Economic Development

Ms. Deanna Wasnik, Director of Planning and Development, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Economic Development service category.

Discussion commenced. K. Dalio, Director of Finance, and D. Wasnik, Director of Planning and Development, responded to questions of Council.

M.3 Asset Management

Ms. Deanna Wasnik, Director of Planning and Development, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Asset Management service category.

M.4 Infrastructure Planning and Engineering

Ms. Deanna Wasnik, Director of Planning and Development, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Infrastructure Planning and Engineering service category.

N. CORPORATE SERVICES

N.1 IT Services

Ms. Rae-Ann Emery, Director of Corporate Services, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the IT Services service category.

Discussion commenced. K. Dalio, Director of Finance, and R. Emery, Director of Corporate Services, responded to questions of Council.

N.2 Human Resources

Ms. Rae-Ann Emery, Director of Corporate Services, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Human Resources service category.

Councillor Skakun exited Council Chambers from 11:13 p.m. to 11:16 p.m.

Discussion commenced and R. Emery, Director of Corporate Services, responded to questions of Council.

O. REQUESTED ENHANCEMENTS

O.3 Re-Opening Washrooms in the Canada Games Plaza

Mr. Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety, provided an overview of the Re-Opening Washrooms in the Canada Games Plaza Enhancement.

Discussion commenced and W. Babicz, City Manager, responded to questions of Council.

O.4 Increase the Annual Grant Funding for the Outdoor Ice Oval Society (OIOS)

Mr. Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety, provided an overview of the Increase the Annual Grant Funding for the Outdoor Ice Oval Society (OIOS) Enhancement.

Discussion commenced and K. Dalio, Director of Finance, responded to questions of Council.

P. FINANCE

P.1 Risk and Procurement

Mr. Kris Dalio, Director of Finance, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Risk and Procurement service category.

P.2 Service Centre

Mr. Kris Dalio, Director of Finance, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Service Centre service category.

P.3 Financial Services

Mr. Kris Dalio, Director of Finance, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Financial Services service category.

Discussion commenced.

P.4 Fiscal Services

Mr. Kris Dalio, Director of Finance, provided an overview of the proposed 2022 Operational Financial Plan for the Fiscal Services service category.

Discussion commenced and K. Dalio, Director of Finance, responded to questions of Council.

Q. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By Councillor Sampson

Seconded By Councillor Krause

That there being no further business the Budget Meeting of Council, BE ADJOURNED.

Carried Unanimously

THE REGULAR COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:43 P.M.

CHAIRPERSON

CERTIFIED CORRECT