



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BUDGET MEETING OF COUNCIL

January 30, 2023
3:30 pm
Council Chambers of City Hall
1100 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, BC

PRESENT: Mayor Simon Yu, Chair
Councillor Tim Bennett
Councillor Garth Frizzell
Councillor Trudy Klassen
Councillor Ron Polillo
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 and IT Services
Mr. Andy Beesley, Director of Civic Facilities and Events
Mr. Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety
Mr. Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations
Ms. Maureen Connelly, Manager of Legislative Services/Corporate Officer
Ms. Leslie Kellett, Deputy Corporate Officer

A. 2023 Budget and Finance Reference Guide and Sustainable Finance Guidelines

B. ADOPTION OF THE AMENDED AGENDA

Moved By Councillor Scott

Seconded By Councillor Frizzell

That the agenda for the Regular Council Budget Meeting scheduled for January 30, 2023, be amended by replacing the correspondence at agenda item C.1 with updated correspondence from the same writer, adding three (3) new items of correspondence as agenda items C.2, C.3, and C.4, moving agenda items N.5.1 and N.5.2 to immediately follow agenda item J.1, and moving agenda item N.5.3 to immediately follow agenda item J.3, and that the agenda, BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

Carried Unanimously

C. PUBLIC INPUT (3:30 P.M. – 3:45 P.M.)

Ms. Penni Adams, Northwest Invasive Plant Council, attended Center Table and provided input regarding the proposed 2023 – 2027 Financial and Capital Plans requesting that Council reinstate the funding previously allocated to the Northwest Invasive Plant Council in 2021.

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

C.1 Correspondence dated January 5, 2023 from Penni Adams, Program Manager, Northwest Invasive Plant Council: Invasive Plant Management within the City Boundary

C.2 Correspondence dated January 27, 2023 from Doug Walder: 2023 Budget

C.3 Correspondence dated January 27, 2023 from Bryan Bucci: Public Input regarding Property Taxes

C.4 Correspondence dated January 28, 2023 from Ed Chanter: 2023 Budget Meetings

D. BUDGET OVERVIEW AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS

D.1 2023 - 2027 Financial Plan and Presentation

Mr. Walter Babicz, City Manager, and Mr. Kris Dalio, Director of Finance and IT Services, provided a PowerPoint Presentation outlining the proposed 2023 – 2027 Financial Plan including information on the legislative framework, financial overview, and public consultation.

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

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

Mayor Yu 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 Sampson

Seconded By Councillor Frizzell

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

Carried Unanimously

G. PUBLIC INPUT (6:00 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.)

Mr. Emile Begin, College Heights resident, attended via telephone and provided input regarding the proposed 2023 – 2027 Operational Financial and Capital Plans requesting that consideration be given to funding sewer infrastructure for future maintenance and repair.

K. Dalio, Director of Finance and IT Services responded to questions.

H. SERVICE AGREEMENTS AND GRANTS

H.1 Prince George Public Library

Ms. Anna Duff, Chair, 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 2023 Budget including information on the 2023 Board of Trustees, budget revenue and expenses, and major projects planned for 2023.

Discussion commenced. Mr. Burry, K. Dalio, Director of Finance and IT Services, W. Babicz, City Manager, and M. Connelly, Corporate Officer/Manager of Legislative Services, responded to questions of Council.

Moved By Councillor Frizzell

Seconded By Councillor Skakun

That Council APPROVES the Library Services Service Category as presented on pages 18 and 19 of the 2023 – 2027 Operational Financial Plan, as attached to the January 30, 2023 Regular Council Budget Meeting agenda.

Moved By Councillor Sampson

Seconded By Councillor Skakun

That Council POSTPONES consideration of the main motion regarding approval of the Library Services Service Category as presented on pages 18 and 19 of the 2023 – 2027 Operational Financial Plan to the February 1, 2023 Regular Council Budget Meeting

Motion to postpone the main motion as set out above.

Carried Unanimously

H.2 Tourism Prince George

Mr. Jamie Valcourt, Treasurer, Tourism Prince George Board of Directors, and Mr. Colin Carson, Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Prince George, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed Tourism Prince George 2023 Budget including an overview of the projected budget and key focus areas for 2023.

Discussion commenced and Mr. Carson responded to questions of Council.

E. 2023 - 2027 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN

E.1 2023 - 2027 Capital Plan

Mr. Kris Dalio, Director of Finance and IT Services, and Ms. Tiina Schaeffer, Manager of Capital Program Management Office, provided an overview of the 2023 – 2027 Capital Plan.

Councillor Skakun exited Council Chambers at 7:38 p.m. and returned at 7:39 p.m.

Discussion commenced. K. Dalio, Director of Finance and IT Services, T. Schaeffer, Manager of Capital Program Management Office, W. Babicz, City Manager, B. McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, A. Beesley, Director of Civic Facilities and Events, and A. Davey, Director of Public Safety, responded to questions of Council.

Moved By Councillor Sampson

Seconded By Councillor Frizzell

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

Carried Unanimously

Mayor Yu called a recess of the Regular Council Budget Meeting at 8:24 p.m.

The Regular Council Budget Meeting reconvened at 8:30 p.m.

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

J. PUBLIC SAFETY

J.1 Police Protection

Mr. Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety, provided an overview of the proposed 2023 Operational Financial Plan for the Police Protection service category.

Discussion commenced. Superintendent Shaun Wright, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and A. Davey, Director of Public Safety, responded to questions of Council.

Moved By Councillor Sampson

Seconded By Councillor Skakun

That Council REQUESTS the Mayor's Office to submit correspondence to the federal government in follow up to the City's past correspondence regarding the status of funding of the RCMP retroactive pay.

Moved By Councillor Frizzell

Seconded By Councillor Skakun

That Council AMENDS the main motion by adding the words "and taking into consideration the status of advocacy by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Union of BC Municipalities."

Carried Unanimously

Main motion as amended.

Carried Unanimously

N.5.1 Police Protection Enhancement: Increase of Four (4) RCMP Positions

Discussion commenced. Superintendent Wright, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and A. Davey, Director of Public Safety, responded to questions of Council.

N.5.2 Police Protection Enhancement: Increase of Two (2) Municipal Employee Positions

Discussion commenced. Superintendent Wright, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and A. Davey, Director of Public Safety, responded to questions of Council.

J.2 Fire and Rescue Services

Mr. Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety, provided an overview of the proposed 2023 Operational Financial Plan for the Fire and Rescue Services service category.

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

N.5.3 Fire Services Training Facility Feasibility Study

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

J.3 Emergency Programs

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

J.4 Bylaw Services

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

J.5 Off-Street Parking

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

I. CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

Mr. Walter Babicz, City Manager, provided an overview of the proposed 2023 Operational Financial Plan for the service categories within the Corporate Management department.

I.1 Office of the City Manager

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

Moved By Councillor Skakun

Seconded By Councillor Frizzell

That Council DIRECTS Administration to return a report to Council with options regarding the provision of funds to allow members of Council to access independent legal advice as it relates to conflicts of interest.

Carried Unanimously

I.2 Mayor and Council

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

I.3 Legislative Services

Discussion commenced. W. Babicz, City Manager, and M. Connelly, Corporate Officer/Manager of Legislative Services, responded to questions of Council.

I.4 Human Resources and Corporate Safety

Discussion commenced. W. Babicz, City Manager, D. Wasnik, Director of Planning and Development, and K. Dalio, Director of Finance and IT Services, responded to questions of Council.

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

I.5 Communications

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

I.6 Civic Initiatives and Partnerships

Discussion commenced.

I.7 Capital Program Management Office

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

K. CIVIC OPERATIONS

Mr. Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations, provided an overview of the proposed 2023 Operational Financial Plan for the service categories in Civic Operations department.

K.1 Snow Control

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

K.2 Roads

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

Moved By Councillor Sampson
Seconded By Councillor Ramsay

That Council DIRECTS Administration to return a report to Council with options regarding types of paint for road marking and techniques used in line painting.

Carried

Councillor Polillo and Councillor Skakun opposed.

Discussion commenced and M. Connelly, Corporate Officer/Manager of Legislative Services, responded to questions of Council.

K.3 Storm Drainage

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

K.4 Fleet Services

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

K.5 Street Lighting

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

K.6 Civic Operations Administration

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

K.7 Solid Waste Services

Councillor Skakun exited Council Chambers at 10:43 p.m. and returned at 10:44 p.m.

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

Moved By Councillor Sampson

Seconded By Councillor Scott

That Council DIRECTS Administration to return a report to Council outlining options and impacts of a change to a biweekly schedule for solid waste pick up.

Moved By Councillor Ramsay

Seconded By Councillor Frizzell

That Council AMENDS the main motion by adding the words “including compost service options within the municipality.”

Carried Unanimously

Main motion as amended.

Carried Unanimously

K.8 Cemetery

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

Moved By Councillor Sampson

Seconded By Councillor Ramsay

That Council EXTENDS the Regular Council Budget Meeting from 11:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Carried Unanimously

K.9 Sewer Operations

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

K.10 Water Operations

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

K.11 Parks

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

K.12 District Energy

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

K.13 Transportation and Technical Services

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

Moved By Councillor Bennett

Seconded By Councillor Ramsay

That Council POSTPONES consideration of agenda sections L, M, and N to the February 1, 2023 Regular Council Budget Meeting.

Carried Unanimously

L. CIVIC FACILITIES AND EVENTS

L.1 Aquatics

L.2 Recreation and Events Administration

L.3 Project Delivery

L.4 Facility Maintenance

L.5 Entertainment Services

L.6 Event Services

L.7 Event Operations

M. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

M.1 Development Planning and Administration

M.2 Economic Development

M.3 Asset Management

N. FINANCE

N.1 Risk and Procurement

N.2 Service Centre

N.3 IT Services

N.4 Financial Services

N.5 Fiscal Services

O. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By Councillor Sampson

Seconded By Councillor Polillo

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

Carried Unanimously

THE REGULAR COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:27 P.M.

CHAIRPERSON

CERTIFIED CORRECT