

DATE: August 21, 2020

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Standing Committee on Finance and Audit

SUBJECT: Public Consultation Regarding City Budget Priorities

ATTACHMENT(S): Staff Report to Standing Committee on Finance and Audit from the Director of External Relations, dated August 12, 2020, titled “Public Consultation Regarding City Budget Priorities.”

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council:

1. DIRECTS Administration to proceed with a public engagement program as broadly outlined in the report dated August 12, 2020, from the Director of External Relations, titled “Public Consultation Regarding City Budget Priorities”; and
2. PROVIDES Administration with the flexibility in their deployment of a public engagement program recognizing the evolving conditions and circumstances related to 2021 budget preparation and the COVID-19 pandemic.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council’s approval of a public engagement program for the 2021 budget preparation process that recognizes the unique circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

BACKGROUND:

At the August 17th meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee, Rob van Adrichem, Director of External Relations, provided an overview of the City’s plan to seek public input regarding the 2021 budget including information on the use of an expanded Citizen Budget survey and consideration for a live-streamed public forum to be held in Council Chambers. The report also discusses the comparator municipalities that Administration will be using to identify COVID related financial impacts and the related citizen engagement initiatives they are undertaking.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The Standing Committee on Finance and Audit has endorsed the recommendations in this report. The Committee is recommending that Council provide Administration with high-level direction as well as flexibility to deliver a public engagement program during the COVID-19 pandemic event.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Councillor Garth Frizzell, Chair
Standing Committee on Finance and Audit

APPROVED:

Kathleen Soltis, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2020/08/31