



**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**Wednesday, November 25, 2020**  
**1:00 p.m.**  
**Virtual Attendance**

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Council met electronically as permitted by Council's Procedural Bylaw. Citizens and our Media Partners are encouraged to attend the virtual meeting via the Public Live Stream Event at:

<https://video.isilive.ca/kenora/2020-11-25.html>

**Present:** Mayor D. Reynard  
Councillor M. Goss  
Councillor R. McMillan  
Councillor A. Poirier  
Councillor K. Ralko  
Councillor S. Smith  
Councillor C. Van Wallegghem

**Staff:** Kyle Attanasio, CAO, Heather Pihulak, Manager of Administration/City Clerk, Jon Ranger, Deputy Treasurer, Charlotte Edie, Manager of Finance/Treasurer, Jeff Hawley, Manager of Operations & Infrastructure, Adam Smith, Manager of Development Services, Stace Gander, Community Services Manager, Roberta Marsh, HR Manager

**Call Meeting to Order**

Mayor Reynard called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

**Blessing & Land Acknowledgement**

***Delivered by Councillor Van Wallegghem***

As we gather, we recognize that we are on Treaty Three Lands which are steeped in rich Indigenous history and home to many First Nations and Metis people today. We continue to be thankful for the partnerships with our Indigenous people.

We give thanks for the many blessings we enjoy in the City of Kenora. We seek wisdom in our minds, clearness in our thinking, truth in our speaking and always love in our hearts, so that we may try always to unite the Citizens of Kenora. Let these principles guide us in our decision making.

**Public Notices**

Take Notice that as required under Notice By-law #144-2007, Council intends to adopt the following items at this Special Meeting of Council:

N/A

## **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest & General Nature thereof**

i) On Today's Agenda

ii) From a Meeting at which a Member was not in Attendance

There were none declared.

### **Deputations**

None.

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## **1. 2021 Capital Budget Discussion**

Jon Ranger, Deputy Treasurer, explained the capital budgeting process and how priorities are identified by staff.

The 2021 capital budget highlights include \$9.34 M in total cost of capital assets. This draft capital budget intends on utilizing \$1.89 million in net tax levy, \$3.4 million in government subsidies, 46k from vehicle recoveries, \$2.47 million in reserves, and \$1.54 million in debt financing. Roads and bridges still represent the largest demand on City capital resources.

Unusual spend while these works are not capital in nature, they are budgeted for through the City's five year capital planning process. Unusual spending refers to larger value non-capital works that are not typical from year to year. \$1.65 million in total cost of unusual spend projects.

Capital spending by functional area includes transportation at \$6.02 M or 64% of the capital budget.

A summary of the total five year capital plan was provided highlighting \$9,340,852 in 2021, \$14,438,623 in 2022, 11,047,104 in 2023, \$10,284,304 in 2024 and \$3,321,500 in 2025.

Jon reviewed each project in the 2021 capital budget.

There is potential that the Railway Street project will not take place in 2021 due to challenges with CP Rail leases that are required for the project to proceed. Administration will continue to work with CP Rail to pursue this, however, it is very likely that the next phase of the project may need to be delayed to 2022.

Tab 2 which is a summary of net tax levy. This tab summaries all of the projects in the 5 year budget that require use of the net tax levy. These are projects or parts of projects that are not funded by subsidy, recovery, reserves or debt.

Jon moved to the 2021 non capital special projects and unusual spending.

There will be further information coming on how the Municipal Accommodation Tax will be used and how it will be captured in the budget process. It was questioned if we started a MAT reserve fund. It is being held in a deferred revenue fund which is ready to be accessed whenever the projects happen.

Council reviewed the deleted projects list that management cut from the projects due to lack of available funds to support them.

Council discussed a different strategy for some of these projects that are important to address sooner than later. Long term debt financing may be an option and we should review now as some of these projects are not getting any cheaper.

Typically some of these projects we would fund through OCIF funding. OCIF has told us that they are only giving us a one year window but we have not heard what the 2021 funding would be. We still may hear from OCIF on the levels and then we could address some of these through that funding.

When Charlotte moved our investments to the Prudent Investor regime, we realized gains on these investments to the tune of over \$1M. Charlotte is recommending that the balance we would appropriate to a reserve and would recommend a reserve to deal with our infrastructure deficit or leverage if a funding opportunity comes our way. That gain has not been taken into account in the 2021 budget and so therefore appropriating to reserve gives us options for the future.

We have spent a significant amount of money on all our bridges in the City and this reserve may present future options for infrastructure projects that need to be done.

Changes to the draft 2021 capital budget directed by Council to administration include: split out the bridge work between the Lajeunesse bridge and Beggs Road bridge; library carry forward from 2020 needs to be added \$8,700 for entrance painting; move sidewalk grinding to the operating budget; potential railway street amendment.

Council discussed the timing of passing the capital budget in December and if it should be held until it can be done in conjunction with the Operating budget. This will be reviewed further with administration.

Meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.