



**Budget Committee
MINUTES**

Held Monday, October 23, 2007
City Council Chambers
4:30 p.m.

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PRESENT: Councillor R. McMillan, Chair
Councillor D. McCann
Councillor W. Cuthbert
Councillor C. Drinkwater
Councillor A. Poirier (arrived at 5:05 p.m.)
Councillor C. Van Walleghem
Mayor L. Compton
B. Preientanz, CAO
K. Brown, Finance & Administration Manager
W Brinkman, Emergency Services Manager
R. Perchuk, Operations Manager
B. Reynard, Community Services Manager

A. PUBLIC INFORMATION NOTICES AS PER BY-LAW NUMBER 14-2003

N/A

B. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

N/A

C. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

N/A

D. DEPUTATIONS

N/A

E. REPORTS

1. Budget Narrative Overview

The Managers provided Council with a high level overview of the budget narrative, including a detailed overview of the projects included as potential projects under the long term debt financing considerations section of the report. The committee engaged in overall discussions related to the budget narrative. Council accepted the projects detailed under the higher value 2008 capital projects list included in the narrative, as well as approved the following changes to the information contained in the draft budget narrative:

- Long term debt financing considerations:
 - Provide further clarification that these projects have not been approved and discussion is related to potential debt issuance only through adding "potential" to the title of the long term

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debt issue column in this section.

- Remove the dollar estimates from the performing arts centre project as these are old estimates based on a previous project scope, and are no longer applicable.
- Downtown Revitalization numbers need to be updated to reflect current project estimates with no identified long term debt requirement. This project is to be stripped out of this section and moved to the applicable project lists in indexes 1, 2 and 3.
- The Tunnel Island narrative under other identified projects needs to be updated.

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Committee had some general discussion on accessibility issues under the current legislated requirements. There was a concern that the projects included in the draft five year capital plan were not sufficient to address the City's various accessibility issues. Council directed administration to update the existing accessibility plans through the Accessibility Committee. The Committee will be given access to City resources as required. The mandate should be to identify existing gaps and to come back with an implementation plan. It was noted that the City had already made some significant improvements in this area in a number of City buildings.

BReynard

The Committee discussed the proposed lighting enhancements at the Cemetery, and asked if these costs had been incorporated into the capital plan. Barry Reynard noted that they were just collecting the data now, and that this item would be brought forward next year for independent approval and amendment to the approved capital budget.

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2. Budget Binder Highlights

a. Deleted Projects List

Committee reviewed the list of storm sewer projects in detail, together with the justification for shifting those projects back into future years, resulting in the tracking on the deleted list.

b. 2008 Capital Projects Summary

Committee reviewed the 2008 capital projects summary, including a number of specific projects. Committee recommended the following:

- Discussion on an audio system for the Council Chambers should be included in the 2008 operating budget discussions.
- New chairs for Council should also be included in the 2008 operating budget discussions.
- Police capital projects should remain in the draft capital budget, but put on hold until the review process is complete and a decision has been made. Until then, no expenditures should be made in this area, unless there is sufficient justification brought forward to Council to proceed with projects on a project specific basis.

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c. **Summary of Total Cost**

Committee reviewed the summary of total cost. There were no changes recommended at this time.

3. Outcome

Committee directed that the five year capital plan be updated as recommended and the amended draft capital budget be brought forward for consideration in conjunction with the draft operating budget.

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The Committee recognized that the accessibility plan will take some time to update, and recommended that the updated plan be brought forward independently from the 2008 capital plan, and budget amendments, as appropriate, be made at that time.

BReynard

Committee requested that the 2009 capital budget package be updated to include a comparison of the previous year's budget to the current year's budget, including a percentage variance analysis.

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ITEMS ON HOLD:

N/A

OTHER BUSINESS

Operating Budget Discussion

The Committee requested an update on the timelines for the operating budget. The current target date for draft budget delivery to Council is mid-December for the operating budget. It was noted that it would be at Council's discretion as to how quickly they wish to move through the operating budget process once the draft budget has been submitted.

NEXT MEETINGS

- Board / Commission Presentations – 30 October 2007 @ 4:30 p.m.
- Budget Deputation Meeting – 13 November 2007 @ 4:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.