



**Budget Committee Minutes**  
**Tuesday, October 13, 2009**  
**3:30 p.m.**  
**City Council Chambers**

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**Present:**

**Councillor R. McMillan, Chair, Mayor L. Compton, Councillor W. Cuthbert,  
Councillor C. Drinkwalter, Councillor J. Parson, Councillor Van Wallegghem.**

**Regrets:**

**Councillor D. McCann**

**Staff:**

**Bill Preisenzanz, CAO, Karen Brown, Manager of Finance and  
Administration, Warren Brinkman, Fire & Emergency Services Manager,  
Sharen McDowall, HR Manager and Joanne McMillin, City Clerk.**

**A. Public Information Notices as per By-law Number 144-2007**  
**N/A**

**B. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest & the General Nature Thereof**

- 1) On today's agenda;
  - 2) From a meeting at which a Member was not present.
- There were none declared.**

**C. Confirmation of Budget Minutes**  
**N/A**

**D. Budget Committee Deputations**  
**N/A**

**E. Reports:**

**1. Budget Process and Timelines**

Karen explained the Capital Budget will be circulated to Council in mid to late November but expectations of having the entire budget adopted for the January meeting would be tight. More realistically, February would likely be the timeframe. Karen indicated the same timelines would apply for the Solid Waste and Sewer & Water Budgets for 2010.

**2. Communication Plan**

Committee agreed to set a stand-alone meeting in November for community groups to attend and provide their presentations to Council with respect to next year's budget requests. Committee agreed to hold this meeting approx. 15 minutes following the Monday, November 16 Council meeting. A separate meeting will be coordinated in either late November or early December for internal budget presentations, i.e. Library, Museum, etc.

Bill advised that there was some feedback through the strategic plan process with regards to Council spending priorities, and expected that the strategic plan committee would be forwarding some priorities for Budget Committee review. Karen Brown was asked to contact Teika Newton as a follow up.

Committee requested that a press release be made available for this Monday's

**Action**

**KBrown**

Council meeting inviting community organizations and other interested parties to the delegation meeting planned for November 16<sup>th</sup>. It was further requested that advertising for this meeting be done through both the local paper and radio.

**KBrown**

Discussion ensued on the value of the public survey contained in the Communication Policy with respect to the budget process. Committee agreed since there is such a low response to the survey and it requires a lot of staff time and effort to tally, that the Policy be changed to a discretionary process rather than a mandatory one.

**Recommendation:**

**That** Council give three readings to a by-law to amend the City Policy Manual to revise the Budget Consultation Policy to reflect that the public budget survey be a discretionary requirement.

**Recommendation approved.**

**KBrown**

Councillor McMillan will introduce this item under New Business at today's Finance & Administration Committee meeting so the amendment can be adopted at this month Council's meeting.

**3. Preliminary Major Budget Impacts for 2010**

Karen circulated a list of preliminary major budget impacts for 2010 and reviewed the information line by line with Committee.

It was noted there has been no phase-in information received from MPAC at this time with respect to changes to the assessment which could impact the 2010 budget.

At this time with the preliminary information provided, the City is currently facing potential impacts that represent a 3.1% increase on the tax rate, based on 2009 tax information.

**4. Council Direction for 2010**

It was agreed that Council does not have sufficient information at this time to provide final direction for 2010 tax rates. It was agreed that this would be an ongoing item on future Budget Committee Agendas.

**Other Business:**

**N/A**

**Items on Hold**

**N/A**

**Next Meeting:**

It was noted the next meeting will be called at a later date, and following Committee receipt of the Capital Budget.

**The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.**