

Special Council Minutes
To Consider and Adopt the
2022 Operating and Capital Budgets
February 17, 2022 - 7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting
Whitby Town Hall

Present: Mayor Mitchell (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Drumm (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Leahy (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Lee (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Mulcahy (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Newman (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Roy (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Shahid (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Yamada (Participating Virtually)

Also Present: M. Gaskell, Chief Administrative Officer
J. Romano, Commissioner of Community Services
R. Saunders, Commissioner of Planning and Development
D. Speed, Head of Operations & Fire Chief
F. Wong, Commissioner of Financial Services/Treasurer
S. Klein, Director of Strategic Initiatives
J. Long, Head of Organizational Effectiveness
H. Ellis, Executive Advisor to the Mayor
C. Harris, Town Clerk
K. Douglas, Legislative Specialist (Recording Secretary)

Regrets: None noted

1. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

1.1 There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

2. Presentations

2.1 Opening Remarks by Councillor Lee, Chair of Finance

Councillor Lee, Chair of Finance, provided opening remarks regarding the 2022 Budget. Chair Lee acknowledged Town Staff for their efforts in preparing a fiscally responsible budget amid ongoing pandemic related pressures.

F. Wong, Commissioner of Finance/Treasurer, provided a summary of the 2022 Budget. Mr. Wong noted the proposed 2022 Budgets of neighbouring municipalities, including the 2.6% increase to the Region of Durham's portion of the overall property tax bill. He advised that the 2022 Budget incorporates feedback from residents, and considers priorities such as employment opportunities, revitalization of the Downtown, and more green space. Mr. Wong explained that the proposed budget accounts for growth, the maintenance of infrastructure and services, and the Town's Master Plans and projects.

3. Delegations

3.1 There were no delegations.

4. Consideration of the 2022 Operating and Capital Budgets

4.1 Financial Services Department Report, FS 12-22
Re: Reporting Requirement Per Ontario Regulation 284/09 – 2022 Budget

Resolution # 43-22

Moved By Councillor Newman
Seconded By Councillor Yamada

1. That Report FS 12-22 of the Commissioner of Financial Services/Treasurer be received as information;
2. That the full accrual accounting items identified in Report FS 12-22 be approved and included as budget figures in the December 31, 2022 audited financial statements;
3. That the Treasurer be authorized to make the required amendments to the budget figures in the Town's audited financial statements for any technical adjustments or amendments to the Town's budget approved by Council.

Carried

4.2 Financial Services Department Report, FS 16-22
Re: Recommended 2022 Operating and Capital Budget

Discussion ensued between Members of Council regarding:

- the importance of hiring a Corporate IDEA Specialist to support the growing diversity within the Town;

- the rationale for hiring a Corporate IDEA Specialist prior to recruiting a Community IDEA Specialist;
- goals discussed during a joint Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee and Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting regarding the IDEA Project;
- concerns regarding resistance to the IDEA Project recommendations;
- the Region of Durham's diversity and inclusion initiatives;
- concerns regarding waste at the waterfront resulting from a growing population and increased volume of visitors;
- the importance of allocating resources to maintain a clean waterfront and green space;
- appreciation for staff and volunteers that aid in preserving the waterfront;
- the importance of considering accessibility in broader diversity and inclusion initiatives;
- the potential for a voluntary contribution program to operate similar to the existing Ontario Opportunities Funds available to Ontario taxpayers;
- the feasibility of implementing a voluntary contribution program for donations to be allocated toward new and existing initiatives;
- consideration of beautification opportunities along Thickson Road;
- partnering with the Region of Durham to implement the Thickson Road Placemaking enhancements;
- an overview of Council's proposed amendments to the 2022 Budget; and,
- appreciation for the efforts of Staff and Members of Council in preparing the 2022 Budget.

A question and answer period ensued between Members of Council and Staff regarding:

- the impact of hiring a Corporate IDEA Specialist on the proposed 2022 Budget;
- strategies to improve by-law enforcement, add designated barbeque spaces, and improve parking along the waterfront;
- clarification regarding the Station Gallery's reduced grant funding;
- the impact of including the Thickson Road Placemaking project on the proposed 2022 Budget;
- whether the Thickson Road Placemaking project was included in the Accessible Signage and Wayfinding Study;
- clarification regarding the calculation of the projected \$150,000 budget pressure associated with implementing the Thickson Road Placemaking project, and whether partners such as the

Region of Durham may be approached to offset the associated costs;

- the impact of including the Thickson Road Placemaking project on the one-time reserves; and,
- clarification regarding impact of a 0.8% increase to the overall Whitby residential tax bill on the average Whitby home owner.

Moved By Councillor Shahid

Seconded By Councillor Mulcahy

1. That the 2022 Operating Budget be approved at a net Town tax levy increase of \$2,134,609 (to a total tax levy of \$108,864,749 inclusive of assessment growth) representing a 2% average residential increase to the Town levy or estimated 0.7% increase to the overall Whitby residential tax bill;
2. That the Town's 2022 operating budget, in the gross expense budget amount of \$153,106,905 inclusive of the Operating Budget Decision Items as shown in Attachment 4 be approved and funded from the sources identified in Table 2 of report FS 16-22;
3. That the proposed user fee increases and new fees as identified in Attachment 3 of report FS 16-22 be approved;
4. That the Community Services Department fees listed in schedules F, G, J, L, O, and Q of the Fees and Charges By-law remain in effect until the fees are subsequently revised;
5. That staff be directed to bring forward a by-law to amend the Fees and Charges By-law to give effect to the recommendations contained in Report FS 16-22;
6. That the 2022 Capital Budget, in the gross capital budget amount of \$71,766,138 inclusive of the Capital Budget Decision Items as shown in Attachment 5 be approved and funded from the sources identified in Table 3 of report FS 16-22;
7. That the Treasurer's update of the Town's projected debt servicing charges as it impacts the Town's Annual Repayment Limit for all previously approved debentures and the proposed debentures, outlined in Staff Report FS 16-22, be received;
8. That the 2022 White Bridge capital project (40206111) and the Mid Arterial Roadway (from Ashburn to Garden St Ext) capital project (40226020) be funded from debentures, in the amounts of \$1,500,000 and \$9,344,925 respectively, to be issued through the Region of Durham, following substantial completion;
9. That in accordance with s.s. 5(1) of the Development Charges Act, and S.5 of Ontario Regulation 82/98, it is Council's clear intention that any excess capacity provided by any of the capital projects will be paid for by future development charges;

10. That any donations, grants or subsidies applied in the 2022 capital program to projects with development charges funding are to offset the non-growth related costs of those projects;
11. That the transfers to and from reserves and reserve funds as identified in Attachment 6 of report FS 16-22 be approved;
12. That the 2023 to 2031 capital forecast in the amount of \$1,317,829,565 be received for information and subject to future annual reviews as part of the capital budget process.

Carried later in the meeting [See following motions]

Moved By Councillor Newman
Seconded By Councillor Shahid

That the main motion be amended by including Item 13 as follows:

13. That Decision Item #24, Corporate IDEA Specialist, in the amount of \$107,625, (representing half the year in compensation costs of \$77,625, Corporate IDEA Training costs of \$27,000, and Other Operating expenses of \$3,000), be added to the proposed 2022 Budget with the annualization amount of \$77,625 to be included as a 2023 budget pressure;

Carried

Moved By Councillor Drumm
Seconded By Mayor Mitchell

That the main motion be amended by including Items 14 and 15 as follows:

14. That Decision Item #27, Waterfront Garbage Crew, in the amount of \$101,300 be added to the proposed 2022 Budget;
15. That Decision Item #28, Summer Student Waterfront By-law Enforcement, in the amount of \$17,113 be added to the proposed 2022 Budget;

Carried

Moved By Councillor Newman
Seconded By Councillor Mulcahy

That the main motion be amended by including Item 16 as follows:

16. That Staff report back on the feasibility of implementing a voluntary contribution program for donations to be received and allocated to new reserves for the following purposes/initiatives:
- a. Heritage;
 - b. Accessibility, Culture, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism; and
 - c. Sustainability/Climate Change

Carried

Moved By Councillor Yamada
Seconded By Councillor Shahid

That the main motion be amended by including Item 17 as follows:

17. That Decision Item #38, the Thickson Road Placemaking project, in the amount of \$150,000, be included in the proposed 2022 budget funded from the One Time Reserve Fund.

Carried

Moved By Councillor Yamada
Seconded By Councillor Shahid

That Council recess for 5 minutes.

Carried

Council recessed at 8:10 p.m. and reconvened at 8:15 p.m. Chair Lee called the meeting back to order at 8:17 p.m.

The main motion, as amended, was then carried as follows:

Resolution # 44-22

Moved By Councillor Shahid
Seconded By Councillor Mulcahy

1. That the 2022 Operating Budget be approved at a net Town tax levy increase of \$2,360,647 (to a total tax levy of \$109,090,787 inclusive of assessment growth) representing a 2.2% average residential increase to the Town levy or estimated 0.8% increase to the overall Whitby residential tax bill;

2. That the Town's 2022 operating budget, in the gross expense budget amount of \$153,332,943 inclusive of the Operating Budget Decision Items as shown in Attachment 4 be approved and funded from the sources identified in Table 2 of report FS 16-22 and budget amendments;
3. That the proposed user fee increases and new fees as identified in Attachment 3 of report FS 16-22 be approved;
4. That the Community Services Department fees listed in schedules F, G, J, L, O, and Q of the Fees and Charges By-law remain in effect until the fees are subsequently revised;
5. That staff be directed to bring forward a by-law to amend the Fees and Charges By-law to give effect to the recommendations contained in Report FS 16-22;
6. That the 2022 Capital Budget, in the gross capital budget amount of \$71,916,138 inclusive of the Capital Budget Decision Items as shown in Attachment 5 be approved and funded from the sources identified in Table 3 of report FS 16-22 and budget amendments;
7. That the Treasurer's update of the Town's projected debt servicing charges as it impacts the Town's Annual Repayment Limit for all previously approved debentures and the proposed debentures, outlined in Staff Report FS 16-22, be received;
8. That the 2022 White Bridge capital project (40206111) and the Mid Arterial Roadway (from Ashburn to Garden St Ext) capital project (40226020) be funded from debentures, in the amounts of \$1,500,000 and \$9,344,925 respectively, to be issued through the Region of Durham, following substantial completion;
9. That in accordance with s.s. 5(1) of the Development Charges Act, and S.5 of Ontario Regulation 82/98, it is Council's clear intention that any excess capacity provided by any of the capital projects will be paid for by future development charges;
10. That any donations, grants or subsidies applied in the 2022 capital program to projects with development charges funding are to offset the non-growth related costs of those projects;
11. That the transfers to and from reserves and reserve funds as identified in Attachment 6 of report FS 16-22 be approved;
12. That the 2023 to 2031 capital forecast in the amount of \$1,317,829,565 be received for information and subject to future annual reviews as part of the capital budget process;
13. That Decision Item #24, Corporate IDEA Specialist, in the amount of \$107,625, (representing half the year in compensation costs of \$77,625, Corporate IDEA Training costs of \$27,000, and Other Operating expenses of \$3,000), be added to the proposed 2022 Budget with the annualization amount of \$77,625 to be included as a 2023 budget pressure;

- 14. That Decision Item #27, Waterfront Garbage Crew, in the amount of \$101,300 be added to the proposed 2022 Budget;
- 15. That Decision Item #28, Summer Student Waterfront By-law Enforcement, in the amount of \$17,113 be added to the proposed 2022 Budget;
- 16. That Staff report back on the feasibility of implementing a voluntary contribution program for donations to be received and allocated to new reserves for the following purposes/initiatives:
 - a. Heritage;
 - b. Accessibility, Culture, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism; and
 - c. Sustainability/Climate Change
- 17. That Decision Item #38, the Thickson Road Placemaking project, in the amount of \$150,000, be included in the proposed 2022 budget funded from the One Time Reserve Fund.

Carried unanimously on a recorded vote as follows:

	For	Against	Abstained
Councillor Drumm	x		
Councillor Leahy	x		
Councillor Lee	x		
Councillor Mulcahy	x		
Councillor Newman	x		
Councillor Roy	x		
Councillor Shahid	x		
Councillor Yamada	x		
Mayor Mitchell	x		
	9	0	0

5. By-laws

- 5.1 By-law # 7855-22, being a by-law to adopt the 2022 Operating and Capital Budgets, as amended.
- 5.2 By-law # 7856-22, being a by-law to grant assistance to eligible Property Owners who are elderly residents or persons with disabilities.

Resolution # 45-22

Moved By Councillor Newman
Seconded By Councillor Drumm

That leave be granted to introduce By-law # 7855-22 and # 7856-22 and to dispense with the reading of the by-law by the Clerk and that the same be considered read and passed and that the Mayor and the Clerk sign the same and the Seal of the Corporation be thereto affixed.

Carried

6. Adjournment

6.1 Motion to Adjourn

Moved By Councillor Mulcahy
Seconded By Councillor Shahid

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Christopher Harris, Town Clerk

Don Mitchell, Mayor