



Minutes

Owen Sound City Council

November 12, 2021

9:30 a.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Mayor Ian Boddy
Deputy Mayor Brian O'Leary
Councillor Travis Dodd
Councillor Scott Greig
Councillor Brock Hamley
Councillor Marion Koepke
Councillor Carol Merton
Councillor Richard Thomas

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Councillor John Tamming

STAFF PRESENT:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager
Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services
Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Dennis Kefalas, Director of Public Works and Engineering
Aidan Ware, Director and Chief Curator, TTAG
Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk
Jamie Eckenswiller, Deputy Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Boddy called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Greig advised that he will have a declaration of interest in the event that the Victoria Park Athletic Track Renewal is discussed due to his potential sponsorship of the track.

3. MOTION TO MOVE COUNCIL INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

S-211112-001

Moved by Councillor Dodd

Seconded by Councillor Greig

"THAT City Council now move into Committee of the Whole to consider public meetings, deputations and presentations, public question period, matters arising from correspondence, reports of City staff, consent agenda, committee minutes, matters postponed, motions for which notice was previously given and additional business."

Carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.a Presentation from the Director of Corporate Services Re: 2022 Capital Budget

The Director of Corporate Services reviewed the meeting agenda and provided a presentation on the proposed 2022 capital budget. Ms. Allan highlighted the draft capital budget package, and thanked staff for compiling it.

Ms. Allan asked that any direction on the draft 2022 capital budget be presented in the form of a motion to assist with tracking and follow-up.

Ms. Allan highlighted the multi-year capital and five-year capital plans, noting the five-year capital plan amounting to approximately \$90 million in planned capital investments over the next five years, adding that revenue sources for these capital investments will come from:

- Capital levy;
- Water and wastewater rates;
- Grants;
- Donations, contributions, and partnerships;
- Debenture;
- Development Charges; and
- Reserves.

Ms. Allan highlighted Development Charges, noting that the Development Charges By-law background study was completed in October 2019 at which time a new exemption for purpose-built rentals was introduced and approved by Council. To date in 2021, \$1,050,000 in City Development Charges have been waived under the new clause, with an additional \$2,960,000 potential Development Charges in eligible developments currently at the pre-approval stage. The City of Owen Sound is the only lower-tier municipality in Grey County to offer this Development Charge exemption. Current legislation requires municipalities to defer Development Charges for purpose-built rentals for five years. This provides a benefit for developers even in the absence of Development Charge exemptions.

Ms. Allan advised that when the County of Grey presented the option of purpose-built rental Development Charge exemption, the anticipated annual revenues to be waived was \$250,000-\$300,000 County-wide. Ms. Allan noted several unfunded capital projects that would benefit from having Development Charges available including new playgrounds, road reconstruction, park enhancements, new fleet requirements, and a second digester at the wastewater treatment plant.

S-211112-002

Moved by Councillor Thomas

"THAT in consideration of the draft 2022 Capital Budget, City Council directs staff to bring forward a report on Development Charges that includes recommendations on potential changes to address lost revenue stemming from Development Charge exemptions."

Carried.

Ms. Allan advised that the City is experiencing an infrastructure gap with approximately \$55,200,000 in unfunded capital and shovel ready projects.

Ms. Allan provided an overview of the 2021 Capital Program, noting major projects that were over budget and how the overages were funded.

Responding to a question of Council, the Director of Public Works and Engineering Services clarified funding relating to pedestrian crossings and noted that prior to the lights at crossings being turned on, a media campaign will be initiated, and signage installed to notify vehicle traffic of the change.

Ms. Allan provided an overview of 2021 achievements such as the completion of the 10th Street Bridge, installation of the Grandmother Sturgeon sculpture, wayfinding signage, paving of the Mile Drive, 16th Street East rehabilitation, and the shoreline restoration.

City Council recessed from 10:45 a.m. to 10:58 a.m.

Ms. Allan provided an overview of the top twenty capital projects for 2022 and noted that Council is welcome to speak to any of the projects listed in the capital budget.

Ms. Allan advised that the City will be undertaking a Waste Management Study to find a strategic balance among reducing energy usage, encouraging technological innovation, and changing behaviours leading to a healthier and more sustainable future. The study is scheduled to be conducted during the term of the existing waste management contract to ensure there is a strategy in place when the City goes out to RFP for the next waste management contract.

Mayor Boddy advised that Grey County is investigating some waste management items and may be doing green organics program regionally. The City Manager advised that he will contact the Grey County CAO to confirm what the County may be planning to do regionally.

In reviewing the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Upgrades, Ms. Allan noted that if a grant is not received for this project, it will not move forward.

City Council discussed the Owen Sound Animal Shelter, noting that the facility requires updating such as lighting and security cameras to monitor the exterior of the building. Ms. Allan advised that upgrades to the lighting at the facility can be done through the operating budget.

Council recessed for lunch from 12:08 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Allan reviewed the top 20 capital projects for 2023 and advised that the capital budget meeting in 2022 for 2023 has been set and will take place in July 2022.

Council enquired about a source separated organics processing facility that was outlined as a top project for 2023 to confirm whether a report will be brought forward for Council's consideration prior to advancing the project. Ms. Allan advised that a waste management study will be completed in 2022 in advance of any undertaking for 2023. City Council further enquired about the possibility of staffing and collecting compost at the leaf and yard waste site, and potential cost-sharing with neighbouring municipalities who utilize the site.

S-211112-003

Moved by Councillor Thomas

"THAT in consideration of the draft 2022 Capital Budget, City Council directs staff to include the yard waste and composting site in the upcoming waste management strategy report."

Carried.

City Council enquired as to whether the City has a corporate fleet policy to ensure the fleet is being effectively and efficiently utilized across all departments. Ms. Allan advised that there is currently no fleet

management strategy or policy but noted that staff will be presenting this type of policy to Corporate Services Committee in 2022.

City Council enquired about the Pay Equity Study listed in the capital budget, noting that such a study was last undertaken in 2017. Council further enquired as to whether the City is losing staff to other municipalities that may be paying better for the same or similar positions. Ms. Allan advised that due to many employers offering the ability to work from home, Owen Sound is now competing with a larger geographical area such as Toronto and London when trying to fill a position compared to pre-pandemic when the City was mostly competing regionally.

S-211112-004

Moved by Councillor Greig

"THAT in consideration of the draft 2022 Capital Budget, City Council directs staff to bring forward a report to the December 1, 2021 Budget meeting to provide additional information on Pay Equity and Market Review."

Carried.

City Council advised that several municipalities in Ontario are introducing a 4% Municipal Accommodation Tax on short-term accommodations to bring in additional revenue to the municipality. Council enquired about the possibility of a staff report being brought forward for Council's consideration in 2022 with options on how revenues generated from a Municipal Accommodation Tax could be used in the capital budget. Council noted that short-term rentals have the potential to negatively impact the overall housing market, adding that an accommodation tax on short-term rentals could help to alleviate this issue.

The City Manager advised that introducing a Municipal Accommodation task is a substantial undertaking that would require significant consultation with tourism partners. Mr. Simmonds advised that staff can present a high-level report on a Municipal Accommodation Tax in 2022 for Council's consideration.

S-211112-005

Moved by Councillor Thomas

"THAT in consideration of the draft 2022 Capital Budget, City Council directs staff to bring forward a report in 2022 on the potential for a municipal accommodation tax for short-term accommodations of 30 days or less, including potential ways for the funds generated to be utilized in the capital budget."

Carried.

Council advised that updates have been postponed for the Owen Sound Animal Shelter year-over-year. Council advised that the facility is in need of updates and advised that a facility audit would be beneficial. Council noted that the \$60,000 that is currently in the budget should be supplemented to be able to meet the needs of the facility and suggested that money be diverted from another program to offset the costs.

S-211112-006

Moved by Councillor Dodd

"THAT in consideration of the draft 2022 Capital Budget, City Council directs staff to:

- 1. Remove \$25,000 from the Interpretive Plaque Refresh budget;**

2. **Spread the Interpretive Plaque Refresh budget over two years; and**
3. **Place the \$25,000 from the Interpretive Plaque Refresh budget into reserves."**

Carried.

City Council noted that the City has qualified staff that can undertake a facility audit of the Owen Sound Animal Shelter, citing a preference to have the audit done internally by the second quarter of 2022.

S-211112-007

Moved by Councillor Dodd

"THAT in consideration of the draft 2022 Capital Budget, City Council directs the Senior Manager of Corporate and Facility Services to bring forward a report by the second quarter of 2022 respecting a facility audit of the Owen Sound Animal Shelter."

Carried.

5. MOTION THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RISE AND REPORT

S-211112-008

Moved by Councillor Dodd

"THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report."

Carried.

FORMAL SESSION

6. MOTION TO ADOPT PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

S-211112-009

Moved by Councillor Dodd

Seconded by Councillor Greig

"THAT the action taken in Committee of the Whole in considering public meetings, deputations and presentations, public question period, matters arising from correspondence, reports of City staff, consent agenda, committee minutes, matters postponed, motions for which notice was previously given and additional business be confirmed by this Council."

Carried.

7. BY-LAWS

7.a By-law No. 2021-129

"A By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Special Meeting of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound held on the 12th day of November, 2021"

S-211112-010

Moved by Councillor Dodd

Seconded by Councillor Greig

"THAT By-law No. 2021-129 be passed and enacted."

Carried.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Mayor Boddy adjourned the meeting at 2:29 p.m.

Mayor Ian C. Boddy

Briana M. Bloomfield, City Clerk