



City of Barrie

70 Collier Street (Box 400)
Barrie, ON L4M 4T5

Minutes - Final General Committee

Monday, June 17, 2013

5:00 PM

Sir Robert Barrie Room

GENERAL COMMITTEE REPORT

For consideration by the Council of the City of Barrie on June 24, 2013.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lehman at 5:05 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 11 - Mayor J. Lehman; Councillor B. Ainsworth; Councillor L. Strachan; Councillor D. Shipley; Councillor B. Ward; Councillor P. Silveira; Councillor M. Prowse; Councillor J. Brassard; Councillor A. Khan; Councillor B. Jackson; and Councillor A. Nuttall

STAFF:

Chief Administrative Officer, C. Ladd
City Clerk/Director of Legislative and Court Services, D. McAlpine
Deputy City Treasurer, C. Millar
Director of Asset Management, B. Parkin
Director of Environmental Services, J. Thompson
Director of Finance, D. McKinnon
Director of Information Technology, C. Glaser
Director of Planning, S. Naylor
Director of Recreation, B. Roth
Director of Roads, Parks and Fleet, D. Friary
Executive Assistant to the General Manager of Community and Corporate Services, J. Taylor
General Manager of Community and Corporate Services, E. Archer
General Manager of Infrastructure and Growth Management, R. Forward.

The General Committee recommends adoption of the following recommendaion(s) which were dealt with on the consent portion of the agenda:

SECTION "A"

13-G-165 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

1. That a letter be sent to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing requesting additional investments in affordable housing within the City of Barrie and the County of Simcoe to create additional and replace existing housing that may be displaced in the near future as a result of development applications received.
2. That staff from the County of Simcoe be invited to make a presentation to City Council at the earliest opportunity on the County's draft 10-year Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy. (Item for Discussion 8.1, June 17, 2012) (File: A16)

This matter was recommended (Section "A") to City Council for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 6/24/13.

13-G-166 NAMING OF A STREET IN RECOGNITION OF EMIL PIDUTTI

That in memory of Emil Pidutti and in recognition of his extensive contribution to the development of Barrie and his charitable contributions within the community, staff in the Planning Services Department add Emil Pidutti to the approved street name list, subject to obtaining concurrence from the Emergency Service Partners, and Council be notified via memorandum once a suitable street within an employment area in the City has been identified. (Item for Discussion 8.2, June 17, 2013) (File: D00)

This matter was recommended (Section "A") to City Council for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 6/24/13.

The General Committee met and recommends adoption of the following recommendation(s):

SECTION "B"

13-G-167 2014 BUDGET DIRECTIONS

1. That staff prepare a Business Plan for 2014 for all tax supported services that considers:
 - a) The cost of maintaining current programs at current service levels, based on anticipated 2014 workloads;
 - b) The cost of providing provincially mandated and cost-shared programs;
 - c) The costs associated with growth in population or infrastructure that is operated and maintained by the City;
 - d) Recommendations for changes to user fees that reflect:
 - i) The full cost of providing the program or service, including fixed assets, net of any subsidy approved by Council; and
 - ii) Increased reliance on non-tax revenue.
 - e) A reasonable estimate of assessment growth; and
 - f) Actions to reduce the impact of the cost drivers described in paragraph 31 that are currently estimated to create a blended tax rate increase of 5.8 % (excluding program changes) over 2013 levels.
2. That in consideration of current economic conditions, the preliminary estimate of a 5.8% blended tax rate increase be reduced to 2%.
3. That any new fee proposals for municipal services, or fee changes of more than 5% of the current fee, be presented to Council no later than December 2, 2013.
4. That the following principles be applied throughout the business planning process to assist in managing choices that balance affordability and service level expectations:
 - a) Maintain the City's ability to meet financial commitments now and in the future;

- b) Raise or introduce new user fees to reduce the need for property tax subsidies;
 - c) Take a focused approach to service changes rather than “across the board” type adjustments to spending plans; and
 - d) Maintain our disciplined approach to capital planning so that renewal needs don’t get displaced by investments to fund growth.
5. That in recognition of Council’s expectation for a tax rate change that is lower than the preliminary estimate, and in addition to other service or fee changes required to meet this expectation, the following service level changes be included in the 2014 Business Plan for implementation within the first quarter of 2014:
- a) Elimination of landfill tipping fee exemption;
 - b) Introduction of a due date penalty for late payments;
 - c) Establishing a sponsorship program; and
 - d) Christmas shutdown for non-critical services.
6. That any service enhancements, service reductions, changes in service or new service proposals be presented as Program Changes to allow Council to consider each Program Change on a case-by-case basis.
7. That development of the 2014 capital budget consider the following:
- a) A risk-based approach to project selection that considers:
 - i) The probability and consequences of asset failure;
 - ii) Full lifecycle costs;
 - iii) For projects not selected, the effect on services, service levels and operating costs; and
 - iv) Availability of financial and human resources to complete the work.
 - b) A primary focus on renewal activities using the following as prioritization criteria:
 - i) First priority - projects that support Public Safety, Environment and Transportation programs;

- ii) Second priority - projects that support Land Use Planning, Economic Development and Corporate Support programs; and
 - iii) Third priority - projects that support Enforcement, Arts and Culture and Recreation programs.
- c) Financial affordability.
8. That in recognition of the pending completion of Master Plans during the third and fourth quarters of 2013:
- a) Capital projects approved and started in 2013 and prior periods that are planned to carry forward into 2014 be included as committed projects in accordance with existing, approved policies;
 - b) The capital budget contain details only for projects to be started in 2014; and
 - c) The budgeted costs of completing multi-year projects started in 2014 be included in the appropriate succeeding years' capital budgets.
9. That staff prepare a 2014 Business Plan for Water and Wastewater services that includes:
- a) The cost of maintaining current programs at current service levels, based on anticipated 2014 workloads;
 - b) The costs associated with any new legislated requirements;
 - c) The costs associated with growth in population or infrastructure that is operated and maintained by the City;
 - d) Rate increases, consistent with the 2013 Business Plan, as follows:
 - i) For water: a 7% increase over 2013 rates; and
 - ii) For wastewater: a 12% increase over 2013 rates.
 - e) Opportunities to reduce rate increases; and
 - f) A reasonable estimate of water consumption.
10. That a 2014 budget for Parking Operations be produced that generally seeks to minimize any required taxpayer subsidy in contemplation of a revised Parking Strategy to be presented no later than the fourth quarter of 2013.

11. That staff advise the County and all Agencies, Boards and Commissions that the budget directions established in paragraphs #1-4 should be used when preparing their 2014 budget.
12. That a 2014 Budget Development Schedule that anticipates Council's review and approval no later than January, 2014, be prepared and circulated to the County and all Boards and Agencies.
13. That staff investigate and report back on the implications of following:
 - a) Reducing the 2014 debt service costs by substituting funding from dedicated reserves or tax capital reserve for some planned debt issuance;
 - b) Re-examining reserve contributions based on the 2012 operating surplus contribution to the tax capital reserve and potential Powerstream Inc. dividend contributions;
 - c) Examining alternatives to latex paint costs;
 - d) Examining potential utility cost reductions through the advancing the implementation of the Energy Management Plan;
 - e) Re-assessing the anticipated capital contribution to the County of Simcoe based on prior commitments, the First Responders Campus Development Plan, and recent funding announcements;
 - f) Re-assessing anticipated operating contributions to the County of Simcoe based on upload savings and the removal of capital from request; and
 - g) Staffing reductions for non-critical and non-essential staff. (EMT002-13) (File: F00)

Attachments: [EMT002-130617.pdf](#)

This matter was recommended (Section "B") to City Council for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 6/24/13.

SECTION "C"**13-G-168****DEFERRED BY MOTION 13-G-159, REBATE OF 2012 WATER SURPLUS**

1. That the rebate plan described in FIN010-13 be used to reduce the 2013 actual water rate revenues by \$2.0M as directed by motion 13-G-099.
2. That the \$2.0M to be rebated to water customers be reduced by \$8.500 (including the non-recoverable HST) to fund the programming charges associated with the rebate plan. (FIN010-13) (File: F00)

Attachments: [FIN010-130610.pdf](#)

This matter was recommended (Section "C") to City Council for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 6/24/13.

There were no enquiries or announcements at General Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

CHARIMAN