



City of Barrie

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

Minutes - Final Finance and Corporate Services Committee

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

6:00 PM

Council Chamber

For consideration by General Committee on May 6, 2013.

The meeting was called to order by Councillor, M. Prowse at 6:04 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

PRESENT:

Councillor, M. Prowse, Finance and Corporate Services Committee
Chairperson

Mayor, J. Lehman (ex officio)

Councillor, B. Ainsworth, Finance and Corporate Services Committee Member

Councillor, J. Brassard, Finance and Corporate Services Committee Member

Councillor, A. Nuttall, Finance and Corporate Services Committee Member.

STAFF:

Chief Administrative Officer, C. Ladd

City Clerk, D. McAlpine

Deputy Treasurer, C. Millar

Director of Corporate Asset Management, B. Parkin

Director of Finance, D. McKinnon

General Manager of Corporate Services, E. Archer

Infrastructure Program Engineer, Kelly Oakley

Infrastructure Technologist, Tracy Gordon

Supervisor of Administrative Support Services, W. Sutherland.

The Finance and Corporate Services Committee met and reports as follows:

SECTION "A"

LONG RANGE FINANCIAL PLAN AND ASSET MANAGEMENT REVIEW

C. Millar, Deputy Treasurer for the City of Barrie, advised that the purpose of the presentation was to review the progress related to the Long Range Financial Plan since its creation in 2009. He noted that the presentation would provide a detailed review of the following aspects of the Plan:

- The Corporation's Financial Policy Framework
- Financial Performance to date
- Factors influencing future performance

C. Millar advised that the Financial Policy Framework was established in 2008. He outlined the key targets identified within the Framework and the status with respect to achievements of the targets. He suggested that a more aggressive financial strategy should be implemented over the next few years as existing financial obligations significantly exceed the current reserve balances. Mr. Millar reviewed the financial performance to date including deviations from the plan, related to the following:

- Affordability thresholds for property taxes, water and wastewater as a percentage of income
- Tax capital reserves balance
- Tax rate stabilization reserve
- Water and wastewater balances
- Tax debt
- Water and waste water debt

C. Millar described other City reserves and their purpose.

Members of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee asked a number of questions and received responses from City staff.

D. McKinnon, Director of Finance for the City of Barrie, provided a presentation on the factors influencing future performance of the Financial Plan. She outlined a comprehensive preliminary financing plan model and the inputs leading to a base case that has been developed in conjunction with the Growth Planning. Ms. McKinnon commented that a good set of financial tools will be developed but tough decisions would need to be made going forward to ensure sustainability.

Councillor A. Nuttal left the meeting.

Members of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee asked a number of questions and received responses from City staff.

B. Parkin, Director of Corporate Asset Management for the City of Barrie, described the impacts of affordability concerns on the current asset condition and the costs associated with sustaining these investments. Mr. Parkin provided information on current asset consumption trends, road condition indexes and infrastructure replacement needs. He suggested that navigating the path forward required a refining of our understanding of acceptable service levels and the development of a Neighbourhood Renewal approach for capital planning and budgeting associated with infrastructure renewal.

E. Archer, General Manager of Corporate Services for the City of Barrie concluded the presentation by commenting that the current Policy Framework was working and that Business Planning and Financial Planning for Growth Management were underway. He commented that discussions with City Council are beneficial at the onset and during the budgeting process to provide information required by Council to make informed decisions for future financial sustainability.

Members of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee asked a number of questions and received responses from City staff.

The Finance and Corporate Services Committee met and reports as follows:

SECTION "B"

USE OF CITY FACILITIES BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

That the item regarding the Use of City Facilities by Members of Council was deferred until the next Finance and Corporate Services Committee meeting. (CLK002-13) (File: C06) (13-G-034)

Councillor M. Prowse left the Chair at 7:29 p.m. and Councillor B. Ainsworth assumed the Chair.

The Finance and Corporate Services Committee met and recommends adoption of the following recommendation(s):

SECTION "C"

CULTURAL GRANTS PROGRAM

That the 2014 Business Plan be prepared such that the funding associated with the Cultural Grants Program be allocated in its entirety (\$325,000) to the Operating Grant Account (01-36-3251-0000-3800) utilized for grants to organizations and that no funds be allocated to the Special Grants Account (01-36-3251-0000-3803) utilized for grants to individual artists. (Item for Discussion 6.4, Apr. 8, 2013) (File: F11) (13-G-095)

This matter was recommended to General Committee for consideration of its adoption at the meeting to be held on 05/06/2013.

Councillor M. Prowse resumed the Chair at 7:35 p.m.

The Finance and Corporate Services Committee met and reports as follows:

SECTION "D"

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE DATED MARCH 19, 2013.

The Report of the International Relations Committee dated March 19, 2013 was received. (File: C05)

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

CHAIRMAN