



Final
Finance and Responsible Governance
Committee

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

4:30 PM

Council Chambers

FINANCE AND RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

For consideration by General Committee on November 5, 2025.

The meeting was called to order by Councillor, AM. Kungl at 5:25 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 4 - Mayor, A. Nuttall
Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson
Councillor, G. Harvey
Councillor, AM. Kungl

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor, C. Riepma
Councillor, C. Nixon
Councillor, A. Courser
Councillor, N. Nigussie
Councillor, J. Harris
Councillor, S. Morales
Councillor, B. Hamilton

STAFF:

Associate Director of Communications and Customer Services, C. Harris
Associate Director of Corporate Asset Management, T. Reeves
Associate Director of Waste Management and Environmental Sustainability, S. Mack
Chief Administrative Officer, M. Prowse
Chief Building Official, P. Evans
Chief Investment Officer, Corporate Investments, T. Rayaisse
City Clerk/Director of Legislative and Court Services, W. Cooke
Coordinator of Elections and Special Projects, T. McArthur
Deputy City Clerk, T. Macdonald
Director, Boundary Adjustment Team, K. Oakley
Director of Corporate Facilities, R. Pews
Director of Economic and Creative Development, S. Schlichter
Director of Information Technology, R. Nolan
Director of Infrastructure, S. Diemert

Director of Internal Audit, S. MacGregor
Director of Operations, D. Friary
Director of Recreation and Culture Services, K. Datema
Director of Transit and Parking Strategy, B. Forsyth
Executive Director of Development Services, M. Banfield
Fire Chief, K. White
General Manager of Access Barrie, R. James-Reid
General Manager of Community and Corporate Services, J. Schmidt
General Manager of Infrastructure and Growth Management, B. Araniyasundaran
Interim Chief Financial Officer, C. Smith
Senior Manager of Corporate Finance and Investment, C. Gillespie
Senior Policy Advisor and Legislative Coordinator, E. Chappell
Service Desk Specialist, M. Burry.

The Finance and Responsible Governance Committee met and reports as follows:

SECTION "A"

PRESENTATION CONCERNING THE 2026 BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET

Mayor Nuttall provided a presentation concerning the 2026 Strong Mayor's Budget.

Mayor Nuttall discussed slides concerning the following topics:

- Strong Mayor's Budget in accordance with the *Strong Mayor's Act* and the direction of 0% operating budget;
- Building Barrie's financial future; and
- S&G Global upgraded Barrie's credit rating to AAA.

Mayor Nuttall presented the Awards of Excellence to Thierry Rayaisse, Chief Investment Officer, and Michael Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer, in recognition of their outstanding leadership, dedication, and contributions to the City of Barrie's achievement of a AAA credit rating.

C. Gillespie, Senior Manager of Corporate Finance and Investment provided an overview presentation concerning the 2026 Business Plan and Budget.

Mr. Gillespie discussed slides concerning the following topics:

Strong Mayor's Direction

- The Strong Mayor Direction; and
- A pie chart illustrating the proposed 2026 Consolidated budget - City Operations.

Operating Budget 2026

- The Operating Budget 2026; and
- A pie chart illustrating the tax supported operating summary;
- A table explaining the 2026 proposed tax rate impact - City Operations; and
- The Infrastructure Investment Funding (IIF).

User Rate Budgets

- A pie chart illustrating the water rate operating summary;
- A table explaining the 2026 proposed net water rate impact;
- A pie chart illustrating wastewater rate operating summary;
- A table explaining the 2026 proposed net wastewater rate impact; and
- A pie chart illustrating the parking rate operating summary.

2026-2030 Capital Budget and 10-Year Plan Overview

- A table explaining what is included in the budget;
- A pie chart illustrating the 2026-2030 Capital Budget; and
- A pie chart illustrating the 10-year Capital Plan: Spending and how it is funded.

Financial Condition

- The financial policies / financial condition;
- The development charges reserve overview;
- Bar charts illustrating the forecasted development charges reserve funds, water rate reserve, wastewater rate reserve and the tax levy reserve;
- A pie and bar chart illustrating the total outstanding debt and total annual debt servicing costs;
- A graph explaining the annual debt repayment limit;
- A bar chart illustrating the forecasted debt;
- The long-term plan of financial sustainability for 2026 and moving forward; and
- Next steps for the 2026 budget.

Mayor Nuttall discussed slides concerning the following topics:

- The 2026 budget highlights; and
- The significant community building projects.

The Committee asked questions to Mayor Nuttall and City staff and received responses.

The Finance and Responsible Governance Committee met and recommends adoption of the following recommendation(s):

SECTION "B"

2026 BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET - CITY OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT FUNDING PORTIONS

Strong Mayor Budget

This report is being presented by the Finance Department on behalf of Mayor Alex Nuttall in accordance with Section 284.16 of the Municipal Act and Section 7 of Ontario Regulation 530/22.

Operating Budget Approvals

1. That the 2026 tax-supported base operating budget for City operations and the Infrastructure Investment Fund, with gross expenditures of \$355.6M and a net property tax levy requirement of \$214.5M, be approved.
2. That a Camp Access expense amount and corresponding revenue amount of \$35,000 be added to the Recreation and Culture Program Budget for 2026.
3. That staff apply to the Province of Ontario for funding in the amount of \$5 million for the purpose of installing traffic safety/calming measures in the City of Barrie.
4. That Capital Project - Traffic Calming Measures be increased by an additional \$500k (50k per ward) to be funded in the interim from the ASE Reserve pending receipt of any funding from the Provincial Government.

City Operations and Infrastructure Investment Funding

5. That the 2026 budget request for City Operations, with a net tax supported municipal funding requirement of \$214.5M be approved. For the average assessed residential property this represents a 0% tax rate increase for City operations and a 2% increase associated with Infrastructure Investment Funding.
6. That the New Investment and Service Recommendations as outlined on page 15 of the 2026 Business Plan with a gross cost of \$1.2M and a net property tax levy requirement of \$73K be approved.

7. That the 2026 Water Rate base operating budget, with net expenditures of \$37.4M and water rate revenues of \$37.4M, and the proposed 2026 Water Rates as outlined in Schedule N of the “Proposed Fee Changes” section of the 2026 Business Plan be approved.
8. That the 2026 Wastewater Rate base operating budget, with net expenditures of \$51.3M and wastewater rate revenues of \$51.3M, and the proposed 2026 Wastewater Rates as outlined in Schedule N of the “Proposed Fee Changes” section of the 2026 Business Plan be approved.
9. That the 2026 Parking Rate base operating budget, with net expenditures of \$2.5M and parking rate revenues of \$2.5M, and the proposed 2026 Parking Rates as outlined in Schedule O of the “Proposed Fee Changes” section of the 2026 Business Plan be approved.
10. That pursuant to Ontario Regulation 284/09, this Staff Report serve as the method for communicating the exclusion of the following estimated expenses from the 2026 Business Plan:
 - a) Amortization expense - \$69.5M;
 - b) Post-employment benefit expenses - \$1.5M; and
 - c) Solid waste landfill closure and post-closure expenses - \$200K.

Capital Budget Approvals

11. That, consistent with the Capital Project Control Policy, the 2026-2030 Capital Budget relating to new capital spending requests of \$36.2M, \$92.1M, \$80.3M, \$54.3M, and \$31.5M respectively, be approved.
12. That any Industrial Development Charge Discounts in 2026 be funded by any year-end surplus, with any remaining balance funded from the appropriate capital reserve.

By-law Update and Forecasts Received for Information

13. That effective May 1, 2026, By-law 2025-024, as amended, be repealed, and replaced with a by-law incorporating the fees and charges presented in the 2026 Business Plan.
14. That operating forecast information for 2027-2029 presented in the 2026 Business Plan be received for information purposes only.

Council and Staff Authorization Requests

15. That the Executive Management Team (EMT) be authorized to add temporary non-complement positions to the end of the budget year

utilizing existing approved funds to deal with any unforeseen circumstances that impact delivery of City Operations.

16. That the Executive Management Team (EMT) be authorized to implement the economic adjustment for the Non-Union Group (NUG) of employees (including full time, part time and students), effective January 1, 2026.
17. That staff be authorized to submit applications for grants that would reduce future capital expenditures, fund service enhancements, or enable capital projects to be advanced, and a report or memo be presented, as appropriate, prior to the execution of any agreement associated with the acceptance of such grant.
18. That the Director of Finance/Treasurer be authorized to make the necessary alterations to the transfer to and/or from reserves to reflect changes since the 2026 Business Plan's publication on October 29th, 2025.
19. That the Director of Legislative and Court Services/City Clerk or their designate be authorized to prepare all necessary by-laws to implement the above recommendations.

This matter was recommended (Section "B") to General Committee for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 2025-11-05.

The Finance and Responsible Governance Committee met and recommends adoption of the following recommendation(s):

SECTION "C"

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE DATED OCTOBER 7, 2025

The Report of the International Relations Committee dated October 7, 2025, was received.

The Finance and Responsible Governance Committee met and recommends adoption of the following recommendation(s):

SECTION "D"

2025 Q3 YTD INTERNAL AUDIT STATUS UPDATE

That the 2025 Q3 YTD Internal Audit Status Update be received as information.

This matter was recommended (Section "D") to General Committee for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 2025-11-05.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

CHAIRMAN