

Legislation Details

File #:	21-G-077	Version:	4	Name:	
Type:	Staff Report	Status:		Carried	
File created:	3/22/2021	In control:		City Council	
On agenda:	4/12/2021	Final action:		4/12/2021	
Title:	2020 BUDGET AND BUSINESS PLAN YEAR-END REPORT				

1. That Staff Report EMT002-21 concerning the 2020 Budget and Business Plan Year-End Report be received.

2. That the following budgeted transfers from reserves in the 2020 Operating Budget be eliminated in order to support the reserve balances for increased 2021 pressures:

i) Reinvestment Reserve: \$1,000,000;

ii) Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve: \$1,000,000;

iii) Growth Management Reserve: \$741,500; and

iv) Provincial Gas Tax Reserve: \$2,150,000.

3. That \$3,045,924 in discretionary Development Charge discounts and exemptions granted during the year be recovered from the related rates as follows:

i) \$2,117,527 from the 2020 year-end Tax supported operating results;

ii) \$314,948 from the 2020 year-end Water Rate operating results; and

iii) \$613,449 from the 2020 year-end Wastewater Rate operating results.

4. That \$3,905,796 of Safe Restart Funding (Phase 1 Municipal Operations) be used in 2020 to offset COVID-19 pressures related to expenses and lost revenues associated with Tax Rate supported services.

5. That \$2,358,716 of Safe Restart Funding (Phase 1 Transit) be used in 2020 to offset COVID-19 pressures related to expenses and lost revenues associated with Transit Services.

6. That \$868,674 of Safe Restart Funding (Phase 1 Municipal Operations) be used in 2020 to offset COVID-19 pressures related to expenses and lost revenues associated with Parking Services.

7. That \$225,530 of Safe Restart Funding (Phase 1 Municipal Operations) be used in 2020 to fund the needs based COVID-19 relief program for elimination of fixed charges and waived overdue account penalties for Water Services (\$98,030) and Wastewater Services (\$127,500).

8. That two reserves be established for Safe Restart Funding (Municipal Operations and Transit) and unused funds related to the Safe Restart agreements be allocated to the reserves as required.

9. That after the tax related Safe Restart funding allocations and the transfer of \$2 million to the WSIB Reserve, the Tax Rate surplus of \$3,136,570 be allocated 70% to the Tax Capital Reserve and 30% to the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve in accordance with the City's Financial Policies.

10. That after the water related Safe Restart funding allocations, the Water Rate surplus of \$72,175

be allocated 70% to the Water Capital Reserve and 30% to the Water Rate Stabilization Reserve in accordance with the City's Financial Policies.

11. That after the wastewater related Safe Restart funding allocations, the Wastewater Rate surplus of \$664,314 be allocated 70% to the Water Capital Reserve and 30% to the Water Rate Stabilization Reserve in accordance with the City's Financial Policies.

12. That pursuant to Ontario Reg. 653/05 and the City's Capital Financing and Debt Management Policy, Staff Report EMT002-21 serve as the method for disclosing outstanding financing leases.

13. That a new grant program named "Barrie Small Business Tax Relief Grant" be created as follows:

- a) To support small businesses in Barrie affected by COVID-19 related restrictions;
- b) The grants be equivalent to 25% of commercial and industrial property taxes paid to the City of Barrie in 2020 up to a total of \$5,000 per business;
- c) That the following eligibility criteria must be met:
 - i) The business is owned by individuals resident in Ontario and conducting business primarily in Ontario, and not a corporate outlet, branch, or store, but may be a franchise;
 - ii) The business is conducting business as of March 1, 2021 in one of the following categories: personal service, fitness or recreational establishment, restaurant / food service, retail store, arts / culture / recreational organization;
 - iii) The business has 20 employees or less, except in the case of restaurants/food service establishments;
 - iv) The business must provide proof of payment of property tax to the City of Barrie in 2020; and
 - v) The business must attest to a loss of revenue as a consequence of COVID-19 and/or public health restrictions.
- d) That the following criteria will be used to prioritize applications, in the event that there are more applications than funding available:
 - i) Amount of other government support funding received (businesses that have not received or been eligible for other grants to be prioritized);
 - ii) Length of time the business was required to be shut down or closed to customers entirely due to public health restrictions from January 1st to March 15th (businesses forced to close longer will be prioritized); and
 - iii) Financial need, as demonstrated by the applicant in terms of % reduction in revenue (at the sole discretion of staff in the Economic and Creative Development Department).
- e) If the account for the premise for which the business receives a grant is in arrears, the grant will be applied to the arrears;
- f) The grant program be administered by staff in the Economic and Creative Development Department, supported by Finance, with funding in the amount of up to \$40,000 from the envelope be allocated for temporary contract staff resources to administer programs and otherwise assist small businesses with grant applications and recovery initiatives;
- g) An amount of \$800,000 be committed to the Barrie Small Business Tax Relief Grant Program, funded as follows:

i) \$600,000 from the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve; and

ii) \$200,000 from the Reinvestment Reserve.

h) The surplus allocation to the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve and Reinvestment Reserve be reduced accordingly;

i) That staff in the Economic and Creative Development Department report back to General Committee by memorandum on the final program design, promotion, and intake process in April of 2021, and the totals of grants awarded together with any challenges experienced with the program in May of 2021, including recommendations for a second round of grants if needs exist; and

j) That staff in Economic and Creative Development Department report back to General Committee by memorandum on April 19, 2021 concerning the creation of a financial support grant program for home-based businesses. (EMT002-21) (File: F00)

Sponsors:

Indexes:

Code sections:

Attachments: 1. EMT002-210329

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
4/12/2021	4	City Council	Adopted As Amended	
3/29/2021	3	General Committee	recommended for adoption (Section "D")	