

**AMHERSTBURG MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING - BUDGET SESSION
Monday, November 10, 2008**

Held at Council Chambers Beginning at 10 AM

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Mayor Wayne Hurst
Deputy Mayor Robert Bailey
Councillor Rick Fryer
Councillor Robert (Bob) Pillon
Councillor Paul Renaud
Councillor John Sutton
Councillor Rosa White

ALSO PRESENT:

Pamela Malott, Chief Administrative Officer
Kevin Atkinson, Sewer and Watermain
Superintendent
Paul Beneteau, Treasurer
Lory Bratt, Planning Coordinator
Stephen Brown, Chief Building Official
Dave Carpenter, Manager of Information Technology
Sarah Cochrane, Public Services Office Manager
Tony De Thomasis, Roads and Parks Superintendent
Ron Dzombak, Manager of Recreation Services
Ivano Fregonese, Supervisor of Budget Services
Cindy Hazael-Gietz, Deputy-Clerk
Antonietta Giofu, Engineer Water/Wastewater
Dwayne Grondin, Public Works Inspector/Coordinator
of Development Services
Richard Murray, Fire Chief

Representatives from the Following Grant Groups:
Amherstburg Community Services
The Verdi Club
Christ Anglican Church
Amherstburg Food and Fellowship Mission
Amherstburg Heritage Homecoming
Amherstburg Historic Sites
Knights of Columbus
Fort Malden Volunteer Association
House of Shalom
North American Black Historical Museum
Doors Open
Close to Home Community Organization

ABSENT WITH NOTICE: Carol Bendo, Human Resources Manager (Vacation)
Lou Zarlenga, Manager of Public Services (LOA)

CALL TO ORDER: 10:00 AM

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Councillor Fryer declared conflict with page 30 - Insurance Deductible.

Mayor Wayne Hurst welcomed the Community Members in attendance.

Pamela Malott, CAO welcomed the community groups in attendance who have made application to Council for assistance. Ms. Malott indicated that Council

would like to take the opportunity to hear the groups as they apply for municipal funding.

PRESENTATION:

Grant Submission:

Anne Rota, Facilitator of Tourism and Special Events presented the Grant Applications. Ms. Rota indicated that the organizations were contacted in October and have all submitted the applications and financial information for review.

Helen Hayworth representing the Amherstburg Community Services gave a verbal presentation to Council regarding the Grant Application. Ms. Hayworth provided a brief history of the programs and services provided by Amherstburg Community Services and the requirements of ACS. Ms. Hayworth indicated that since their application was submitted, United Way has allowed ACS to keep the funds from last year's budget in anticipation of cuts to the 2009 budget. Ms. Hayworth also indicated that the National Child Benefit Supplement will be discontinued and this will directly affect the programming for youth of our community. Ms. Hayworth provided details with respect to the Community Van's as well as other programs such as 'Keep the Heat' and Youth Recreation Program Assistance.

Anne Rota indicated the recommendation for Amherstburg Community Services is \$3000.00 for 2009.

Verdi Club: no representative was in attendance, Administration recommended \$2000.00 for 2009.

Christ Anglican Church – Sent Regrets, Administration recommended \$750.00 for 2009.

Timothy McAllister and Joanne Guitar from the Amherstburg Food & Fellowship Mission gave a verbal presentation to Council regarding their Grant Application. Mr. McAllister indicated that the organization is faced with challenges related to the slow down in the economy and donations, increased demands for food, the loss of the bingo revenue and other factors which really hits the organization hard. Mr. McAllister stated that the focus of the organization is fundraising and they are requesting \$1500.00 for the walkathon for next year.

Anne Rota indicated the recommendation for Amherstburg Food Mission is \$1000.00 for 2009.

Wava Hurst with the Amherstburg Heritage Homecoming made a verbal presentation to Council regarding their Grant Application. Ms. Hurst indicated that the organization is seeking support the addition of music to the event and the purchase of a Road Banner to promote the event locally. Ms. Hurst indicated that this is the 7th year for the event and that the Organization partners with Provincial Marine to provide the re-enactment.

Anne Rota indicated the recommendation for the Amherstburg Heritage Homecoming is \$2000.00 for 2009.

Hazen Price from Amherstburg Historic Sites made a verbal presentation to Council regarding their Grant Application. Mr. Price indicated that hundreds of kids go through the Park House from all over Southwestern Ontario and the USA. Mr. Price indicated that Federal money has been reduced. Mr. Price stated that the Park House is open almost daily from 11 am – 5 pm. Mr. Price stated that the organization does their best to advertise but it is often cost prohibitive. Mr. Price indicated that the money is well spent and he is hopeful that Council will consider Amherstburg Historic Sites again this year.

Anne Rota indicated the recommendation for Amherstburg Historic Sites is \$6000.00 for 2009.

Tim Lauriault from Knights of Columbus made a verbal presentation to Council regarding their Grant Application. Mr. Lauriault indicated that the proceeds from this yearly event (estimated at \$2500.00) go to charities within the community. Mr. Lauriault stated that the event is well attended and greatly benefits the community.

Anne Rota indicated the recommendation for Knights of Columbus is \$800.00 for 2009.

Fort Malden Volunteer Association, Administration recommends \$2000.00 for 2009.

Sarah Vangrinsven, Executive Director from House of Shalom made a verbal presentation to Council regarding their Grant Application. Ms. Vangrinsven stated that the House has been a member of the community for 37 years and has provided peer support meetings for all teens. Ms. Vangrinsven indicated that teens can come to use facilities throughout the week to build strong long lasting relationships with their peers. Ms. Vangrinsven stated her request for a grant was quite ambitious and further stated that the organization is facing tough times and are expecting cuts through United Way and decreased bingo funding which shifts the focus to fundraising to keep the doors open. Ms. Vangrinsven indicated that Community involvement is promoted as evidenced by the House's participation in the Shores of Erie International Wine Festival. Ms. Vangrinsven stated that teens are charged an annual membership fee of \$20.00 and feels it important to have something that is open to the teens and affordable for everyone.

Anne Rota indicated the recommendation for House of Shalom is \$4000.00 for 2009.

Mr. Stanton from the North America Black Historic Museum made a presentation to Council regarding the Grant Application. Mr. Stanton indicated that the Museum is seeking funds for operating expenses for the museum. Mr. Stanton reported a total of 1574 visitors to the Museum this year and a tour group of 72 children is expected to attend next week. Mr. Stanton will use the funds to enhance our development in the community and increase attendance and profile of the Museum.

Anne Rota indicated the recommendation for The North American Black Historic Museum is \$3500.00 for 2009.

Anne Rota indicated that the Doors Open request was pre-approved at Council Meeting of Sept 8th. Ms. Rota added that the planning for the event is going very well.

Close to Home Community Organization- no representative was present, recommended \$1000.00 and offsetting that by a used computer from the town of Amherstburg for 2009.

Anne Rota stated that this concluded the presentations and in summary, the recommendations represent a %31 increase over 2008 budget.

Moved by Councillor Pillon
Seconded by Councillor Sutton

That Council receive the presentations with thanks and refer to our budget deliberations.
Motion Carried

Mayor Hurst thanked the organization for their continued support to our community.

Pamela Malott, CAO stated that today's goal is to reach decisions regarding new initiatives, grant requests and additional committee requests stemming from the Strategic Planning Session held Nov 5th. Ms. Malott indicated that Department Heads, The Supervisor of Budget Services and CAO have gone through the budget line by line, made reductions and executive decisions. Administration intends to bring a final version of the budget along with 3rd Quarter Information to Council on Nov 17th. The Budget will then go to Public Input Session Nov 25th with final adoption at the Dec. 15th Council Meeting.

Ivano Fregonese, Supervisor of Budget Services provided a presentation to Council with respect to:

- 1. Overview**
- 2. Timelines, Budget Cycle and Future Dates**
- 3. Update – Base Budget, Capital and Overall Tax Rate**

Mr. Fregonese indicated that the police budget increase is reflected in the budget document and also that the Capital Analysis and 10 year projection will be forthcoming.

Moved by Councillor Sutton
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Bailey

That Council move in camera at 11:40 AM

Motion Carried

Pamela Malott indicated that additional information requested at the last budget session has been provided to Council as listed below:

- 1. PWD Vehicle Inventory**
- 2. Snow Removal on Sidewalk and Parking Lots**
- 3. LAS Information**
- 4. Illumination Along County Road 20 – Cost Estimates**

Second Review of Issue Papers

Treasury Tax Collector:

Ivan Fregonese indicated that the Tax Collector request has been reduced to student assistance for 4 months.

Councillor Sutton asked if the Town can accomplish this through the Canada Summer Job Program and administration indicated that all funding options would be pursued.

Moved by Councillor Pillon
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Bailey

That Council concur with the recommendation

Motion Lost

Moved by Councillor Sutton
Seconded by Councillor Pillon

That Administration be directed to use all avenues to secure a summer student to assist with the tax collection duties.

Motion carried

LAS Audit

Current recommendation is \$6,000.00 – thermostat portion

Moved by Councillor Pillon
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Bailey

That Council approve the recommendation of \$6,000.

Motion Carried

IT Application Specialist

Moved by Councillor Sutton
Seconded by Paul Renaud

That Council approve the recommendation regarding IT Application Specialist

Dave Carpenter, Manager of IT Services indicated that this will replace the existing part time position and further that there would not be an automatic posting to the position.

Motion Carried.

Fire Dept. Cement Pad:

Moved by Councillor Fryer
Seconded by Councillor Sutton

That Council approve the recommendation with respect to Cement Pad

Motion Carried

Development Charge Study \$12,000.00

That Council approve the Development Charge Study in the amount of \$12,000.00 to be funded by water and wastewater user rates.

Big Creek Study:

Councillor Fryer updated council regarding the budget discussions with respect to ERCA and the extensive study.

Moved by Councillor Sutton
Seconded by Councillor Pillon

That Council approve the recommendations regarding Big Creek Study in the amount of \$25,000.00

Motion Carried

Public Works Seasonal Staff snow removal - \$5000.00

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Renaud

That Council approve the recommendation regarding Public Works Seasonal Staff in the amount of \$5000.00

Motion Carried

Councillor Fryer – are we revisiting the County Rd 20 – yes at council direction

Navy Yard Parks Signature Beds

Moved by Councillor White

Seconded by Councillor Pillon

That Council approve the Navy Yard Park Signature Beds.

Motion Carried

Parks Maintenance – Parks Supervisor

Moved by Councillor Pillon

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Bailey

That Council concur with recommendation regarding the Parks Supervisor

Discussion:

Councillor Pillon confirmed that this added one month time for our seasonal as well as backfilling that position to allow the person to work in a supervisory capacity.

Motion Carried

Parks & Leisure Master Plan

Moved by Councillor Pillon

Seconded by Councillor Fryer

That Council not approve the Parks and Leisure Master Plan

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Pillon

Seconded by Councillor Renaud

That Council rise for 30 minute break for lunch at 1:14

Moved by Councillor Renaud

Seconded by Councillor White

That council move into public session at 1:50

Motion Carried

Recreation In Motion initiative \$5000.00 phased in over 5 years

Moved by Councillor Fryer

Seconded by Councillor Renaud

That Council not support the Recreation in Motion initiative

Motion carried

Recreation – Dog Park design

Moved by Councillor White

Seconded by Councillor Pillon

That Council Concur with recommendation regarding the Dog Park Design

Discussion:

Deputy Mayor Bailey indicated that there has been no overwhelming response for a dog park in the community to warrant further expenditures.

Councillor Pillon questions the park design cost of \$2500.00

Councillor White stated perhaps design can be done in house.

Council voiced concerns with the safety of the dog park and the potential for litigation.

Motion Lost

Refrigeration Additional Maintenance:

Moved by Councillor Pillon

Seconded by Councillor Renaud

That Council approve the recommendation regarding additional refrigeration maintenance in the amount of \$7400.

Motion Carried

Arena Additional Building Maintenance:

Moved by Councillor White

Seconded by Councillor Pillon

That Council Concur the recommendation regarding additional building maintenance in the amount of \$28,000.

Mayor Hurst directed Administration to come back to council for any decision with respect to the replacement of the doors.

Motion Lost

Moved by Councillor Pillon

Seconded by Councillor Sutton

That Council direct administration to allocate \$14,000.00 for the Additional Building Maintenance

Motion Carried

Backflow Prevention:

Moved by Councillor Renaud

Seconded by Councillor Sutton

That Council approve the recommendation regarding the backflow prevention

Motion Carried

Dog Catcher:

Moved by Councillor Pillon

Seconded by Councillor Renaud

That Council defer the request regarding the dog catcher to the next budget session

Motion Carried.

Parks Committee:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bailey

Seconded by Councillor Pillon

That Council defer the request and direct administration to gather more information

Motion Carried.

Accessibility Committee

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Renaud

That Council approve 4 swings for the AAAC at a cost of \$800.00 (\$200.00 each) and that Administration advise Council of the Location of the swings.

Motion Carried

Heritage Committee:

Proposed budget \$15,750.00
Councillor Sutton requested further information regarding the urban design item and the student support for inventory documentation.

Moved by Councillor Pillon
Seconded by Councillor Fryer

That Council defer the Heritage Committee Request until more information is provided.

Motion Carried

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bailey
Seconded Councillor White

Administration is directed to go back and get additional information on the committee's requests and bring forward at the next budget session.

Motion Carried

Paul Beneteau, Treasurer reported a total of 1.17 % increase currently, representing a reduction from 2.06% (\$149,917.00)

Council Approvals:

Student position Tax Collector Assistance - deferred
LAS - approved
IT Position - approved
Fire cement pad - approved
Dog catcher – deferred
Development Charge Study - approved
Big Creek - approved
Seasonal staff - approved
Signature Beds - approved
Parks Supervisor - approved
Mater Plan Parks - not approved
In Motion – not approved
Dog Park Design - not approved
Refrigeration Maintenance - approved
Arena reduced to \$14,000
Water Back Flow Prevention - approved
Nov 5th Committee Requests - deferred
AAAC \$800.00 for swings - approved

Grant Requests:

Administration Recommendation presented by Pamela Malott:
ACS – \$3000.00
Verdi Club - \$1000.00
Christ Anglican Church - \$750.00
Food Fellowship Mission - \$500.00 + snow removal
Heritage homecoming - \$1000.00

Historic site - \$4000.00
K of C - \$800.00
Fort Malden - \$2000.00
House of Shalom - \$3000.00
North American - \$2500.00
Doors Open - \$1800.00
Close to Home - \$500.00 + computer equipment

Moved by Councillor Fryer
Seconded by Councillor Renaud

That Council accept the recommendations as presented by CAO

Discussion:

Councillor Sutton stated that Close to Home is just starting up and has provided little financial documents and no terms of reference; suggest that the Town provide no funding for this organization. Councillor Sutton stated that the Food Mission should receive either \$500.00 or snow removal, not both.

Councillor Fryer some of the organizations already get in kind services from the Town

Councillor White strongly recommends the support of our tourism base including Historic Sites.

Mayor Hurst stated that the Community relies on service clubs and they give back to the community much more than we give to them.

Deputy Mayor Bailey questioned whether the Food and Fellowship mission and K of C requests meet the criteria as the request specifies events

Anne Rota indicated that the Park House Museum and the Black Historical Museum are more about the bricks and mortar and heritage of our community that have been present in the community for centuries; funding these properties enables our community to preserve the buildings.

Motion is lost.

Moved by Councillor Sutton
Seconded by Councillor Pillon

That Council approve a Grant in the amount of \$3000.00 for Amherstburg Community Services for 2009 year.

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Pillon
Seconded by Councillor Renaud

That Council approve a Grant in the amount of \$1000.00 for the Verdi Club for 2009 year.

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Renaud
Seconded by Councillor Fryer

That Council approve a Grant in the amount of \$750.00 for Christ Anglican Church for 2009 year

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Renaud
Seconded by Councillor Fryer

That Council approve a Grant in the amount of \$500.00 for Amherstburg Food & Fellowship Mission with no snow removal provided for 2009 year

Motion Lost

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Sutton

That Council deny the Grant Application for 2009

Discussion:

Deputy Mayor Bailey indicated that the request does not fall within the criteria for the application for funding due to the fact that the money is set aside for the operating expenses of a specific event.

Councillor Pillon suggested that the application should have been written differently. Councillor Sutton indicated a preference to clean their parking lot of snow rather than purchase t-shirts for a fundraising event.

Motion is lost

Moved by Councillor Pillon
Seconded by Councillor Fryer

That Council approve a Grant in the amount of \$500.00 For Amherstburg Food & Fellowship Mission with no snow removal provided for 2009 year .

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Renaud

That Council approve a Grant in the amount of \$1000.00 for Amherstburg Heritage Homecoming with no snow removal provided for 2009 year.

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Renaud
Seconded by Councillor White

That Council approve a Grant in the amount of \$6000.00 for Amherstburg Historic Site for 2009 year.

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Fryer

That Council approve a Grant in the amount of \$800.00 for the Knights of Columbus for 2009 year

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Fryer
Seconded by Councillor Sutton

That Council approve a Grant in the amount of \$2000.00 for Fort Malden Volunteer Association for 2009 year.

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Renaud
Seconded by Councillor Fryer

That Council approve a Grant in the amount of \$3000.00 for House of Shalom for 2009 year.

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Fryer

That Council approve a Grant in the amount of \$3500.00 for the North American Black Historic Museum for 2009 year.

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Sutton
Seconded by Councillor Renaud

That Council approve a donation of used computer equipment for the Close to Home Community Organization for 2009 year

Motion Carried.

Paul Beneteau, Treasurer reported the resulting total including the above items is 1.15%. The Grants have been reduced \$2000.00 from 2008 levels.

Pamela Malott indicated that additional information on the committees, revised totals and the new percentage will be presented to Council at our next Budget Session.

Follow up Dates:

Monday, Nov 17th – 10:00 am – Budget Session

Tuesday, Nov 25th – 7:00 pm – Budget Public Input Session

Monday, Dec 15th – 7:00 pm – Final Budget Adoption


NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

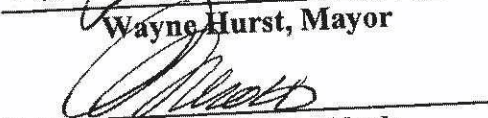
Moved by Councillor Sutton
Seconded by Councillor White

To adjourn at 3:37

Motion Carried



Wayne Hurst, Mayor



Pamela Malott, Clerk