

**AMHERSTBURG MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING - BUDGET SESSION**

Monday, November 17, 2008

Held at Council Chambers Beginning at 10 AM

Please Note: All Public Meetings of Council are recorded by an electronic recording device.

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 Office
Kevin Atkinson, Sewer and Watermain Superintendent
Carol Bendo, Human Resources Manager
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

ABSENT WITH NOTICE: Lou Zarlenga, Manager of Public Services (LOA)

CALL TO ORDER

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

PRESENTATION

Mayor Wayne Hurst opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

Moved by Councillor Pillon
Seconded by Councillor Sutton

That Council deal with the budget at this session.

No Pecuniary Interests Declared

Pamela Malott, CAO – Introduction

Ms. Malott gave a brief synopsis of the budget process and indicated that the goal of this session was to complete the review, the new initiatives as well as review the capital items. Ms. Malott indicated that the Public Input Session is scheduled for November 25th at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Malott stated that due to staff demands, as Council progresses through specific areas by department, staff may excuse themselves to attend to other responsibilities.

Ivano Fregonese, Supervisor of Budget Services made a presentation regarding the 2009 Budget. Mr. Fregonese indicated that this was the 7th session for the 2009 draft budget including capital and issue papers. Mr. Fregonese stated that the proposed capital budget is in line with the capital strategy and also that Administration's strategy is to utilize development charges where permitted to reduce the dependency on the use of debt and hold increases to the tax rate. Mr. Fregonese further stated that Government grants have been used for the 2009 capital budget with the goal being to do more capital with minimal debt and less impact on the tax rate.

Issue Papers.

ITEMS for DISCUSSION

Final Review of Issue Papers:

Parks Committee Request:

Moved by Councillor Sutton
Seconded by Councillor Fryer

That Council defer the Parks Committee budget request until 2010.

Deputy Mayor Bailey asked PWD the status of the Murray Street reconstruction. Tony DeThomasis, Roads and Parks Superintendent indicated that the project for Murray Street time line is spring to mid summer 2009 for start date. Deputy Mayor Bailey suggested deferral of the Murray Street beautification request until 2010 when the Murray Street construction is complete.

Councillor Sutton asked Mr. DeThomasis about the status of the Kayak Launch and signage for the trails that was brought before Council. Mr. DeThomasis indicated that these expenses are included in the normal maintenance budget.

Motion Carried.

Heritage Committee:

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Sutton

That Council approve \$2000.00 for the Heritage Committee for the 2009 budget year.

Motion Carried

AAAC Committee:

The AAAC Budget Item has been previously approved.

Councillor Renaud directed Administration to return the swing set to Toddy Jones Park that was temporarily moved to accommodate the Accessible Playground. Ron Dzombak, Manager of Recreation Services indicated that the supplier of the Accessible Playground has committed a new child swing set for installation at Toddy Jones Park and this is in process.

ACE Committee:

Moved by Councillor Pillon
Seconded by Councilor Renaud

That Council approve the budget request from ACE in the amount of \$2683.00.

Motion Carried

Councillor Fryer indicated that the Arena additional maintenance was previously approved in the amount of \$14,000.00 not \$28,000.00 as indicated in the budget documentation. Administration was directed to make this change.

Dog Catcher:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Fryer

That Council approve \$20,000 for dog catcher.

Councillor White indicated that the position and the contract should reflect the title of Animal Control Officer.

Councillor Pillon stated that administration would have no control over how many animals need to be captured if the title includes animal control.

Motion Carried

Capital Budget Review:

Moved by Councillor Pillon
Seconded by Councillor Fryer

That Council reduce the reserve to 25,000 for new fire station for 2009, and defer the balance of \$25,000 over the next 5 years at the rate of \$5000 per year.

Richard Murray, Fire Chief explained that the recommendation of the Master Fire Plan was to begin a reserve for replacement of the two older fire stations and the amount was formulated at that time. Chief Murray indicated that the estimated costs of the fire hall is one million to be spent within 10 years; the goal was to come up with half the cost to decrease the burden placed on the Town.

Councillor Sutton – agree with Councillor Pillon – now penciling 2010 – 12 the make up for that.

Mayor Hurst indicated that the problem we have is that Council does not make up the difference. Mayor Hurst also stated that the figure is strategically placed under a particular formula and realize that it will cost the Town at some point in time.

Motion is carried

War of 1812

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Sutton

That Council approve \$35,000 for the War of 1812.

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Renaud
Seconded by Councillor Fryer

That Council direct Administration to allocate \$20,000 of the \$32,000 reserve in the 2009 budget to repair the drainage at the Tourist Booth.

Discussion:

Councillor Renaud indicated that a trail system from Essex to Amherstburg will end at the Visitor Information Centre and Council should attend to the needs there.

Mayor Hurst requested a verbal update regarding the required work.

Tony DeThomasis, Parks and Roads Superintendent indicated that excavation, installation of weeping tile, installation of sump pump and replacement of porch and accessible ramp were necessary.

Motion Carried

Deputy Mayor Bailey directed administration to report back to Council with further options for the Visitor Information Centre including the potential to move to the Gordon House.

Recreation:

Council requested an explanation regarding the recreation programming reserve of \$406,000.

Pamela Malott, CAO indicated this was money put aside for possible acquisition of other recreation land currently under way.

Councillor Pillon requested explanation for the purchase of a pick up and snow plow. Ron Dzombak indicated that the Arena staff will assist with maintenance of ball diamonds and sports fields as well as snow removal.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Sutton

That Council approve the Recreation Budget in the amount of \$447,000.00.

Discussion:

Councillor Pillon requested the mover consider a reduction in the amount budgeted for the truck to \$20,000.

Councillor Sutton stated this investment in equipment would provide savings on snow removal and increased customer service.

Motion carried

Police Department:

Moved by Councillor Fryer
Seconded by Councillor Sutton

That Council approve \$292,500 for the Police Department Capital Budget.

Motion Carried

Council directed Administration to provide Council with a report if at any time Council's direction is changed.

Councillor Pillon directed Administration to put more into the Tar and Chip Program.

Pam indicated that every item has been reduced as far as possible.

Deputy Mayor Bailey requested information regarding the Roads Need Study. Dwayne Grondin indicated that this study is an insurance requirement and needs to be updated on a regular basis and Legislation requires a review of bridges every 2 years. Dwayne Grondin indicated that \$20,000 would cover the cost for the bridge portion of the Roads Needs Study.

Moved by Councillor Sutton
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Bailey

That Council approve \$350,000 in 2009 for Thomas Road reconstruction including asphalt surface and swales.

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Sutton
Seconded by Councillor Pillon

That Council approve Murray Street Reconstruction from Sandwich Street to Dalhousie Street in the amount of \$315,000.

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Pillon
Seconded by Councillor Sutton

That Council approve upgrade traffic signalization at main intersections in the amount of \$75,000.

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Pillon
Seconded by Councillor White

That Council approve Dalhousie Street storm sewer phase 3 in the amount of \$250,000.

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Pillon
Seconded by Councillor Renaud

That Council rise and break for lunch at 12:13

Motion carried

Moved by Councillor Fryer
Seconded by Councillor Sutton

Council resume at 12:50

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Pillon
Seconded by Councillor Fryer

That Council direct administration to remove \$45,000.00 from the roads needs study and add this amount to the tar and chip program.

Discussion:

Councillor White suggested we reduce the budget by that 45,000.00 rather than add to the tar and chip program.

Councillor Sutton agrees to reduce the budget by 45,000.00

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Pillon
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Bailey

That Council reconsider the motion

Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Sutton
Seconded by Councillor White

That Council direct administration to use the \$45,000.00 moved from the Roads Needs Study to fund \$14,000. for the War of 1812, \$3,500. for Navy Yard Flower Beds and \$9,600. for Co-An Park lawn mower request.

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Sutton
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Bailey

That Council approve Bridge over ONG Drain - 5th Concession and South Side Replace existing Concession bridge w/concrete box culvert structure in the amount of \$90,000

Motion Carried

Councillor Fryer indicated that the Texas Road resurfacing number is incorrect and directed Administration to correct the figure.

Moved by Councillor Renaud
Seconded by Councillor Sutton

That Council approve purchase of Unit 113 - 1989 Street Sweeper

Motion carried

Council directed Administration to provide a report regarding the options for disposal of the current street sweeper and continued use of the equipment as a back up.

Councillor Fryer requested Administration to research availability and pricing with respect to a dual purpose street sweep/leaf collection truck when purchasing this new vehicle.

Moved by Councillor Renaud
Seconded by Councillor Whit

That Council defer the Laird St. from North St. to Elm – replace street lights in the amount of \$35,000 to 2010 and moving the 2010 budget amount to 2011.

Mr. Fregonese indicated this action will reduce the amount being debentured.

Motion carried

Moved by Councillor Sutton
Seconded by Councillor White

That Council approve the Larry Bauer Park servicing in the amount of \$288,000 contingent on the approval of the Build Canada Intake 1 Application.

Motion carried

Moved by Councillor Renaud
Seconded by Councillor Fryer

That Council approve \$81,000. Kings Navy Yard Park remove perimeter flower beds replace with paving stones.

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Fryer
Seconded by Councillor Sutton

That Council approve lighting for Purdie Park in the amount of \$8,000.

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Pillon
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Bailey

That Council approve Lighting for Beaudoin Park in the amount of \$10,000.

Motion Carried

Council directed Administration to investigate the possibility of using the \$20,000 reserves for Dalhousie St. to offset these costs.

Moved by Councillor Pillon
Seconded by Councillor Renaud

That Council approve the Co-An Park lawn mower in the amount of \$9,600 with this amount to be funded through provincial surplus grant.

Motion carried

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Fryer

That Council approve the Zero turn grass cutting mower in the amount of \$20,000.

Councillor Pillon asked Tony DeThomasis if the intent was to use students or regular staff on this piece of equipment through the summer. Mr. DeThomasis indicated that PWD use one full time staff to run larger pieces of equipment and smaller equipment is being run by students.

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Renaud

That Council approve the Gator type vehicle for PWD maintenance in Parks including KNYF in the amount of \$17,000.

Motion carried

Mr. Fregonese will send out an electronic email with respect to the finalized version of the tax rate.

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Sutton

That Council approve the Building Reserve in the amount of \$11,786 to be used toward facility major repairs or future facility construction (20,000 earmarked for drainage at tourism centre) and Capital Reserve General in the amount of \$31786.

Motion carried

Councillor Sutton asked the Budget Supervisor if a reserve will be established for Special Events to reduce potential losses due to poor weather conditions as per discussions at the Strategic Planning Session November 5th, 2008.

The Budget Supervisor indicated that a Draft Budget Document will be circulating to Council for debate at public session on Nov 25th.

Water and Waste Water:

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Pillon

That Council approve in principal all of the water/wastewater items be included in the draft budget that is to be presented to the public on Nov 25th;

And further that Terry Hearn be at a future council meeting to clarify the water and wastewater rates.

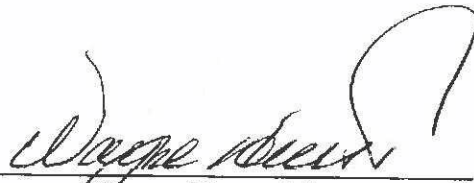
Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS


ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Sutton

That Council rise and adjourn at 2:35 P.M.



Wayne Hurst, Mayor



Pamela Malott, Clerk