

**AMHERSTBURG MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING – BUDGET SESSION
Thursday, October 29, 2009**

Held at Council Chambers Beginning at 9:00 A.M.

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 John Sutton
Councillor Rosa White

ALSO PRESENT:

Pamela Malott, Chief Administrative Office
Carol Bendo, Human Resources Manager
Paul Beneteau, Treasurer
Tony DeThomasis, Roads and Parks Superintendent
Ron Dzombak, Manager of Recreation Services
Ivano Fregonese, Supervisor of Budget Services
Anne Rota, Tourism Officer
Lou Zarlenga, Manager of Public Services

ABSENT WITH NOTICE:

Councillor Paul Renaud
Sarah Cochrane, Recreation Programming Assistant (Town Business)
Brenda Percy, Manager of Council & Leg. Services/Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

PRESENTATION

Ivano Fregonese, Supervisor of Budget Services provided a recap of the meeting held October 28, 2009.

15. Review of Environmental Services Operational Budget

Moved by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Sutton

That Council receive the Environmental Services Budget.

Motion Carried

Discussions:

Lou Zarlenga stated that costs may change if service changes in any other way.

Ivano Fregonese commented that it could be put in a contingency fund should any changes take place.

Lou Zarlenga indicated that Public Works will need another few weeks to get a review completed.

Mayor Hurst spoke to the Christmas Tree pick-up.

21. Review of Parks and Grounds Maintenance Operational Budget

Moved by Councillor Fryer
Seconded by Councillor Pillon

That Council receive the Parks and Grounds Budget.

And further that IT and Treasury work together to do a report to Council on telephone/cell costs and history over the past few years and estimate for 2010.

Motion Carried

Discussions:

Ivan Fregonese commented that this is formerly part of the Public Works Department Budget.

Councillor White asked for an update on River Canard Park

Councillor White asked about the Kingsbridge Park increase.

Lou Zarlenga responded that the increase is for grass cutting.

Councillor White commented on maintenance spending on Parks. She asked Lou Zarlenga if the maintenance costs will remain the same year to year.

Councillor Pillon asked about security and costs.

Councillor White asked for clarification on the Tax Stability Fund \$900,000.

Ivan Fregonese gave an explanation in detail on the Tax Stability Fund that it is a reserve to be used for any deficits/surpluses and to be replenished annually. There were several sources related to some excess funds.

Councillor Sutton asked if there were formal parameters around the Tax Stability Fund for use.

Ivan Fregonese replied that the Tax Stability Fund is utilized as part of normal cash flow.

Ron Dzombak replied that it's a monitored alarm system and we have had incidences in the past.

Deputy Mayor Bailey asked about the rate of interest on the deficit and asked if it was a floating interest.

Ivan Fregonese responded that it is 3-4% and it is the average on our operating line throughout the year.

Councillor White commented on security breaches and asked if the codes are changed at the end of each boating season.

Ron Dzombak replied that they will this year when the Marina is winterized.

Councillor Pillon if the interest on the deficit is shown separately.

Ivan Fregonese commented that it's not a paper deficit because we are paying this on our operating line.

22. Review of Arena Operational Budget

Moved by Councillor White

Seconded by Councillor Pillon

That Council receive the Arena Budget.

Motion Carried

Discussions:

Councillor Pillon questioned the overtime and part-time budget overages.

Ron Dzombak responded that detail will be brought to Council with explanation on overtime worked.

Councillor White stated that if the splash pad operates when the user activates it, why can't it be used full time in June and be used in September.

Ron Dzombak answered that in the Month of June, the park is utilized by High School Students.

Mayor Hurst directed that Recreation Service talk to the School Board.

Councillor White indicated that the objective be to extend the season for the benefit of the Community.

18. Review of Cultural Services Operational Budget

Moved by Councillor Sutton
Seconded by Councillor White

That Council receive the Cultural Services Budget.

Motion Carried

Discussions:

Councillor Fryer inquired about the fees paid previously and now going out for janitorial services.

Ron Dzombak commented that fees were transferred into the recreation programming which is now Sarah's position.

Councillor White asked if a change was made for improvements.

Ron Dzombak responded that it was a benefit for the Seniors Group.

Deputy Mayor suggested to merge the McGregor Library and Amherstburg Library reserve into one.

Councillor Pillon inquired the status of the old Fire Truck that had gone to Western High School to be painted.

Pamela Malott stated that Brenda will follow-up and report back to Council.

Summary comments were made on the operation expenditures by Pamela Malott, CAO. Council can take an option of going back to various departments and ask them to re-look at their numbers; we could take an approach of insisting that everyone reduce operational areas by certain percentages. The largest one we could affect to reduce the base budget is a reduction in our transfer to reserves. Pamela Malott stated she's looking for direction from Council.