

Minutes of the Amherstburg Municipal Council Budget Meeting held April 1, 2004.

PRESENT:

Mayor Wayne Hurst
Deputy Mayor Anthony Leardi
Councillor Robert Bailey
Councillor Gord Freeman
Councillor Carl Gibb
Councillor Paul Renaud
Councillor Rosa White

ALSO PRESENT:

Hilary Payne, CAO
Paul Beneteau, Treasurer
Dave Carpenter, Information Technology
Lou Zarlenga, Public Services Manager
Cory Gabriel, Public Services Manager
Lory Bratt, Planning Coordinator
Wendy St. Amour – Essex County I.T. Manager
Ralph Barnwell, Recreation Facilities Mgr (Report #3 only)

Moved by P. Renaud, seconded by R. Bailey that minutes of the Council Budget meeting of March 25, 2004 be adopted.

Motion Carried

Report #1

A Power Point presentation on GIS was made by Lou Zarlenga and Wendy St. Amour and hard copies were distributed to the Mayor and Council.

A question and answer session followed.

Report #2

Hilary Payne and Paul Beneteau presented a report advising that the updated budget document as circulated to Council reflects 3% increase to the tax rate as directed at the March 25th Budget Meeting.

Deputy Mayor Leardi enquired as to the additional expenditures that would be permitted by increasing the tax rate increase from zero to 3% and the Treasurer responded that although there is proposed to be additional tax revenues generated, the non-tax revenues have not increased by the same proportion as the expenditures compared to 2003. He further stated that an additional amount of \$412,000 has been included in the Capital Budget for the Police Service Radio Communication System which had been added since the last budget session.

It was noted that another round of reductions in the order of \$300,000 would be necessary to achieve a zero tax rate increase.

Moved by A. Leardi, seconded by P. Renaud that the budget be adjusted to provide a zero tax rate increase.

Motion Lost

Councillor Bailey noted that continuous financial monitoring of expenditures would be necessary and he requires quarterly financial reports.

The Treasurer confirmed that the budget contained funds for nonunion staff receiving the same increase as unionized staff and also for the increase in hours worked. (Expenditure of both the latter have not been approved as yet by the Personnel committee).

Councillor Bailey noted that \$200,000 for the Public Works Building and \$30,000 for the LACAC Heritage Study was in reserves but not approved to be expended.

Moved by A. Leardi, seconded by R. Bailey that the budget be adjusted to achieve no increase in General debt.

Motion Carried

The Mayor noted that discussion on the 2005 Budget should take place this fall.

Moved by C. Gibb, seconded by R. Bailey that the proposed budget as distributed to Council for 2004 be approved.

Motion Carried

Moved by A. Leardi, seconded by R. White that Council adjourn for five minutes.

Motion Carried

Moved by A. Leardi, seconded by R. White that Council go In-Camera for a Personnel issue.

Motion Carried

Report #3

Hilary Payne and Ralph Barnwell presented a report regarding Arena staffing and budget

Deputy Mayor Leardi enquired if three employees were needed during the summer and Ralph Barnwell responded in the affirmative with particular reference to the need for painting and equipment maintenance during the non ice period in May and June and also vacations.

Deputy Mayor Leardi emphasized that management has the final authority on when vacations can be taken and too many on vacation at the same time should be avoided.

The Mayor enquired why the third employee does not have a refrigeration certificate and Ralph Barnwell responded that the person was not interested in acquiring the qualification.

Councillor White enquired are fulltime employees working in the canteen and Ralph Barnwell responded that this only happened occasionally.

Councillor Renaud emphasized that the employee hired should be an Amherstburg resident.

Moved by P. Renaud, seconded by C. Gibb that the following recommendations from Ralph's report be approved.

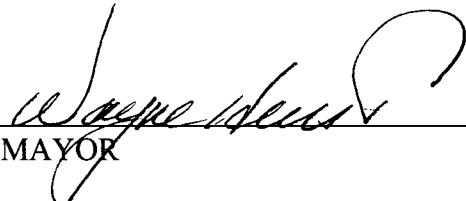
1. Advertise and hire an individual while this employee is off due to illness. This position would be temporary fulltime in nature and not considered to be part time. The required individual would work from April until the return of the fulltime employee. The individual must be capable of replacing the employee and taking part in a regular schedule with the two remaining fulltime employees.
2. Notify the union and confirm this temporary position due to the absence of the regular employee.
3. The rate of pay for the individual should be at least \$14.00 per hour with consideration of an increase due to additional experience and or qualifications e.g. Refrigeration certificate.

Motion Carried


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Moved by A. Leardi, seconded by R. Bailey that the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried



MAYOR



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER