

**Minutes of an Amherstburg Municipal Council
Special Meeting Regarding the 2008 Budget
Held At 6:30pm in Council Chambers
On Wednesday, February 13, 2008**

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:

Frank Pizzuto, Chief Administrative Officer
Carol Bendo, Human Resources Specialist/Deputy Clerk
Paul Beneteau, Treasurer
Stephen Brown, CBO
Lory Bratt, Planning Coordinator
Ron Dzombak, Manager of Recreational Services
Ivan Fregonese, Supervisor Budget Services
Pam Malott, Mgr. of Corporate & Leg. Services/Clerk
Antonio Marra, GIS Analyst
Randy Sinasac, Deputy Fire Chief
Lou Zarlenga, Public Works Manager

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

WELCOME FROM MAYOR HURST

Mayor Hurst welcomed all those in attendance.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

No conflicts of pecuniary interest needed to be disclosed.

PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED BUDGET

Paul Beneteau, Treasurer and Ivan Fregonese, Supervisor Budget Services, made a presentation to Council and the Public regarding the Proposed 2008 Operating and Capital Budget.

DELEGATIONS

Mayor Hurst opened up the public meeting to members in the audience to provide their comments, concerns and ideas to Council.

Delegation #1

Gordon Freeman addressed Council regarding the need to eliminate the fire area rating tax this year. Mr. Freeman stated that 70% of callouts for Station #2 are for highway accidents as indicated by the consultant's Fire Study. Mr. Freeman wants Council to eliminate the tax in 2008 and not phase it out over two years as currently proposed.

Mayor Hurst stated that phasing is proposed in order to mitigate the impact to all the other residents.

Deputy Mayor Bailey wanted to clarify that the callouts for incidents/accidents for 2007, 2006 and 2005 is closer to 25% as provided by actual static reports. Having said that, the accident calls for Station #2 are triple that of the other two stations.

Gord Freeman also asked Administration to identify the revenue for Special Events and Tourism such as the Caravan.

Mr. Pizzuto informed the group that the cost of hosting the Caravan is \$6,000 however the Caravan generated economic activity of \$45,000 to restaurants and retail. That is a direct benefit only. The indirect/induced benefit would add to this dollar amount.

Mr. Freeman feels that these events should be self sustaining and generating revenue.

Delegation #2

Debbie Renaud addressed Council regarding the need to eliminate the fire area rating tax in the 2008 budget and not over two years. Ms. Renaud provided a copy of her speech along with a petition signed by 70 residents agreeing with this elimination and these documents form and are a part of these minutes.

Delegation #3

Ron Meloche, firefighter from Station #2, addressed Council regarding the need to eliminate the fire area rating tax in the 2008 budget.

Delegation #4

Joe Varacalli addressed Council regarding the increase to his property taxes. They have increased over 16% in the last 3 years and over 8% this year. He agrees with all tax increases for all infrastructure work that was mandated by the province and necessary for the Town to be in compliance.

Mr. Varacalli requests a breakdown of the Tourism / Special Events Initiative Program and what percentage of the new tax increase this initiative is taking.

Mr. Pizzuto replied that the increase is 0.71%. The Special Events and Tourism Portfolio is one of the three pillars identified in our economic development strategy. Council and

Administration identified special events and tourism as the best short term/medium term solution to increasing economic activity in Town. Mr. Pizzuto will be happy to provide the business case to Mr. Varacalli along with the breakdown.

Mr. Varacalli has a concern from Monday night's (February 11th) meeting regarding other Councillors thinking that being against MIII funding was only Councillor Fryer's concern for Texas Road and not for other road infrastructure as a whole. He asked Council and Administration that how can they expect people to go to the Recreational Facility and spend money considering that the economic outlook is sluggish and people are losing jobs. He asked that Council and Administration reconsider their direction with the MIII fund application and state with that application our true needs for this Town.

Mr. Varacalli thanked Public Works for cleaning the snowfall off of our roads these last few weeks on a timely basis.

Delegation #5

Ray Bezaire stated that from the Chamber point of view they want to commend the Town on the Special Events/Tourism and Economic Development initiative. In times of a economic downturn you need to look to the future and these initiatives will produce benefits going forward.

Councillor Fryer asked how the Chamber could help to fund this initiative considering this position is trying to help out businesses?

Mr. Bezaire stated that the Chamber is not looking to the Town to develop and build businesses but just work with them and support them with initiatives that they need as a group to fund. The Chamber has, over the past year, done a lot with bringing people together to Special Events and members in higher political offices to take a look at the Town. Mr. Bezaire stated that Leamington has over 60 tour buses booked this summer due to the Economic Development/Tourism position that they had implemented.

Delegation #6

Diane Pouget addressed Council regarding Council's intention for Lowes Side Road and asked if it will be included in this budget. The section of Lowes Side Road between Sandwich and Dalhousie Streets had six water breaks and the Town neglected to put back between 12"-16" of the roadway in certain areas. This prevents two vehicles from being on the road at the same time in certain sections which causes cars to go over yards and for potential accidents with pedestrians to occur. Request is to have Council have the 12"-16" of the roadway put back.

Delegation #7

Dave Punga addressed Council regarding petitioning a sponsorship/donation from the Town of Amherstburg for the Sears National Kids Cancer Ride. This is the world's longest, greatest, most rewarding charity cycling adventure in support of kids living with and beyond cancer. The ride stretches 7,600km from a beach in Vancouver to the coast of Halifax. Mr. Punga provided Council with a brochure and this document forms and is a part of these minutes.

Delegation #8

Gerry Bezaire addressed Council regarding the history of the capital projects that resulted in the \$8.7 million debt.

Mr. Pizzuto informed Gerry and all in attendance that a 1% tax increase equates to \$120,000 in the Town. The three bridges that needed to be repaired cost \$3million and these funds needed to be borrowed; the sewer separation on St.Arnaud (roads and sidewalks only have to be covered by general tax which cost \$900,000); any road or sidewalk work that was done and funds were not available for the Town borrow ed these funds.

Mr. Bezaire wanted to know how we are going to get out of this debt.

Mr. Pizzuto informed the group that, going forward, on a yearly basis council was looking at a \$3 million debt for infrastructure and this has been changed to \$500,000 per year. This does not mean the Town will be completing only \$500,000 worth of work but rather that we will look to grants, permanent grants and utilize the gas tax for the funding and only borrow \$500,000. Currently our general rate of debt is 8.5% of total expenditures and by 2017 that debt will be down to 3.5% which is a reasonable amount.

Closing Remarks

Mayor Hurst added that addressing the inequity that relates to our infrastructure will be completed over the next few years. Fryer St. and particularly Murray St. were discussed regarding the completion of our storm sewer separations (separating storm water from our wastewater) which before had the stormwater being treated unnecessarily but now only the wastewater will be directed to our wastewater treatment facility and the stormwater will be sent directly into the Detroit River.

Residents need to understand that money is in the development of a community to ensure we increase our tax base and not our taxes. One way to do this is through Special Events.

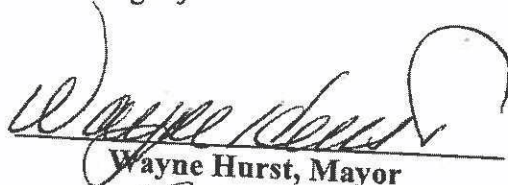
Mayor Hurst, on behalf of Council, thanked all residents for attending and that all of their comments are appreciated and will be considered.

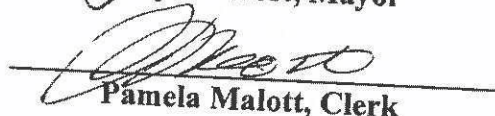
NOTICE OF MOTION

No notices of motion were provided.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.


Wayne Hurst, Mayor


Pamela Malott, Clerk

February 13, 2008

Dear Mayor, Council and Administration

Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. I ask you to please have the area rating special fire tax be brought to an end now. I see no reason to have a 2 year delay. Yes, there is a tough economic climate but why does the former Anderdon Township have to deal with this alone. Chief Murray has told Council that the full time firefighters at station 2 do considerable work for the core of Amherstburg. So how could this be fair?

This is the last service that I know of that is separated. Let's bring this to an end now.

Some members of Council in the past have asked residents of Amherstburg to move forward. Move to bringing Amherstburg to its best and stop the negative words. How does Council ever expect this to happen when this tax is extremely unfair?

I ask this Council to please become a leader in this town and bring the community together as one. I believe distributing the area rating tax to the whole Town of Amherstburg will make us equal in the tax base.

I have brought to you signatures from residents who completely agree with the area rating tax to be eliminated in the 2008 budget.

Thank you,

Debbie Renaud

Reasons for Area Rating Elimination

- Full time firefighters at stn. #2 repair and maintain equipment for all three stations
- Full time firefighters conduct mandatory fit tests for all three stations
- Full time fighters conduct system checks for emergency notification system
- Full time firefighters prepare operations centre in case of emergency
- Without Full time fighters the response times for stn. #2 would increase dramatically, and it is a cost that the whole newly formed Amherstburg should have absorbed right from day one of amalgamation, and not levied against the tax payers from the old Anderdon.

We, the undersigned ask Amherstburg Council to repeal their decision on the 2 year phase in area rating special fire tax and eliminate it IMMEDIATELY.

Print Name	Address	Phone #	Signature
Philip Lefrancois	Walker Rd. A'burg	519-819-7794	Philip Lefrancois
Shelley Lefrancois	Walker Rd. A'burg	519-819-7794	Shelley Lefrancois
Doreen Braudoin	6614 Con6 A'burg	519-726-6496	Doreen Braudoin
Doug Braudoin	6614 Con6 A'burg	519-726-6496	Doug Braudoin
DOROTHY SIMONE	6582 CON6 A'BURG	519-726-5175	Dorothy Simone
Albert Simone	4582 6th. Conc. A'burg	726-5175	Albert Simone
BRIAN BRAUDOIN	6584 6TH N A'BURG	726-5218	Brian Braudoin
Michael Braudoin	6584 6th N A'burg	726-5218	Michael Braudoin
Kim Braudoin	6584 6th Concession A'burg	519-726-5218	Kim Braudoin
Laura Braudoin	6584 6th Con. A'burg	519-726-5218	Laura Braudoin
Kelly Braudoin	6584 6th Con. A'burg	519-726-5218	Kelly Braudoin
Jeanne Raymond	8850 Northside Rd. M'burg	519-726-6525	Jeanne Raymond
RENE RAYMOND	8850 NORTHSIDE RD	(519) 726-6525	Rene Raymond
Lyle SHERLEY	6595 6 th Conc A'burg	519-726-6571	Lyle Shepley
GAIL SHERLEY	6595 6 th Conc A'burg	519-726-6571	Gail Shepley
ELLA BOTSFORD	6579 6 th Conc A'burg	519-726-5238	Ella Botsford
VALERIE SIMONE	766 CONC. 2 RD.	519-736-4504	Valerie Simone
JOHN SIMONE	766 CONC. 2 RD	519-736-4504	John Simone
ROSE-MARIE McISAAC	222 S. Riverview DR	519-734-7741	Rose Marie Mc Isaac
RACHEL DIGIOVANNI	2561 Middle Side Rd.	519-736-5914	R. Di Giovanni
SANTI DIGIOVANNI	2561 Middle Side Rd.	519-736-5914	S. Di Giovanni

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Print Name	Address	Phone #	Signature
PENNY VELDHIUS	8105 M ^c GREGOR CRT.	519-726-9128	P. Veldhius
Don Johnston	7070 Eagle	519-726-7576	Don Johnston
Gerald Boussey	9594 Walker M ^c Gregor	726-6720	Gerald Boussey
Madeleine Boussey	9594 Walker M ^c Gregor	726-6720	Madeleine Boussey
Michael Boussey	9628 Walker M ^c Gregor	726-5203	Michael Boussey
James Boussey	9628 Walker M ^c Gregor	726-5203	James Boussey
ROSEMARY CHARETTE	8106 Mcgregor CRT.	726-0662	Rosemary Charette
DELLA WILSON	8106 Mcgregor CRT.	726-7619	Della Wilson
Susan M ^c Guire	8662 Con 8 M ^c Gregor	726-5312	Susan M ^c Guire
Al M ^c Guire	8662 Con 8 M ^c Gregor	726-5312	Al M ^c Guire
Bernard M ^c Guire	8674 Con 8 M ^c Gregor	726-6069	Bernard M ^c Guire
Tammy Ostraw	9596 Walker Rd. M ^c Gregor	726-5558	Tammy Ostraw
RICHARD PRIEUR	8968 8 th Con. M ^c Gregor	726-6992	Richard Prieur
PAT PRIEUR	8968 8 th Con. M ^c Gregor	726-6992	Pat Prieur
Debbie Renaud	5590 Con 5 A ^b urg	736-3123	Debbie Renaud
Ernie Renaud	5590 Con 5 A ^b urg	736-3123	Ernie Renaud
Leonard Amlin	5790 Alma, A ^b urg	726-5083	Leonard Amlin
Yvonne Amlin	5750 Alma, A ^b urg	726-5083	Yvonne Amlin
John Simone	6085 6 th Con A ^b ers	726-4485	John Simone

volunteer

Volunteers make the wheels go 'round.

Organize. Support. Inspire.

Volunteers are the hub of this fundraising event. Your contribution of enthusiasm, time and skills will build a strong event for the childhood cancer charities supported by the Sears National Kids Cancer Ride. A wide range of skills are required so if you have a few hours, or a few weeks to help out, we'd appreciate hearing from you!

Find out more today by visiting the web site at www.nationalkidscancerride.com or contacting us at 1.866.381.4446.



donate

Crank it up.

As much as we all love to ride our bikes, the true measure of our success will be the amount of donations that are raised for programs that help kids overcome the burden of cancer. Whether you ride or not, please donate or pledge a rider.

Our organization is primarily a volunteer-based organization and does not use professional fundraisers. Thus, the vast majority of donations go directly to the supported charities. Make a donation or find out additional ways to increase your contribution by visiting the web site at www.nationalkidscancerride.com or contacting us at 1-866-381-4446.

On behalf of all doctors and health care professionals working in the field of childhood cancer care in Canada, I give my full support to this tremendous initiative and applaud all those that contribute by riding, fundraising, volunteering and, especially, donating to improve the quality of life for our children with cancer.

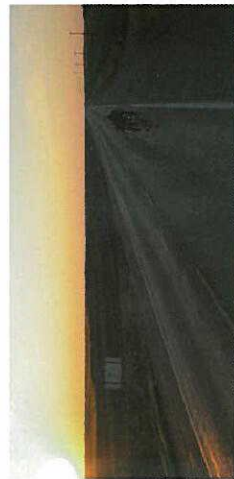
Dr. Victor Blanchette,
Head of Pediatric Oncology
Hospital for Sick Children

sponsor

Put your company at the front of the pack!

An array of national and regional sponsorship packages are available now. Visit the website or call 1.866.381.4446 to secure association with this high profile marketing and goodwill opportunity.

The goal of the Sears National Kids Cancer Ride is to maximize donations to the supported charities. To this end, we keep overhead costs low, maximize the use of volunteers, and rely on corporate sponsorships to offset event costs. If your organization can help with a financial or in-kind contribution we would love to hear from you!



For more information
Nationalkidscancerride.com
1.866.381.4446



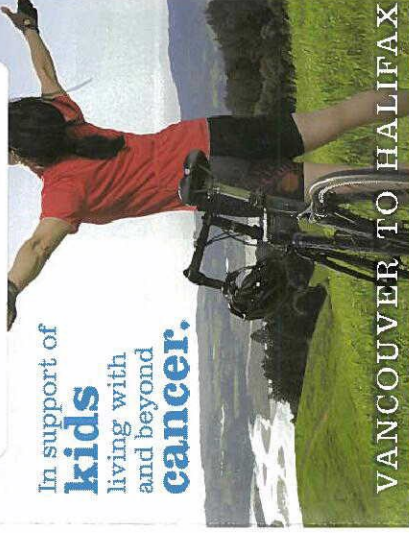
JUNE 2008



The world's longest, greatest, most rewarding charity cycling adventure.

Delegation #7 - Dave Punga

In support of **kids** living with and beyond **cancer.**



VANCOUVER TO HALIFAX

Nationalkids cancerride.com

the cause

Helping kids feel like kids again.

At any given time, 10,000 Canadian children are caught in the grip of cancer. The rigour of cancer treatment tests the courage of these brave children. It rabs them, and their families, of the laughter and joy that should be part of every childhood.

The *Sears National Kids Cancer Ride* is a way for you to channel your physical, mental and emotional energy towards enriching the quality of life for Canadian children burdened with this devastating disease, the leading cause of non-accidental death of Canadian children.

Funds raised through this event will be shared between Canada's 17 pediatric oncology hospitals and charitable organizations dedicated to improving the quality of life for children living with and beyond cancer.

With each kilometer you pedal, you'll find strength knowing that funds raised help bring a smile, friendship and happiness to thousands of young cancer heroes across our great country.



Spread the joy of childhood by riding your bike in the Sears National Kids Cancer Ride or by signing on as a volunteer, a donor and/or a sponsor.

the event

Cyclists helping kids. Kids inspiring cyclists.

The *Sears National Kids Cancer Ride* stretches 7,600km from a beach in Vancouver to the coast of Halifax.

A group of 100 cyclists will travel the entire distance in 19 days—at times they will take turns riding around the clock. At other times they'll ride in unison from town to town. Along the way, thousands more cyclists, of all abilities, will join the national cyclists for a day or just a few hours—all to make a difference in the fight against childhood cancer. The route visits many of Canada's 17 pediatric cancer centres where the cancer community will share inspiring stories of strength and hope with cyclists and the media.

Register today then use your passion for cycling to spread compassion for Canadian children caught in the tireless fight against cancer.

ride options

Grab your bike and ride!

National Cyclists- A limited number of spots are available for this fully-supported adventure that winds 7,600km from coast to coast in just 19 days! If you'd like to be part of this unique experience, complete the application available through the web site.

Regional Cyclists- Join the thousands of cyclists that will stream onto the roads during the series of 1-day Regional Rides that link the country along portions of the national route. Choose your distance, from 25-200km. To locate the Regional Ride nearest you, visit the web site.

Community Rides- Your entire family can take part in a community ride happening close to home. Watch the web site in the coming months.

coaching

Be ready to face the challenge.

All **National Cyclists** will be offered pre-event coaching, nutrition and conditioning seminars conducted by the training sponsor, Can-Fit-Pro, world leaders in wellness, fitness instruction and certification. Working on-line or in person, a Can-Fit-Pro trainer will help cyclists of all abilities get to the start line prepared so they finish with a smile.



www.canfitpro.com

To help with preparation, all cyclists receive a Training Manual containing tips and techniques as well as discounts on fitness programs at a variety of clubs.

Participants and supporters of the Sears National Kids Cancer Ride should be applauded for the work they are doing across Canada to raise much-needed funds and awareness for the fight against cancer. The work they are doing on behalf of childhood cancer survivors and their families is admirable and we commend them for their passion and commitment.

Lance Armstrong
and the Lance Armstrong Foundation



Produced by the Coast to Coast Against Cancer Foundation. Supporting the fight against childhood cancer across Canada.

Find out more at

Nationalkidscanceride.com



Join the ride, change your life and change the lives of Canadian kids living with cancer.