



Special Council Minutes

February 5, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers
Whitby Town Hall

Present: Mayor Roy
Councillor Bozinovski
Councillor Cardwell
Councillor Leahy
Councillor Lee
Councillor Lundquist
Councillor Mulcahy
Councillor Shahid
Councillor Yamada

Also Present: M. Gaskell, Chief Administrative Officer
M. Hickey, Fire Chief
S. Klein, Director of Strategic Initiatives
J. Long, Head of Organizational Effectiveness
J. Romano, Commissioner of Community Services
F. Santaguida, Commissioner of Legal and Enforcement
Services/Town Solicitor
R. Saunders, Commissioner of Planning and Development
F. Wong, Commissioner of Financial Services/Treasurer
M. Dodge, Executive Advisor to the Mayor
C. Harris, Town Clerk
K. Narraway, Sr. Manager of Legislative Services/Deputy
Clerk (Recording Secretary)

1. Call To Order: The Mayor

The meeting commenced at 7:10 p.m. due to the Special Council Meeting held prior to the meeting.

2. Call of the Roll: The Clerk

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Mayor Roy declared a conflict of interest regarding Item 4.1, 2024 Budget Overview, noting that she has a family member employed as a summer student with the Town of Whitby. Mayor Roy did not take part in the discussion of matters relating to summer student employment.

4. Public Meeting - 2024 Operating and Capital Budget

Councillor Shahid, Chair of Finance, provided opening remarks regarding the 2024 Budget and explained the purpose of the Budget Public Meeting.

4.1 Presentation - 2024 Budget Overview

F. Wong, Commissioner of Financial Services/Treasurer

F. Wong, Commissioner of Financial Services/Treasurer provided a presentation regarding the 2024 Proposed Budget Overview. Highlights of the presentation included:

- an outline of the 2024 budget process, timelines, and community feedback;
- next steps, including considering the budget at the Special Council Meeting on February 15, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.;
- details about engagement and participation related to the 2024 budget;
- an overview of the participatory budget process and how residents voted to allocate funds;
- building the budget to consider community priorities, plans, and guiding goals and principles;
- details about the Whitby housing pledge to develop 18,000 new homes by 2031;
- inflationary impacts affecting the Town and an overview of the consumer price index;
- infrastructure investments included in the budget to keep infrastructure in a state of good repair;
- decision items included in the budget including new programs, investments related to the Community Strategic Plan, workforce planning, and new Staff requests;
- details about assessment growth and user fees increases;

- capital budget funding sources including development charges and the asset management reserve fund;
- initiatives planned for Downtown Whitby including an enhanced Community Improvement Plan, planning for a new downtown event, and various economic development initiatives;
- proposed investments in parks, trails, roads, bridges, and traffic safety initiatives;
- proposed investments for land for a new fire station in West Whitby, asset management projects, electric vehicle charging stations, Housing Accelerator Fund projects, and the Whitby Sports Complex;
- details about the Zero Carbon Whitby plan, carbon budgeting, and an overall decrease in emissions proposed through the initiatives in the 2024 budget;
- programs available to support residents including tax rebate programs, the Access Program for Recreation, and the Tax Deferral Program for Seniors;
- the impact of the Town's proposed budget increase on the average residential property tax bill; and,
- an overview of the proposed property tax increases for municipalities in Durham Region and throughout the Greater Toronto Area.

4.2 Delegations

4.2.1 Thyagi DeLanerolle, Resident (In-Person Attendance)

Re: Public Meeting - 2024 Operating and Capital Budget

Thyagi DeLanerolle, Resident, appeared before Council, noting that she is the president of Durham Standard Condominium Corporation 301. Ms. DeLanerolle expressed her support for Decision Item # 44, Waste Collection Services on Private Residential Property. She indicated that waste collection services on private residential property should be provided by the Town and that this would build a stronger community and provide environmental benefits.

A brief question and answer period ensued between Members of Council and Ms. DeLanerolle where she advised that the

Condominium Board for Durham Standard Condominium Corporation 301 was agreeable to the Town's insurance requirements for receiving waste collection.

4.2.2 Ashley Collins, Resident (Virtual Attendance)

Re: Public Meeting - 2024 Operating and Capital Budget

Ashley Collins, Resident, appeared before Council and requested that widening of the Dryden culvert be advanced and included in the 2024 budget. She expressed concerns with the existing culvert including concerns about the potential for flooding in the area.

A brief question and answer period ensued between Members of Council and Ms. Collins about if flooding has occurred on her property in the past. Ms. Collins indicated that flooding has occurred on her property, but not in her home, and that the culvert continued to function during these events.

4.2.3 George Gadanidis, Resident (In-Person Attendance)

Re: Public Meeting - 2024 Operating and Capital Budget

George Gadanidis, Resident, appeared before Council and requested that widening of the Dryden culvert be advanced and included in the 2024 budget. Mr. Gadanidis expressed concerns with the existing culvert including concerns about the potential for flooding in the area. Mr. Gadanidis noted that there was fencing along the sides of Dryden Boulevard above the culvert, which could exacerbate flooding concerns. He indicated that a previous Town study noted the need for replacement of the culvert.

A question and answer period ensued between Members of Council and Mr. Gadanidis regarding:

- the previous Town studies related to the Dryden culvert;
- flooding that has occurred on Mr. Gadanidis' property and confirmation from the delegate that major flooding has not occurred; and,
- the difficulty of removing fencing along Dryden Boulevard as pedestrians, including children walk along the street regularly.

4.2.4 Mike Palachik, President, Pickering Professional Firefighters Association (In-Person Attendance)

Re: Public Meeting - 2024 Operating and Capital Budget

Mike Palachik, President, Pickering Professional Firefighters Association, appeared before Council and requested that Council advance the hiring of 20 firefighters as soon as possible, as opposed to 2025 pre-budget approval for hiring 10 firefighters as outlined in Decision Item # 14. Mr. Palachik indicated that the proposed staged hiring approach included in the budget could lead to safety concerns and delays responding to emergencies.

A brief question and answer period ensued between Members of Council and Mr. Palachik.

4.2.5 Jon Friel, President, Whitby Professional Firefighters Association (In-Person Attendance)

Re: Public Meeting - 2024 Operating and Capital Budget

Jon Friel, President, Whitby Professional Firefighters Association, appeared before Council and requested that Council advance the hiring of 20 firefighters as soon as possible, as opposed to 2025 pre-budget approval for hiring 10 firefighters as outlined in Decision Item # 14. Mr. Friel indicated that the Firefighters Association is not supportive of the proposed staged hiring of firefighters and noted that the Fire Master Plan outlines the need for a new truck. He advised that a new truck would provide service to West Whitby and the Town as a whole. Mr. Friel concluded his delegation by noting that the Town was the busiest fire department in the Region and urged Council to hire firefighters as soon as possible.

A question and answer period ensued between Members of Council and Mr. Friel regarding:

- the proposed timelines associated with the staged hiring of firefighters;
- past examples of staged hiring of firefighters in the Town and how other municipalities have adopted staged hiring;
- mutual aid provided by neighbouring municipalities; and,
- current and future investments in Whitby Fire and Emergency Services.

4.3 Question and Answer period between Members of Council and Staff

A question and answer period ensued between Members of Council and Staff regarding:

- phasing in waste collection services on private property over several budgets;
- the estimated \$10 million cost of replacing the Dryden culvert;
- timelines to replace the Anderson and Dryden culverts and monitoring and modeling that occurs in the area;
- confirmation from Staff that the Dryden culvert continues to operate as designed;
- lead times associated with providing waste collection services on private property, noting that the current wait time for a new garbage truck is approaching two years;
- receiving a report from Staff about the number of properties interested in waste collection services on private property and allocating funding based on interest at a later date;
- drawing on reserves to temporarily fund hiring of additional firefighters in 2025 and phasing the budget impact into the 2026 budget;
- challenges associated with onboarding a large number of firefighters at one time due to demand for certification courses and availability of qualified trainers;
- the potential benefits of multi-year budgeting and receiving an Education and Training session in the future about this model of budgeting;
- maintenance performed on culverts in the Town and bi-annual monitoring that occurs;
- how the Municipal Property and Assessment Corporation determines the assessed values of properties;
- impacts of Bill 23 on Town finances, noting that the primary impact has been related to parkland dedication; and,

- receiving additional background material from Staff about past reports and memorandums shared with Council regarding the Dryden culvert.

5. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Mulcahy

Seconded by Councillor Bozinovski

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

Christopher Harris, Town Clerk

Elizabeth Roy, Mayor