



## Special Council Minutes

January 29, 2024, 5:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers  
Whitby Town Hall

Present: Mayor Roy  
Councillor Bozinovski  
Councillor Cardwell (Virtual Attendance)  
Councillor Leahy  
Councillor Lee  
Councillor Lundquist  
Councillor Mulcahy (Arrived at 5:35 p.m.)  
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. Douglas, Sr. Legislative Specialist (Recording Secretary)

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1. Call To Order: The Mayor
  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 – Council Education Session, noting that her daughter will be 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. Presentations

Councillor Shahid, Chair of Finance, provided opening remarks regarding the proposed 2024 Budget.

##### 4.1 F. Wong, Commissioner of Financial Services/Treasurer

Re: 2024 Budget - Council Education Session

F. Wong, Commissioner of Financial Services/Treasurer and E. Watson, Manager of Development Finance, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the 2024 Budget. Highlights of the presentation included:

- the 2024 budget process timeline;
- participation rates in the Citizen Budget Tool;
- top budget priorities according to public engagement feedback;
- feedback from the new participatory budget question;
- demographics of Citizen Budget Survey participants;
- an overview of the priorities and budgetary pressures considered when building the 2024 Budget;
- the financial impact of the Whitby Housing Pledge;
- budgetary pressures relating to maintaining Town facilities and service levels;
- the impact of inflation, estimated using the forecasted Municipal Price Index (MPI) and Consumer Price Index (CPI);
- proposed investments to keep infrastructure in a state of good repair and fund the Town's share of growth-related infrastructure;
- an overview of decision items outlined in the 2024 Budget Book;
- clarification regarding decision items relating full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, including the request for pre-approval of 10 firefighters in the 2025 budget;
- assessment growth revenue and user fee increases that help offset budget pressures;

- an overview of the proposed 2024 Budget, resulting in a 1.7% impact on the Town's portion of the property tax bill;
- a summary of the revenues and expenditures included in the proposed 2024 Operating Budget;
- a summary of the proposed 2024 Capital Budget, funded by Asset Management Reserves, development charges, the Growth Reserve Fund, long term debt, and other sources such as program reserves, the one time reserve, and external contributions;
- a summary of the capital budget decision items;
- additional investments required to reduce the Town's annual greenhouse gas emissions as part of the Zero Carbon Whitby Plan;
- programs that support residents, including tax rebate programs, the tax deferral program for seniors, the Access Program, and support for housing programs;
- the combined 2024 property tax bill increase and its financial impact on the average residential Whitby homeowner;
- the financial impact of proposed or approved 2024 Budget increases on homeowners living in comparator municipalities; and,
- next steps in the 2024 Budget process.

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

- the number of residents who contributed to the participatory budget, and clarification regarding how the participatory budget question differs from engagement tools used in previous budget engagement strategies;
- clarification regarding the proposed capital investment to keep infrastructure in a state of good repair and fund the Town's share of growth-related infrastructure;
- clarification regarding the financial impact of the FTE decision items included in the proposed 2024 Budget;
- clarification regarding the request to pre-approve hiring 10 firefighters;

- the process and timeline for Members of Council to request amendments to the proposed 2024 Budget;
- the use of a special tax levy to offset the financial impact of hiring 10 firefighters;
- consideration for implementing a multi-year budget in the future;
- the number of properties impacted by the exclusion of decision item 44 from the 2024 Budget, being waste collection services on private residential property;
- whether the proposed 2024 Budget includes construction costs for a new fire hall;
- clarification regarding the proposed investment in park assets;
- whether additional investments may be required to fund future phases of the Columbus Road widening project;
- whether the roads program budget of \$52.7 million is a multi-year budget item;
- clarification regarding the allocation of funds to support the marina and libraries;
- the process of reallocating funds, should the Town receive new provincial or federal grant funding that will be used to support capital projects;
- allocation of the Housing Accelerator Fund;
- whether the City of Pickering allocates Pickering Casino Resort revenue to offset their operating and capital budget; and,
- implementing a municipal accommodation tax.

5. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Bozinovski  
 Seconded by Councillor Mulcahy

That the meeting adjourn.

**Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

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Christopher Harris, Town Clerk

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Elizabeth Roy, Mayor