



Committee of the Whole Minutes

March 30, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers & Electronic Meeting

PRESENT:	Mayor S. Goodmanson Councillor K. Guiry Councillor C. Harder Councillor M. Morley	Councillor L. Szpak Councillor M. Wagner Councillor K. Yacucha
ATTENDING:	D. Kiedyk, Chief Administrative Officer B. Hutchins, Director of Corporate Services M. Watmough, Deputy Director of Corporate Services M. Baldwin, Director of Planning and Subdivision M. Dillabaugh, Director of Finance K. Balzer, Director of Engineering and Public Works Y. Nielsen, Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities	K. Dube, Senior Manager of Information Technology and GIS D. Petrie, Senior Manager of Business Development and Events C. Aubrey, Fire Chief W. Robinson, Manager of Building Services C. Lowe, IT Support Specialist B. Boisvert, Legislative Services Administrative Coordinator L. Hitchman, Scanning Technician

Meeting available by teleconference.

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

M. Watmough, Deputy Director of Corporate Services, read the City of Langford's Territorial Acknowledgment.

2. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOVED BY: GUIRY

SECONDED: MORLEY

THAT the Committee approve the agenda as presented.

Motion CARRIED.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Summary of Proposed 2023-2027 Five Year Financial Plan - Director of Finance

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

R. Hobbs, Luxton Rd - re: item 6.1 - The speaker inquired about including a youth drop-in centre. Inquired about the the grant money being allocated for a youth centre.

M. Dillabaugh, Director of Finance - responded that a youth centre could be an option for the funding.

W. Hobbs, Luxton Rd - re: item 6.1 - The speaker inquired about the amenities. Inquired about the Road DCC's funding.

M. Dillabaugh, Director of Finance - responded by explaining the Parks DCC's and the Road DCC's

M. Wignall, Selwyn Rd - re: item 6.1 - The speaker commented on risk management in hiring fire fighters through an extended period of time. The speaker inquired why the City needs more staff. The speaker was concerned about the purchase of the YMCA.

S. Hartlieb, Bombardier Cres - re: item 6.1 - The speaker inquired about a fire truck purchase being included in the budget. The speaker inquired about the Juan De Fuca recreation centre, and to which municipality is responsible for it. The speaker inquired about other municipalities contributing to the YMCA costs. The speaker thanked City staff for their presentation.

S. Sifert, Walfred Rd - re: item 6.1 - The speaker is concern about the increase in tax rate. The speaker discussed amenity fees. The speaker would like the sewer connection fees to be lowered and amenity fees increased. The speaker is very concerned about a 12% tax increase.

R. Barrea, Goldstream Ave - re: item 6.1 - The speaker is very concerned about the tax increase, and how it will affect the housing market.

L. Foxall, Players Dr - re: item 6.1 - The speaker would like the tax increase 3-5%. The speaker would like the hiring of new City staff should be done over five years. The speaker believes the decrease in investments in the City, has affected the increase to property taxes. The speaker inquired about a contract being signed sooner with the YMCA. The speaker agrees with previous speakers regarding the fire budget. The speaker is very concerned about the tax increase and how it will affect those most vulnerable in the community.

L. Plomp, Whimfield Terr - re: item 6.1 - The speaker thanked the Mayor, Council and City staff for including the public in the budget discussions. The speaker supports the increase in number of firefighters hired. The speaker had suggestions regarding budget savings. The speaker made suggestions for specific removal of line items being removed from the budget.

M. Dillabaugh, Director of Finance - responded by explaining that the removal of the items would not affect the property tax rate.

Nicholas Johal, Walfred Pl - re: item 6.1 - The speaker inquired about the tax increase. The speaker inquired about the increase to City staff. The speaker supports the hiring of 4 new firefighters. The speaker is very concerned about the amount of the tax increase.

M. Dillabaugh, Director of Finance - responded by explaining the budget for building permit revenue is the same as 2022.

B. Hutchins, Director of Corporate Services - responded by explaining that the increase staff does not affect planning, engineering, or building. The added staff are for population growth to the City.

B. Armstrong, Rodney Rd - re: item 6.1 - The speaker inquired about the road DCC's costs. The speaker inquired about parks being funded.

M. Dillabaugh, Director of Finance - responded by explaining the borrowing of funds from Parks DCC's does not mean they won't be paid back. That the money is used upfront then collected when projects are completed. They explained that Parks DCC's has plenty of funding for it's own projects.

S. Rossander, Ravensview Dr - re: item 6.1 - The speaker inquired about the revenues. The speaker inquired about how confident the City is about the amount of non property revenues. The speaker inquired if the City is on track with the expected revenues. The speaker compared the revenues to expenditures and inquired where the money is.

M. Dillabaugh, Director of Finance - responded by that the City is confident based on trends. That the City doesn't overstate revenues. They also responded that the City is on track with expected revenues. The Director of Finance responded that that the funds are unaudited. If the numbers are correct, the funds will then get added to the surplus at the end of the year.

W. Hobbs, Luxton Rd - re: item 6.1 - The speaker inquired about legal options of the contract with YMCA. The speaker inquired about a referendum regarding funding the YMCA. The speaker inquired about having other municipalities assist with funding the YMCA.

M. Dillabaugh, Director of Finance - responded by explaining the City is legally responsible for the funding of the YMCA. Purchasing the YMCA is an option.

Nicholas Johal, Walfred Pl - The speaker inquired about the proposed staff positions in the budget.

Darren Kiedyk, CAO - responded that the staff positions descriptions will be made available in the budget section of the City's website.

Braden Hutchins, Director of Corporate Services - responded by directing the speaker to a staff report from the Committee of the Whole meeting, February 27, 2023.

M. Wignall, Selwyn Rd - re: item 6.1 - The speaker noted a discrepancy of line items of the published budget report.

M. Dillabaugh, Director of Finance - responded that the total column does not impact anything. They assured the speaker they would look into the error.

S. Sifert, Walfred Rd - re: item 6.1 - The speaker spoke to the amount of the increase of firefighters. The speaker supports increasing the amount of police. The speaker inquired about the proposed staff positions.

S. Rossander, Ravensview Dr - re item 6.1 - The speaker suggested that maybe there is a middle ground solution for funding the YMCA.

N. Johal, Walfred Pl - re: item 6.1 - The speaker concerned about the tax increase. The speaker inquired about the YMCA, what is the cost of maintenance of the building. The speaker inquired

how any developments have been approved since October 2022. The speaker inquired about a youth centre supporting the Guides and Scouts.

Braden Hutchins, Director of Corporate Services - responded that the City is in preliminary stages of any decision regarding the YMCA.

6. REPORTS

6.1 2023 Budget and Five-Year Financial Plan 2023 - 2027

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY: YACUCHA

SECONDED: HARDER

THAT the Committee adjourn the meeting.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:34 pm.

Motion CARRIED.

Presiding Council Member

Certified Correct - Corporate Officer