

## **COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

**November 18, 2024**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**400 Main Street SE**

#### **PRESENT**

Mayor P. Brown  
Deputy Mayor H. Spearman  
Councillor D. Belyk  
Councillor R. Chapman  
Councillor A. Jones  
Councillor C. Kolson  
Councillor T. Petrow

#### **STAFF**

H. Galanti, City Manager  
S. Schindeler, Director Corporate Services & CFO  
S. Utz, Director Strategic Growth and Investment  
K. Weinberger, Director Community Safety & Social Services  
B. Anderson, Manager Recreation Services  
M. Bigney, Manager Finance  
J. Ramjohn, Manager Strategic Growth Services  
C. Satink, Manager Legislative Services & IGM/City Clerk  
T. Belsham, Team Leader Legislative Services/Assistant City Clerk  
K. Spence, Council Technician  
K. Rushford, Recording Technician

#### **1. SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL - CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

#### **2. 2025 BUDGET DELIBERATION MEETING - DAY 3 (If Required)**

#### **3. PUBLIC AGENDA - 9:00 AM**

1. Administration opening remarks (Shannon Schindeler, Director of Corporate Services and Meghan Bigney, Manager of Finance)

S. Schindeler provided opening remarks.

It was asked why the request for one additional RCMP member is on the list for Council deliberation. M. Bigney advised that the list of options includes items based on major changes year over year that contribute to the 7.5% tax impact. This item has a major contribution to the tax impact. K. Weinberger confirmed that Administration does a multi-year financial plan every year with the RCMP. They have requested one staff member this year and four next year.

#### **4. CLOSED SESSION - Discussions as needed throughout the meeting**

**2024-C-363**

**Moved By** Deputy Mayor Spearman

That Council enters the Closed Meeting at 9:15 a.m. to discuss the following items:

1. 2025 Personnel Costs Confidential Attachment - Section 24 (Advice from officials) Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
2. 2025 Detailed Capital Budget Confidential Attachment - Section 25 (Disclosure harmful to economic and other interests of a public body) Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

With the following:

##### **PRESENT**

Mayor P. Brown  
Deputy Mayor H. Spearman  
Councillor D. Belyk  
Councillor R. Chapman  
Councillor A. Jones  
Councillor C. Kolson  
Councillor T. Petrow

The following staff members were present to provide advice to officials:

##### **STAFF**

H. Galanti, City Manager,  
M. Lock, Director Community Services,  
S. Schindeler, Director Corporate Services/CFO,  
L. Stevens, Director Community Infrastructure,  
S. Uz, Director Strategic Growth and Investment,  
K. Weinberger, Director Community Safety & Social Services,  
B. Anderson, Manager Recreation Services,  
M. Bigney, Manager Finance,  
M. Labait, Manager Treasury,  
M. Pirie, Fire Chief,  
J. Ramjohn, Manager Strategic Growth Services,  
C. Satink, Manager Legislative Services & IGM/City Clerk,  
K. Wilkin, Manager, Roads and Parks Operations,  
T. Belsham, Team Leader Legislative Services/Assistant City Clerk,  
K. Spence, Council Technician, and  
K. Rushford, who recorded the meeting.

**Carried**

**2024-C-364**

**Moved By** Councillor Jones

That Council leaves the Closed Session at 2:13 p.m.

**Carried**

**5. CONTINUATION OF AGENDA AND FOLLOW-UP ITEMS FROM WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2024, COUNCIL MEETING**

**1. Council budget deliberation and discussions**

**USER FEES**

J. Ramjohn clarified that the current fee for a temporary sandwich board for up to 30 days is \$75, up to 120 days is \$175 and up to 365 days is \$250 (increasing to \$325 for 2025). J. Ramjohn will confirm whether permits are required for sandwich board signs on private property that are put out and brought in each day.

A comment was made that multiple residents have requested Pool Only fees for Genesis Place. H. Galanti advised that this will be brought back in Q1 of 2025. B. Anderson outlined usage patterns at the facility and the change in cost recovery for multi-rate access.

**RECESS**

Mayor Brown called a recess at 2:41 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 2:53 p.m.

**PARKING LOT**

Safety and Social Services - M. Bigney outlined the 22% change in contracted and general services. K. Weinberger outlined the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) funded advertising and communication.

Strategic Growth and Investment – S. Utz provided a chart outlining transit ridership in 2023 and projected for 2024 and 2025. Ridership supports the service level increase. Regional Route 900 runs 13 hours per day with 52% cost recovery.

It was asked whether smaller buses are cheaper than larger buses on the local route and whether CrossIron's contribution increases each year. S. Utz will need to get back with more information on those two items. J. Ramjohn noted that the 40 foot buses can be out of service for 2-3 months for parts procurement in the event of breakdown. It was asked whether there has been consideration about charging different rates for different routes. S. Utz commented that this would need to be a matter of further discussion of Council.

Staffing – M. Bigney presented a summary of year-over-year staffing.

Training and Travel – M. Bigney advised that Training and Travel was 1.86% of salaries, wages & benefits in the 2024 budget compared to 1.76% in the 2025 budget. S. Schindeler outlined the mandatory training that is required every year to maintain designations.

Grant dollars received in 2024 above what was budgeted – M. Bigney advised that three operating grants were received above what was budgeted totalling just under \$30,000.

M. Bigney presented the items proposed to be funded with the prior year surplus including Snow and Ice Control Full Service Review, Municipal Election costs and Bill 20, as well as new initiatives and one-time costs. The consensus was to fund all of these items with the prior year surplus.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 4:03 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk

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