

Unapproved Minutes of a Meeting of the Audit and Budget Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Municipal Offices in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Friday, November 15, 2013, commencing at 9:00 a.m.

Present: M. Blake, Mayor
S. Germain, Committee Member
J. Stroud, Committee Member

Absent: L. Bussieres, Committee Member
J. Chadi, Committee Member

Also Present: T. Ault, Councillor
K. McGrath, Councillor

Administration: B. Makey, Chief Operating Officer
S. Kanzig, Chief Legislative Officer
A. Hawkins, Legislative Officer

Call to Order

Mayor Blake called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

1. Introduction of Proposed Capital Budget

E. Hutton, Chief Financial Officer and K. Oladimeji, Director of Finance, came forward to introduce the proposed 2014 Capital Budget. A spreadsheet titled 2014 Proposed Capital Budget 2015-2019 Capital Plan, Funded Requests, by Department was distributed to the Committee. The document also identified unfunded projects which may be eligible for alternative capital financing.

Clarification was given regarding the information provided in the spreadsheet and the color coding attached to the various project lines.

A question was raised about the increases to the operating budget in comparison to the increases to the capital budget. The Chief Financial Officer indicated the budget document does identify trends attached to various components of the budget from 2010 to current year, but not a summary overview.

In terms of process, the Chair suggested the Committee hears information from all departments following which discussion can ensue or motions can be put forward to move projects around.

2. Environmental Services

H. Hunter, Executive Director, Public Infrastructure and K. Scoble, Director, Environmental Services came forward and spoke to the Environmental Services Capital Budget requests.

Arrival

Cr. McGrath joined the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

It was suggested that future capital budget sheets should identify, where applicable, potential cost recovery or revenue generated by the project.

K. Scoble noted that the Operating Budget includes a provision for a feasibility study to determine whether or not Silin Forest Road can be opened for crews for the purpose of accessing the operation centre at the Water Treatment Plant.

Recess

A break occurred from 11:30 a.m. to 12:05 p.m., at which time Councillor Germain assumed the Chair.

The Committee considered the list of unfunded projects as they relate to Environmental Services.

Return

Mayor Blake returned to the meeting and resumed the Chair at 12:08 p.m.

Moved by Councillor J. Stroud that the South Regional Reversible Effluent Pipeline Project Construction and Design be included in the 2014 Capital Budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Public Operations

H. Hunter, Executive Director, Public Infrastructure, G. Smith, Director, Public Operations and E. Haque, Director, Engineering came forward to speak to the 2014 Capital Requests for Public Operations.

Administration was requested to provide the Committee with information on the following topics:

- Consultation conducted in the rural south area relative to community placemaking
- Average age of the transit fleet
- Fort McMurray bike park
- Transit ridership numbers

Recommended actions were made relative to the following projects:

- Placemaking in rural service area – include additional detail to clarify difference in funding requests
- Off-highway vehicle staging areas – explore possibility of partnering with local groups
- Anzac off-leash dog park – ensure consultation occurs within the community
- Conklin ball diamond upgrade – initiate discussions with Northland School Division
- Request for gazebo – community of Anzac looking for a gazebo similar to the one located on Silin Forest Road
- Indoor ice surface – consideration of partnership with Keyano College or Timberlea Athletic Park to build an indoor ice surface

Moved by Councillor S. Germain that the Tourist Sewage Dump Stations - Construction project be moved up to 2014 Capital Budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Councillor J. Stroud that a walking trail and skateboard park be implemented in the Gregoire Lake Estates community.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Clarification was provided that the walking trail and skateboard park for Gregoire Lake Estates should be for consultation, pre-design and design work to be done in 2014 rather than being implemented in 2014.

4. Engineering (1:45 - 2:45 p.m.)

H. Hunter, Executive Director and E. Haque, Director, Engineering came forward to present the 2014 Capital Budget Requests for Engineering

It was requested that Administration research and provide the Committee with a history of flood levels both from a recent and a long term perspective.

5. City Centre (3:00 - 4:30 p.m.)

R.Taylor, Executive Director, City Centre and M. Fortais, Manager of Finance, City Centre came forward to present the 2014 Capital Budget for City Centre.

A lengthy discussion occurred relative to the first few capital requests under this section. Due to the extensive discussion generated at this point, it was agreed to adjourn the meeting at this time and reconvene at 8:30 a.m. on November 16, 2013.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Chair

Chief Legislative Officer