

**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 Tuesday, November 26, 2013, commencing at 9:30 a.m.**

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

**Absent:** J. Chadi, Committee Member

**Also Present:** K. McGrath, Councillor

**Administration:** G. Laubenstein, Chief Administrative Officer  
S. Kanzig, Chief Legislative Officer  
A. Hawkins, Legislative Officer

**Call to Order**

Mayor Blake called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Moved by Councillor J. Stroud that the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**1. City Centre Capital Projects**

CAO Laubenstein called upon E. Hutton, Chief Financial Officer, to summarize the impacts on the proposed capital budget resulting from directions given by the Audit and Budget Committee to date. Following this presentation, representatives from City Centre will be asked to provide a summary of the modifications made to the City Centre requests, also based upon directions given by the Audit and Budget Committee to date.

E. Hutton noted that following the Committee's directions the revised capital budget requests total \$405M with a revised operating budget request of \$485M which represents a \$73M decrease from the original presentation made to the Committee.

R. Taylor, Executive Director, City Centre, and M. Fortais, Manager of Finance, City Centre, came forward to speak to the revised City Centre capital budget requests.

R. Taylor confirmed that the revisions made to the capital budget requests reflect the no MacDonald Island Bridge option. The revisions also moved the cost associated with the Sports and Entertainment Centre from 2014 to 2015. The total revisions result in a decrease of \$88.7M to the proposed Capital Budget.

He noted that the proposed revisions are deferring some of the previous decisions, thereby allowing Council to better understand the entire City Centre concept and determine how they want to move forward.

Administration was requested to provide a breakdown of the \$2.2M related to the Arts and Events Construction Project

## **2. City Centre Operating Budget**

M. Fortais spoke to the operating budget in the amount of \$10.2M, noting that the City Centre initiative is increasing its staff component as it moves away from hiring consultants. He added that the revisions to the capital budget requests have minimal impacts on the operating budget.

## **3. Capital Projects Revised Update**

It was agreed the Committee will take time to digest the information received before going through the prioritization exercise.

### **Recess and Arrival**

A break occurred from 10:14 a.m. to 10:37 a.m. at which time Councillor Germain joined the meeting.

## **4. Capital Projects Prioritization and 5. Next Steps**

Mayor Blake invited the Committee Members to put forward any additions or removals they might want to consider, noting that Council will have its own public debate on the matter in December.

Moved by Councillor S. Germain that the Arts and Events - construction project, in the amount of \$2.2M, be removed from the 2013 budget and that the funding be made available for other projects in the 2014 Capital Budget.

E. Hutton confirmed that if funding from a previously approved budget is not used, a budget amendment can be made.

DEFEATED

For: S. Germain

Opposed: M. Blake, L. Bussieres, J. Stroud

Moved by Councillor S. Germain that the Northside Recreation Centre project, in the amount of \$28.8M, be included in the 2014 Capital Budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **Arrival**

Councillor McGrath joined the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

Moved by Councillor S. Germain that the Ice Pad Pre-design project (at Syncrude Timberlea Athletic Park), in the amount of \$1M, be deleted from the 2014 Capital Budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

G. Smith, Director, Public Operations, clarified the following were not added to the master sheets provided to the Committee:

- Waterpark in Anzac and Conklin - \$200,000;
- Janvier skateboard park - \$300,000; and
- Gregoire Lake Estates walking trail and skateboard park - \$50,000

In terms of infrastructure grant funding for rural water and sewer projects, CAO Laubenstein indicated the Municipality is still waiting for the necessary agreement between the levels of government to be put in place.

Councillor Germain requested information relative to the plans for the Casman Centre as they relate to the food expansion and redevelopment.

Moved by Councillor J. Stroud that the proposed 2014 Capital and Operating Budgets be forwarded to Council for consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor Blake thanked everyone for their participation in the budget process.

**6. Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor J. Stroud that the meeting be adjourned.  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

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Mayor

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Chief Legislative Officer