

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 Saturday, November 16, 2013, commencing at 8:30 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: T. Ault, Councillor
P. Meagher, 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 8:37 a.m.

1. Carryover discussion from November 15th Audit and Budget Committee Meeting

City Centre (continuation)

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.

R. Taylor offered to set up a meeting with the engineer who conducted the latest Snye remediation study.

It was requested that Administration provide the Committee with information and/or documentation on the following topics:

- Number of parking stalls currently leased by the Municipality and associated monthly cost;
- Traffic workflow on the Clearwater/Snye Project;
- Study report from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to determine the size of pipe to be installed in the Snye;
- Current work being done (excavation with tubing across the Snye);
- Copy of report about proposed Sports and Entertaining Centre development and site location;
- The potential impacts if the MacDonald Island Bridge project does not move ahead;
- The potential impacts if the Performing and Visual Arts Centre does not move ahead;
and
- Projects that are definitely required to proceed in 2014

Following extensive discussion on only a few of the capital requests under this section, consensus was reached that due to the nature and magnitude of the City Centre initiative the Committee requires a better understanding of the entire picture which cannot be gathered by going through the budget requests on a line by line basis.

It was agreed that a separate session to discuss City Centre projects will be held with all Council members being invited to attend.

Recess

A break occurred at 10:01 a.m. and the meeting reconvened at 10:24 a.m.

2. Community Services

S. Sandhu, Executive Director and C. Bouchard, Director, Community Services came forward to present the 2014 Capital Budget Requests for Community Services.

K. Grogan, General Manager, Vista Ridge was also in attendance and gave a presentation regarding the Vista Ridge 2014-2016 Capital Grant request.

Administration was requested to provide the Committee with a status report on Casman Centre projects, specifically in terms of prior year projects for food services expansion and building redevelopment.

Recommended actions were made relative to the following projects:

- Casman Centre – initiate discussion to test a Park n Ride system, possible provision of grant

Moved by Councillor S. Germain that the project Northside Recreation Centre – Construction be added to the 2014 Capital Budget.

DEFEATED
 For: S. Germain
 Opposed: M. Blake, J. Stroud

Moved by Councillor S. Germain that administration investigate alternatives to add a hockey rink arena concept to the 2014 capital budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recess

A break occurred at 11:58 a.m. and the meeting reconvened at 12:39 p.m. at which time Councillor Bussieres joined the meeting.

3. Information Technology, Employee Development and Support Services, Advisory Services, Assessment and Taxation

S. Sandhu, Executive Director, Corporate and Community Services along with K. Brown, Director, Information Technology, R. Hall, Director, Employee Development and Support Services and L. McCarthy, Director, Advisory Services came forward to present the Capital Budget Requests within their individual departments. There was no action required under this

section.

4. Regional Emergency Services

D. Allen, Regional Fire Chief, was present to speak to the 2014 Capital Budget Request for Regional Emergency Services.

Administration was requested to provide the Committee with a report on Alberta Health Services taking over the ambulance service along with dispatch service for the region.

Recommended actions were made relative to the following projects:

- Anzac Fire Hall Construction – ensure community consultation occurs as concerns have been raised relative to the proposed site
- Dangerous Good Unit – investigate possibility of implementing a bylaw amendment to restrict the hours in which dangerous goods can travel through town

RECESS

A break occurred from 1:41 p.m. to 2:03 p.m.

5. Capital Budget Prioritization

With the decision to defer discussions relative to the City Centre projects, it was noted the Committee cannot proceed with the prioritization process at this time. The Committee will review the proposed 2014 Operating Budget on November 18, 2013 as previously scheduled.

A separate session will be set to hear the revised presentation from City Centre for which it is recommended that all members of Council participate. Following this session, the prioritization exercise can occur and recommendations for the 2014 budgets can then move forward for consideration by Council. It was further noted that a separate Council meeting could be scheduled to deal with only the 2014 budgets.

In the meantime, a process needs to be established giving the public an opportunity to provide comments.

Moved by Councillor J. Stroud that the capital budget prioritization occur prior to November 27, 2013.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer