

Strategic Planning and Budget Committee Minutes



January 18, 2023

6:30 p.m.

Council Chambers/Electronic

Members Present: K. Redman, D. Craig, R. Deutschmann, J. Erb, S. Foxtan, M. Harris, C. Huinink, C. James, J. Liggett, D. McCabe, J. Nowak, N. Salonen, S. Shantz, B. Vrbanovic, K. Williams, P. Wolf

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1. Call to Order

Chair M. Harris called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

D. McCabe joined the meeting at 6:37 pm.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Chair M. Harris provided a land acknowledgement.

3. Motion to Reconvene into Open Session

Moved by C. Huinink

Seconded by J. Nowak

That the Strategic Planning and Budget Committee reconvene into Open Session for the public input meeting.

Carried

4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest under the "Municipal Conflict of Interest Act"

5. Delegations

5.1 Donald Bourgeois, Kitchener

D. Bourgeois spoke to the Committee regarding the Region of Waterloo International Airport and the noise levels and the impact on residents. He asked that the Committee conduct a noise impact study of the airlines and its effect in the surrounding neighbourhoods.

5.2 Jessica Hutchison, ReallocateWR

The delegation was rescheduled to February 8, Strategic Planning and Public Input Meeting.

5.3 Geoff Bardwell, Co-Chair, Drug Action Team

G. Bardwell addressed the Committee with a PowerPoint presentation; a copy is attached to the original minutes. They spoke to the Committee with respect to the drug crisis within the Region of Waterloo and to de facto decriminalization as a policy implementation measure regarding drug possession charges; in conjunction with proposed cost savings that enactment of this approach would have if adopted.

5.4 Eden Philip Kubassek, Kitchener

E. Kubassek appeared before the Committee regarding the proposed property tax increase and the subsequent effect of rental price increases. They spoke about their experience with personal interactions with the police and break-ins to his home and vehicle. They also asked for a rejection of the police budget increase and to not implement a Regional tax increase.

5.5 Michael Doroshenko, Ukrainian Canadian Congress: Region of Waterloo - Wellington

M. Doroshenko appeared before the Committee and request that a program be funded to assist and support newcomers from Ukraine to the Waterloo Region.

5.6 Josh Orita, President, and Emily Slofstra, CycleWR

J. Orita and E. Slofstra, addressed the Committee with a PowerPoint presentation; a copy is attached to the original minutes. They represent CycleWR and spoke to safety concerns within the Waterloo Region for cyclists and asked that Council continue to invest in active transportation methods outlined in the proposed ten year Capital program from 2023-2032 to support 200km of transportation connections, implement a micro-

mobility pilot and they also cited their support for D. McCabe and R. Deutschmann's requests respecting transportation.

5.7 Brooklin Wallis, Kitchener

B. Wallis addressed committee with support for CycleWR, spoke to the Regional of Waterloo's transit system regarding the LRT transit service delay times, and requested that Council implement a pilot project modelling Emery, California, where a two-seated bench be installed at every bus stop within the Region.

5.8 Lynn Charlton, Kitchener

L. Charlton appeared before the Committee regarding a request for further resources to support emergency shelters and supportive housing. She highlighted the financial challenges that shelters experience and the funding structure instability on reliance of donations and called for flexible funding agreements.

5.9 Yasin Mohamed

Y. Mohamed spoke to the Committee about his personal experience with break and enters in his residence and called for more cybercrime security measures, as well as the overall importance of community safety.

5.10 Jeff Willmer, Board Chair, A Better Tent City

J. Willmer addressed the Committee regarding the success of a Better Tent City provides its current residents dignity, stability and hope. He highlighted that they have increased their staff complement and are looking to add a fourth position. He discussed their funding sources and noted \$15,000 expenditure gap in finances for A Better Tent City and asked for a funding request of \$180,000 to address the gap in 2023.

5.11 Alison Jackson

A. Jackson addressed the Committee and expressed her objection of the closing of Doon Heritage Village for the next two years and asked Council to reconsider the closure and remain open during repairs of the facility.

5.12 Zaven Titzian

Z. Titzian addressed the Committee today for differences in property tax rates for multi-residential buildings and single family homes. He proposed that Council consider implementing a ten year plan to slowly reduce tax

rate of multi-residential buildings where they are taxed the same as single family homes, for the purpose of addressing rental price increases.

6. Call for Delegations

Chair M. Harris called for other delegations wishing to address the Committee; no one came forward.

7. Communications

There were no communications.

8. Other Business

9. Adjourn

Moved by P. Wolf

Seconded by R. Deutschmann

That the meeting adjourn at 7:49 p.m.

Carried

Regional Clerk

Regional Chair