



**SUBJECT: Approval of 2019 operating budget**

**TO: Committee of the Whole - Budget**

**FROM: Finance Department**

Report Number: F-02-19-3

Wards Affected: All

File Numbers: 435-01

Date to Committee: February 21, 2019

Date to Council: March 25, 2019

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### **Recommendation:**

Approve the 2019 operating budget including any budget amendments approved by the Committee of the Whole - Budget to be applied against the proposed net tax levy amount of \$167,556,586.

### **Purpose:**

- An Engaging City
- Good Governance

This report provides the recommendations received at the January 17, 2019 Committee of the Whole – Budget meeting regarding the proposed 2019 operating budget.

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### **Background and Discussion:**

On January 17, 2019, the Committee of the Whole – Budget received finance department report F-02-19; the 2019 operating and capital budget overview. Committee members also received the proposed 2019 operating budget book which will be required for consideration at the meeting on February 21, 2019.

Appendix 1 provides a consolidated summary of the proposed amendments provided by members of Committee to facilitate the operating budget review at the February 21, 2019 meeting as well as the final approval of the 2019 operating budget at the March

25, 2019 Council meeting. If more time is required for review of the 2019 operating budget, Committee of the Whole -Budget will reconvene on February 26, 2019 and February 28, 2019 if required, with subsequent final approval of the 2019 budget at the March 25, 2019 Council meeting.

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### **Financial Matters:**

The proposed 2019 operating budget results in a proposed net tax levy of \$167,556,586 for a city tax increase of 3.99%. Approval of the 2019 operating budget will establish the authority for preparing the 2019 Tax Levy By-law. The proposed city increase of 3.99%, which, when combined with the Region of Halton and educational taxes, provides an overall property tax increase of 2.45% for urban residential taxpayers. For each \$100,000 of residential assessment, this translates into an overall increase of \$19.99.

### **Public Engagement Matters:**

Staff will continue to use the city's website as a communication medium through videos, webcast and online surveys.

The City is continuously looking for ways to improve and increase transparency for the public. A new "Budget Basics" video has been created and posted on the website which explains how the city develops its budgets. In addition, on the website, Burlington Open Budget, is available to allow residents to view the city's 2019 budget data in an intuitive and illustrative form. A telephone town hall was held on February 7, 2019 and an in-person town hall was held on February 11, 2019, two Committee of the Whole-Budget meetings were held on February 4 & 7, 2019 to hear public delegations on the budgets and ward budget meetings were hosted by ward councillors.

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### **Conclusion:**

The proposed 2019 budget has been thoroughly reviewed by staff. Decisions made through the 2019 budget need to be made in the context of the multi-year budget framework. This includes consideration of the operational and financial implications related to deferrals and service level revisions that may be associated with achieving the desired 2019 tax levy.

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Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Palermo

Committee Clerk

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**Appendices:**

1. 2019 consolidated operating budget action request forms

**Report Approval:**

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, Director of Finance and Director of Legal. Final approval is by the City Manager.