



SUBJECT: Approval of the 2020 Budget

TO: Committee of the Whole - Budget

FROM: Finance Department

Report Number: F-46-19-2

Wards Affected: All

File Numbers: 435-01

Date to Committee: December 10, 2019

Date to Council: December 16, 2019

Recommendation:

Approve the 2020 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 \$173,635,179; and

Approve the 2020 capital budget for the City of Burlington, with a gross amount of \$85,791,551 with a debenture requirement of \$7,613,145, and the 2021-2029 capital forecast with a gross amount of \$723,878,943 with a debenture requirement of \$47,592,200 as outlined in report F-46-19 and as amended by the Committee of the Whole - Budget; and

Administer the debenture in the amount of \$6,113,145 in 2020 as tax supported debt; and

Administer the debenture in the amount of \$1,500,000 in 2020 as special circumstances debt; and

Declare that, in accordance with sis. 5(1)5 of the Development Charges Act, 1997 and s. 5 of Ontario Regulation 82/98, it is Council's clear intention that the excess capacity provided by the above-referenced works will be paid for by future development charges.

Purpose:

Vision to Focus Alignment:

- Increase economic prosperity and community responsive city growth
- Improve integrated city mobility

- Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment
- Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture
- Deliver customer centric services with a focus on efficiency and technology transformation

This report provides the recommendations received at the November 5, 2019 Planning and Development Committee meeting regarding the 2020 proposed budget.

Background and Discussion:

On November 5, 2019 the Planning and Development Committee received finance department report 2020 Budget Overview (F-46-19).

Committee members have also received the 2020 proposed budget book which will be required for consideration at the meeting of December 10, 2019.

The recommendations contained in Appendix A to Finance department report F-46-19 will be considered at the December 10, 2019 Committee of the Whole – Budget meeting. Budget action request forms submitted to the finance department by members of Council will also be considered at the December 10, 2019 meeting.

Appendix A provides a consolidated summary of the proposed amendments provided by members of Council to facilitate the 2020 proposed budget review at the December 10, 2019 meeting as well as the final approval of the budget at the December 16, 2019 Council meeting.

This consolidated listing will be used to ensure that the appropriate staff and information are available during the review and will be used as the format for the budget review.

In addition, staff received a number of budget questions from members of Council at the Council Information Sessions. A consolidated response to these questions can be found in Appendix B.

Financial Matters:

The proposed 2020 operating budget is \$173.6 million and the 2020 capital budget is \$85.8 million, with a ten-year program of \$809.7 million.

The capital program focuses on the city's infrastructure requirements to address the much-needed renewal of these assets in the most cost-effective manner. The budget reflects incremental tax supported funding of 1.25% (\$2.075 million) from the operating budget to support the city's infrastructure requirements.

Approval of the 2020 budget will establish the authority for preparing the 2020 Tax Levy By-law. The proposed city increase of 4.0%, which, when combined with the Region of Halton and educational taxes, provides an overall property tax increase of 2.44% for urban residential taxpayers. For each \$100,000 of residential assessment, this translates into an overall increase of \$19.38.

Public Engagement Matters:

The City is continuously looking for ways to improve and increase transparency for the public. A number of venues were provided for engagement in the 2020 Budget. Staff will continue to use the city's website as a communication medium through videos, webcast and online surveys. The "Budget Basics" video continues to be available on the website which explains how the city develops its budgets. In addition, a revised version of Burlington Open Budget, on the city's website, is available to the public to allow residents to view the city's 2020 budget data in an intuitive and illustrative form.

Get Involved Burlington Website

Over the summer a budget survey was available on the city's Get Involved Burlington site. A total of 103 participants completed this survey.

Food for Feedback Event

On September 14, 2019 the city hosted its first Food for Feedback event. The 2020 Budget was one of the key topics for which staff were seeking public feedback. The goals of this event were to:

- Provide an opportunity for the community to come out and provide feedback / learn more about a variety of city initiatives all in one place.
- Create an engagement event where we would be able to attract and engage with varying demographics including those that can be under-represented – youth and millennials, young families, newcomers / multicultural communities.
- To build good will / trust in the community by thanking residents for feedback by providing a free lunch from food trucks.

The event was very successful with close to 1,000 people attending. City Staff working at the booths were very pleased with the number of people that engaged with them by a variety of methods; taking a survey, voting on choices / options, providing ideas, asking questions, signing up for the engagement portal. They all remarked that they were able to connect with people that they normally wouldn't hear from. Overall, the resident feedback at the event was very positive.

In addition to the 103 surveys completed online, an additional 101 were completed at the Food for Feedback event.

Mayor's 2020 Budget Telephone Town Hall

On Tuesday November 19, 2019, the City of Burlington hosted a Telephone Town Hall on the 2020 proposed budget. Participants learned about and discussed the 2020 proposed budget priorities with Mayor Meed Ward and senior staff.

Burlington residential phone numbers were randomly selected to be part of the Telephone Town Hall. In this live call-in session, participants asked questions about the 2020 proposed budget and responded to similar polling questions to those from the online survey. There was an emphasis placed on resident satisfaction with value for service, increased funding for transit and additional dollars to support climate change initiatives.

For more information on the results of the Telephone Town Hall please reference Appendix C.

In addition to the engagement above a number of Council ward meetings included budget presentations and discussions.

Conclusion:

The 2020 proposed budget presents a balanced program aimed to deliver on the Vision to Focus Plan and the city's commitment to the asset management plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgie Gartside

Committee Clerk

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Appendices:

- A. 2020 Consolidated Budget Amendment Form
- B. Council Information Session Follow-up Items
- C. Telephone Town Hall Results

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.