

**MINUTES
CITY OF IQALUIT
FINANCE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING #03
OCTOBER 24, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESENT FROM COUNCIL

Deputy Mayor Kyle Sheppard, Chair
Acting Mayor Solomon Awa – via teleconference
Councillor Paul Quassa
Councillor Kimberly Smith
Councillor Romeyn Stevenson

ABSENT

Councillor Ookalik Curley
Councillor Simon Nattaq

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION

Amy Elgersma, Chief Administrative Officer
Rod Mugford, Municipal Enforcement Chief/Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Tammy Ernst-Doiron, City Clerk
Katrina Sarmiento, Executive Assistant
Jeanie Eeseemailee, Senior Interpreter/Translator
Robyn Mackey, Director of Human Resources
Geneva Chislett, Controller
Stephen McGean, Acting Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief
Stephanie Clark, Director of Recreation
Simon Doiron, Director of Public Works

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Remove:

5. NEW BUSINESS
 - f) Request for Decision – Long Term Loans

Motion FIN 22-15

Moved by: Councillor Smith
Seconded by: Councillor Quassa

Adoption of agenda as amended.

Unanimously Carried

1. **MINUTES**

None

2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None

3. **DELEGATIONS**

None

4. **DEFERRED BUSINESS AND TABLED ITEMS**

None

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

a) **2022 Mid-Year Financial Statements**

Amy Elgersma, Chief Administrative Officer, presented the 2022 mid-year financial statements for the period ending June 30, 2022 as information. She indicated that overall, there are no concerns and the City is financially sound.

Motion FIN 22-16

Moved by: Councillor Smith

Seconded by: Acting Mayor Awa

Committee recommends that Council accept the 2022 mid-year financial statements for the period ending June 30, 2022 as presented.

Unanimously Carried

b) **2023 Budget**

i) **Operating Budget – 2023**

Deputy Mayor Sheppard advised that there are some proposed changes to the Operating Budget as follows:

- Information does not include the property tax increase
- There is a budget shortfall and a balanced budget must be proposed.
- Include an additional \$50,000 for Economic Development to use for projects
 - Budget for the past number of years is \$190,000 from Government of Nunavut funding
 - City has not included any additional funds

- General Fund includes a large amount for salaries and not all the positions are filled under General Government Services
 - A position has been identified to remove from the budget that would save \$100,000.

Amy Elgersma, Chief Administrative Officer, explained that a new position was included in the budget last year for an Executive Assistant in the Administrative Department. She noted that filling the Deputy City Clerk position is underway and the Executive Assistant position could be removed from the budget. She indicated that this would be a savings of \$100,000.

Deputy Mayor Sheppard continued with the proposed changes:

- There is a \$100,000 savings in the Recreation Department for an item that was a priority for the previous mayor, which is no longer required.
- Increased revenue of \$283,000 from the proposed tax increases

Deputy Mayor Sheppard advised the following:

- There is a \$556,000 shortfall
 - Includes \$50,000 for Economic Development and \$150,000 for election expenses
- Additional revenue/savings from:
 - \$283,000 from proposed tax increases
 - \$100,000 savings from removing the position from the Administrative Department
 - \$100,000 savings in the Recreation Department
 - \$76,000 savings from the mayor's salary in 2022
- With all the changes, the budget will have a slight surplus

Deputy Mayor Sheppard advised that the priorities presented by Council pertaining to the Operating Budget have been included in the proposed budget.

Motion FIN 22-17

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson

Seconded by: Councillor Quassa

Committee recommends that Council approve the 2023 Operating Budget as amended on October 24, 2022.

Unanimously Carried

ii) Capital Budget – 2023

Deputy Mayor Sheppard noted that the Capital Budget is an \$81 million Capital Spending Plan.

Amy Elgersma, Chief Administrative Officer, provided the following highlights:

- All of the needs for the City and departments were not able to be included in the budget
- Progress is being made on large multi-year projects
 - Operations Centre
 - Waste Transfer Station and Landfill
- Disaster and Mitigation Adaptation Funding – long-term water supply
 - Budget amount of \$17.5 million
 - Replacement of some distribution pipe
 - New water source
 - New water storage
 - Weir construction
 - Request for Proposal has been issued for a Project Management Team to manage this large project
- Lake Geraldine Dam – inspection and repairs to be carried out on a regular basis
- Apex Pumping Project - upgrades required
- Sidewalk completion
- Community Economic Development Plan
- Garbage Receptacles – Recreation Department to apply for funds and installation
- Scrap metal removal
- Emergency Services
 - Emergency Master Plan has identified a number of items
 - Phased-in plan will be presented to Council
 - Budget does include a new radio system, which will integrate with the RCMP radio equipment
- Water truck – was ordered this year and due to supply issues, it will not be delivered until 2023

Councillor Quassa asked about the Long-term Cemetery Strategy.

Ms. Elgersma explained that the current cemetery has been remediated, which was successful. She pointed out that in a few years, the cemetery will have to be expanded or a new cemetery will have to be designated. She noted that currently, there is space on either side of the cemetery for expansion, however, the same engineering and construction will have to be implemented. The budget includes money for a Long-term Cemetery Strategy to ensure the City has plans in place to proceed with expansion or designation when needed.

Councillor Quassa asked about scrap metal removal. Ms. Elgersma explained that a contractor is hired to crush and bale scrap metal, which is then sent south by searift for recycling.

Councillor Stevenson asked about the road line painting machine and if it can be used to paint Pride coloured crosswalks.

Ms. Elgersma advised that the road crews are looking at various paint products that will extend the life of the lines on the roads. She also noted that work will continue with the schools to paint the crosswalks in Pride colours.

Councillor Stevenson asked about the Elders' Qammaq window repair, as the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) still has funding available this year for work on elders' and youth facilities.

Ms. Elgersma explained that when the budget was developed, there was no available funding and the Recreation Department staff wanted to ensure the window was repaired. She noted that staff will apply for funding to repair the window.

Councillor Stevenson asked if there was any paving included in the drainage and roadway improvements. Ms. Elgersma advised that currently, there was no paving included in the budget.

Ms. Elgersma explained that the Palaugaa Drive project was approved by Council for the Nunastar Astro Hill realignment, which is a committed expense.

Acting Mayor Awa noted that a request was made to determine if a shredder could be used for metal. Ms. Elgersma explained that the process to remove scrap metal has been referred to the Engineering Department.

Acting Mayor Awa asked about the road upgrades and the road to the deep-sea port. Ms. Elgersma advised that the Transportation Master Plan includes information to prioritize roads, which can be discussed when the plan is reviewed. She explained that money has been included in the Operating Budget for granular for roads.

Acting Mayor Awa asked if money had been included in the budget for the recommendations in the Transportation Master Plan. Ms. Elgersma explained that the budget includes monies for an Intersection Design Study, bypass road design and sidewalk design guidelines, which are items in the Transportation Master Plan.

Councillor Smith asked if the Apex Bridge replacement had been included in the budget. Ms. Elgersma explained that due to available funds, the Apex Bridge replacement was removed from the budget. She advised that the consultant will proceed with the design as recommended and funding options can be sourced for replacement in 2024.

Councillor Quassa commented that he has heard from people and wanted to comment on the Pride colours. He heard a comment on it and has seen the colours on the roads near the high school and middle school. Councillor Quassa indicated that sometimes people are concerned about this. The Inuit. It is not an Inuit culture. However, the children, those who go to school, they have to be kids while they are kids. They cannot think like adults yet. He indicated that some Inuit are concerned about this. Councillor Quassa just wanted to comment on this.

Councillor Quassa indicated that this is a very new idea for the Inuit. The Pride idea. Some people were concerned about the kids' way of thinking. The kids have to be kids for now. They have to think like kids for now. Councillor Quassa indicated that he saw the Pride colours on the roads near the high school and middle school, which he is not against. He indicated the idea is just not Inuit culture.

Councillor Quassa wanted to comment on the matter while talking about the roads and Pride colours. He indicated that not many Inuit are very happy about this idea out there. They just don't want the kids to think like adults yet, while they are still kids. When it is time, let them hear about these ideas. Councillor Quassa was not against the Pride idea, but he just wanted to say what he has heard from the Inuit people. He noted that it is just a comment.

Deputy Mayor Sheppard commented that there are hundreds of LGBTQ Inuit and other people in this community that would disagree with Councillor Quassa wholeheartedly. Deputy Mayor Sheppard also disagreed with the people who brought these comments forward. He was extremely disappointed to hear the comments tonight.

Councillor Quassa wanted to comment that he is not against the Pride colours. He wanted Council to be aware of what he has been hearing from Inuit, as it is not in their culture or custom. Perhaps there wouldn't be as many.

Councillor Stevenson commented that he certainly does not get to tell people what is and is not part of Inuit culture. He does think there is a misunderstanding of what the Pride colours are. He indicated that the colours are representing a pride in oneself, inclusion and care for others. These are not new ideas and they are not ideas that Inuit don't espouse.

Councillor Stevenson advised that he has witnessed in society, culture and town, inclusion and making kids feel like they are accepted for who they are. That is what those colours represent. Making people feel pride in who they are and allowing them to know they are accepted for who they are. He commented that it doesn't matter who they are. It doesn't matter what kind of adult or not adult belief that it is we are espousing. It is of being accepted for who you are.

Councillor Stevenson felt that there may be a misunderstanding if people are telling Councillor Quassa they don't believe the Pride colours should be painted on the roads.

Deputy Mayor Sheppard asked about the funds to update the City's website. Ms. Elgersma explained that upgrading the website is underway and it is anticipated that sufficient funds have been included in the budget for the project.

Deputy Mayor Sheppard asked about the Federal Road/Municipal Lands Subdivision Plan.

Ms. Elgersma advised that there are two similar plans for the development of subdivisions. The Federal Road/Municipal Lands Subdivision Plan will be presented to the Planning and Development Committee of the Whole meeting in November to discuss partnership for the development of the lands. She pointed out that a number of studies are required to proceed with planning the subdivision. She commented that working with an adjacent land partner provides for shared opportunities.

Ms. Elgersma indicated that if Council would like to see more information regarding the Road to Nowhere Subdivision, staff can prepare a report to present to a future Planning and Development Committee of the Whole meeting.

Ms. Elgersma pointed out that the other subdivision included in the budget is the West 40 subdivision, which includes the road to the deep-sea port and the transfer of lands to the City. This will enable the City to plan for the land in the West 40. She indicated that there is a need for industrial land.

Councillor Quassa asked about the Port Authority for the deep-sea port. Ms. Elgersma explained that the Port Authority is under the Government of Nunavut and the City has not yet received the operational plan on how the deep-sea port will be operated.

Motion FIN 22-18

Moved by: Councillor Quassa
Seconded by: Councillor Smith

Committee recommends that Council approve the 2023 Capital Budget as presented.

Unanimously Carried

c) Request for Decision – Sanitation Rates – 2023

Deputy Mayor Sheppard explained that staff are recommending that the sanitation rate be increased by two percent, which is part of multi-year rate increases to help fund operations at the new solid waste facility when it comes online. The multi-year rate increases will prevent a high rate increase all at once.

Motion FIN 22-19

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson
Seconded by: Councillor Smith

Committee recommends that Council apply a two percent increase to sanitation rates for 2023.

Unanimously Carried

d) Request for Decision – Water/Sewer Rates – 2023

Deputy Mayor Sheppard advised that staff are recommending two options for water/sewer rate increases:

- Increase water/sewer rates for all customers by two percent
- Increase water/sewer rates for customers in the full economic category (government units) only by five percent
 - This will still leave a small shortfall in the Water/Sewer Fund.

Deputy Mayor Sheppard recommended the following:

- Increase water/sewer rates for customers in the full economic category (government units) by five percent
- Increase water/sewer rates for all other customers by one percent

Motion FIN 22-20

Moved by: Councillor Stevenson

Seconded by: Councillor Quassa

Committee recommends that Council increase the water/sewer rates for 2023 as follows:
a. Five percent increase to the full economic category (government units)
b. One percent increase for all other customers.

Unanimously Carried

e) Request for Decision – Property Taxes – 2023

Deputy Mayor Sheppard advised that staff are recommending a two percent increase in institutional property taxes and a one percent increase across all other property classes.

Motion FIN 22-21

Moved by: Councillor Quassa

Seconded by: Councillor Stevenson

Committee recommends that Council increase property taxes for institutional classes by two percent and increase all other property classes by one percent for 2023.

Unanimously Carried

Deputy Mayor Sheppard thanked staff for all their work in preparing the budget, which is not easy with the cost increases in fuel and power.

f) Request for Decision – Long Term Loans

This item was removed from the agenda.

6. IN CAMERA SESSION

() As per Section 22 (2) (a) CTV Act and By-law 526 Section 67

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion FIN 22-22


Moved by: Councillor Smith

Seconded by: Councillor Stevenson


Committee adjourns at 7:06 p.m.

Unanimously Carried





Kyle Sheppard
Chair



Tammy Ernst-Doiron
City Clerk

Approved by City Council on the 8th day of November, 2022.

