

EXTRACT OF DRAFT MINUTES 17  
FINANCE AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
6 OCTOBER 2020

EXTRAIT DE L'ÉBAUCHE DU  
PROCÈS-VERBAL 17  
COMITÉ DES FINANCES ET DU  
DÉVELOPPEMENT ÉCONOMIQUE  
LE 6 OCTOBRE 2020

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At the outset, the Committee considered the following motion:

**MOTION No. FEDC 2020 2/17**

Moved by Vice-Chair L. Dudas

**WHEREAS the report (ACS2020-FSD-FIN-0022) titled “Proposed 2021 Budget Directions, Timeline and Consultation Process” and listed as Item 3 on today’s agenda was not circulated with the agenda;**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, pursuant to Subsection 89(3) of the Procedure By-law (being By-law N<sup>o</sup> 2019-8), the Finance and Economic Development Committee approve that the Rules of Procedure be suspended to allow for the consideration of this item.**

CARRIED

Prior to the staff presentation, Councillor L. Dudas introduced the following motion:

**MOTION No. FEDC 2020 3/17**

Moved by Vice-Chair L. Dudas

**WHEREAS the financial impacts of the Pandemic to Ottawa’s economy will remain unknown for foreseeable future, though economists at Deloitte reported on September 23, 2020 that Canada will not see a recovery until at least Q2 of 2022; effectively the end of this Term of Council; and**

**WHEREAS City services have seen a dramatic shift in demand and delivery resulting from the Pandemic, for example the precipitous drop in ridership on OC Transpo; and**

**WHEREAS the City faces increased financial costs due to the Pandemic: e.g. increased sanitation costs, acquiring PPE, etc.; and**

**WHEREAS** the City of Ottawa, like all municipalities in Ontario, is bound by Provincial legislation that it cannot run a budget deficit (without a legislated exemption); and

**WHEREAS**, according to Statistics Canada, from the January 2020 to May 2020 period, Ottawa saw 3,335, or 13.5%, of businesses permanently close their doors; and

**WHEREAS** the official declaration of Ottawa's entry into the second wave of the Pandemic by Ottawa Public Health, underscores that the impacts of the Pandemic on residents and businesses will not be abating in the short or mid-term; and

**WHEREAS** as reported by Ottawa Public Health, since mid-March, 28% of Ottawa households reported a decrease in income. And of those, 19% are having difficulty paying for basic necessities, such as housing and/or food; and

**WHEREAS** it is important that the City maintain room in Budget 2021 to support new and unforeseen COVID-related expenses, whether it be PPE, housing programs, or expanding business supports; and

**WHEREAS** the preponderance of the City of Ottawa's revenue is generated through direct property taxes on residents and businesses; and

**THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED** that as part of the Budget 2021 process, City staff review operating budgets in detail to identify areas for potential savings resulting from changes in residents' needs due to the Pandemic, with the purpose of bringing before a Council a budget that demonstrates self-discipline and reflects the reality of the financial situation of the City, the Province and the Country; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that City departmental staff review projects not started, nor tendered or have any dependency on other projects by the City (for instance life-cycle renewal projects), to identify projects that, should the need arise, may be postponed from the 2021 budget year, with the intent to re-evaluate these projects for Budget 2022 when we will have a better understanding of the long-term financial implications of the Pandemic and its economic impacts.

Wendy Stephanson, Chief Financial Officer spoke to a PowerPoint presentation which is held on file with the City Clerk. The following councillors were in attendance for this portion of the meeting: Councillors R. Brockington, K. Egli, M. Fleury, T. Kavanagh, J. Leiper and S. Menard.

Trevor Haché, Healthy Transportation Coalition spoke of affordable rental units and asked if the City would commit to allocating at least \$20 million for new affordable housing near rapid transit, approve a city wide inclusionary zoning by-law that ensure 25 per cent of new development is dedicated to affordable housing and available government-owned land within one kilometre of rapid transit stations is used for non-profit and co-op housing. A copy of his comments is held on file with the City Clerk.

Khulud Baig, City of All Women's Initiative (CAWI) requested that the budget reflects diversity and gender groups. Khulud also requested that the budget process be more participatory and engage the public at the beginning of the summer as opposed to later in the year.

Correspondence was received by Matt Whitehead, Hintonburg Community Association dated October 5, 2020, which is held on file with the City Clerk.

Discussions and questions were related, but not limited to: the value of vacant office buildings; LRT funding and other levels of governments commitment; the need for a revised approach in funding for social services such as child care, housing, recreation services and community groups.

The following comments and requests were provided: IT support at councillor-led public budget meetings; update and re-send the memorandum regarding efficiency savings in 2019 and 2020; provide a dollar amount regarding the 2.54% levy increase; and produce the total of road spending anticipated for the 2021 proposed budget.

The Mayor also noted his direction to staff to ensure there is a freeze on low-income transit passes

The Dudas was put to Committee and CARRIED as presented. The Committee then voted on the report recommendations and CARRIED the item as amended by Motion No. FEDC 2020 3/17.