

COUNCIL MEETING – BUDGET MINUTES

November 15, 26, December 1 & 2, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Council Chamber
401 Festival Lane
Sherwood Park, AB

Members Present:

Rod Frank, Mayor
Robert Parks, Ward 1
Dave Anderson, Ward 2
Lorne Harvey, Ward 3 (*absent November 15, 2021*)
Bill Tonita, Ward 4
Aaron Nelson, Ward 5
Corey-Ann Hartwick, Ward 6
Glen Lawrence, Ward 7
Katie Berghofer, Ward 8

*Members of Council
attended via electronic
means or in person as
required*

Administration Present:

Darrell Reid, Chief Commissioner
Jennifer Cannon, Chief Financial Officer
Gord Johnston, Assoc. Commissioner, Community Services
Jason Chance, Assoc. Commissioner, Corporate Services
Stacy Fedechko, Assoc. Commissioner, Infrastructure and Planning Services
Mavis Nathoo, Director, Legislative and Legal Services
Sara McKerry, Manager, Governance Services
Susanne Semchuk, Legislative Officer
Amanda Vierboom, Legislative Officer

- November 15, 2021 -

2. CALL TO ORDER & TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Frank called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. with an acknowledgement that Strathcona County is located on Treaty Six Territory and the homeland of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region Two and Four. Strathcona County honours the First Peoples of this land. We recognize that we stand upon land that carries the footsteps of Cree, Métis, and Blackfoot amongst many other Nations, who have been here for thousands of years. Therefore, Strathcona County has an inherent responsibility to foster healthier relationships with First Peoples and further the Calls to Action as outlined by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

3. CHANGES TO AGENDA & ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2021/ CB5

Moved by R. Parks

THAT the November 15, 2021 Council Budget Meeting agenda be adopted as presented.

In Favor (7): R. Frank, R. Parks, B. Tonita, A. Nelson, C. Hartwick, G. Lawrence, and K. Berghofer

Carried

2021/ CB6

Moved by R. Parks

THAT section 18 of Meeting Procedures Bylaw 21-2021 be suspended for the duration of the Council Budget Meeting, pursuant to section 90, to allow for addition of budget material, replacement pages and presentations by way of consensus; and that the Clerk be directed to note all such changes in an appendix to the minutes and to provide an update of all such changes each time the meeting is called to order, to assist members of Council and the public.

In Favor (7): R. Frank, R. Parks, B. Tonita, A. Nelson, C. Hartwick, G. Lawrence, and K. Berghofer

Carried

4. INTRODUCTION

4.2 Introduction and Addition and Change Sheets

The Clerk read the additional materials into the record. *See Appendix A – Additional and Replacement Material.*

5. DIVISION PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Infrastructure and Planning Services Division

Council was provided with a budget presentation from the Infrastructure and Planning Services Division.

Councillor Anderson joined the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

5.1.1 Utilities

Council was provided with a budget presentation from the Utilities Department.

5.2 Community Services Division

Council was provided with a budget presentation from the Community Services Division.

5.2.1 Emergency Services Staffing

Council was provided with a budget presentation regarding Emergency Services Staffing.

Councillor Parks left the meeting at 1:14 p.m.

5.3 Financial and Strategic Management Division

Council was provided with a budget presentation from the Financial and Strategic Management Division.

5.3.1 Fiscal Services

Council was provided with a budget presentation from Fiscal Services.

5.4 Corporate Services Division

Council was provided with a budget presentation from the Corporate Services Division.

8. COMMUNITY PARTNER PRESENTATIONS

8.1 Strathcona County Library

Council was provided with a presentation from the Strathcona County Library.

External Presenters:

Meagan Olive, Chair, Strathcona County Library Board

Leah Lewis, Secretary/Treasurer Strathcona County Library Board

Gene Syvenky, Board Member, Strathcona County Library Board

Sharon Siga, Strathcona County Library CEO 8.2 Heartland Housing Foundation

8.2 Heartland Housing Foundation

Council was provided with a presentation from the Heartland Housing Foundation.

External Presenters:

Nancy Simmonds, CEO, Heartland Housing Foundation

Mike Derbyshire, Board Chair, Heartland Housing Foundation

Lara Han, Finance Manager, Heartland Housing Foundation

5. DIVISION PRESENTATIONS

5.6 Flagged Item Votes

Flagged Item #1

2021/ CB7

Moved by R. Frank

THAT Administration provide a comparison of head counts in the various divisions and departments for municipalities of similar size, including municipal comparators and staffing information (such as Grande Prairie, Red Deer, Lethbridge, etc.).

In Favor (7): R. Frank, D. Anderson, B. Tonita, A. Nelson, C. Hartwick, G. Lawrence, and K. Berghofer

Carried

Flagged Item #2

2021/ CB8

Moved by R. Frank

THAT Administration provide information on what could be done if the need arose to make tough decisions and reallocate, drop or reduce programs because resources are limited, and considering our strategic plan, what are each division's less/least valued and less/least relevant programs, such report to include a description of any programs that have already been reduced, dropped or modified in preparing this budget? (e.g., contracting out welding services to save money).

In Favor (7): R. Frank, D. Anderson, B. Tonita, A. Nelson, C. Hartwick, G. Lawrence, and K. Berghofer

Carried

Flagged Item #3

2021/ CB9

Moved by D. Anderson

THAT Administration provide information on actual costs to Strathcona County to fulfill the obligations in the Alberta Health Services Contract for EMS services, including whether it costs the County money, or is cost neutral (for example, when we include the cost of fuel, training, equipment, software), and if it is costing the County money to fulfill the contract, what steps we are taking to identify potential savings.

In Favor (7): R. Frank, D. Anderson, B. Tonita, A. Nelson, C. Hartwick, G. Lawrence, and K. Berghofer

Carried

Council recessed at 5:32 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. on November 26, 2021.

- November 26, 2021 -

4. INTRODUCTION

Mayor Frank reconvened the meeting at 1:30 p.m. with a Territorial Acknowledgement with all members of Council present, with the exception of Councillor Tonita.

4.3 Introduction and Addition and Change Sheets

The Clerk read the additional materials into the record. *See Appendix A – Additional and Replacement Material.*

2021/ CB10

Moved by L. Harvey

THAT the start time for the December 3, 2021 and the December 9, 2021 Council Budget meeting dates be changed from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm; and

THAT Administration provide notice of these changes to Council and the public.

In Favor (8): R. Frank, R. Parks, D. Anderson, L. Harvey, A. Nelson, C. Hartwick, G. Lawrence, and K. Berghofer

Carried

12. FLAGGED ITEMS RESPONSES

12.2 Flagged Item Responses

Council was provided with responses to Flagged Items #1, #2 and #3.

5. DIVISION PRESENTATIONS

5.5 Senior Administration Division and Elected Officials

Council was provided with a budget presentation from the Senior Administration Division and Elected Officials.

Councillor Tonita joined the meeting at 2:32 pm.

6. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Broadband

Council was provided with a budget presentation regarding Broadband.

Councillor Hartwick left the meeting at 2:51 p.m.

10. CAPITAL BUDGET

10.1 Capital Budget Presentation

Council was provided with a presentation on the Capital Budget.

7. FEES, RATES AND CHARGES BYLAW

7.1 Introductory Presentation

Council was provided with an introduction on the Fees, Rates and Charges Bylaw.

7.2 Flagged Item Votes

Flagged Item #4

2021/ CB11

Moved by A. Nelson

THAT Administration provide a more detailed list, by department, of the proposed Temp to Perm conversions for the 2022 Budget, including the length of time that the positions have been temporary, an outline of the nature of the positions and the rationale for the conversion (e.g., 11 month "seasonal", recruitment and retention difficulties, etc.), along with the salary ranges for the positions, and how these positions were funded previously.

In Favor (8): R. Frank, R. Parks, D. Anderson, L. Harvey, B. Tonita, A. Nelson, G. Lawrence, and K. Berghofer

Carried

Flagged Item #5

2021/ CB12

Moved by R. Frank

THAT Administration provide a follow up response to Flagged Item #2 that describes, in the context of limited resources and the Strategic Plan, any programs, regardless of the PBB quartile and the potential impact on the public, that could be discontinued or reduced, such description to include the impact of the discontinuation or reductions and include a list of programs that have been removed or reduced in the past.

In Favor (8): R. Frank, R. Parks, D. Anderson, L. Harvey, B. Tonita, A. Nelson, G. Lawrence, and K. Berghofer

Carried

11. PUBLIC HEARING

The Clerk provided an overview of the Public Hearing procedure as required.

11.1 Strathcona County 2022 Budget - Non-Statutory Public Hearing

The Mayor convened the Public Hearing at 4:01 p.m.

Council heard from the following speakers:

P. Appleman
AJ. Harris
K. Nygren
C. Allam
K. Lesniak
R. Wyton
J. Perozok
T. Banks
B. Kassian
L. Delainey
B. Leman
L. Larson

The Mayor closed the Public Hearing at 5:53 p.m.

7. FEES, RATES AND CHARGES BYLAW

7.2 Flagged Item Votes

Flagged Item #6

2021/ CB13

Moved by B. Tonita and L. Harvey

THAT Administration provide a breakdown of the lump sums for large capital budget items in Open Capital (those in excess of \$5 million) as set out on page 103 of the budget (e.g., buildings at 44 million) to indicate the costs of large dollar value items on a per project basis.

In Favor (8): R. Frank, R. Parks, D. Anderson, L. Harvey, B. Tonita, A. Nelson, G. Lawrence, and K. Berghofer

Carried

Council recessed at 5:55 p.m. until 9:00 a.m. on December 1, 2021.

- December 1, 2021 -

Mayor Frank reconvened the meeting with a Territorial Acknowledgement at 9:00 a.m. with all members of Council present.

4. INTRODUCTION

4.4 Introduction and Addition and Change Sheets

The Clerk read the additional materials into the record. *See Appendix A – Additional and Replacement Material.*

2021/ CB14

Moved by R. Parks

THAT Council meet in private to discuss the response to Flagged Item #5 and closed session matters protected from disclosure under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act* sections 17, 24 and 25 at 10:21 a.m.

In Favor (9): R. Frank, R. Parks, D. Anderson, L. Harvey, B. Tonita, A. Nelson, C. Hartwick, G. Lawrence, and K. Berghofer

Carried

12. FLAGGED ITEMS RESPONSES

Flagged Item #5

Name	Reason/ Purpose
Darrell Reid	Strategic Leader of the Organization / Presenter
Jennifer Cannon	Strategic Leader of the Organization / Presenter
Gord Johnston	Strategic Leader of the Organization
Jason Chance	Strategic Leader of the Organization
Stacy Fedechko	Strategic Leader of the Organization
Don Legge	To answer questions
Jay Bohachyk	To answer questions
Mavis Nathoo	Legislative Advice/ Clerk
Sara McKerry	Legislative Advice/ Clerk
Susanne Semchuk	Meeting Support
Amanda Vierboom	Meeting Support
Sharry Sowiak	To answer questions

9. CLOSED SESSION

9.1 Human Resources Presentation

FOIP Section 24, advice from officials

FOIP Section 25, economic interests of the municipality

Name	Reason/ Purpose
Darrell Reid	Strategic Leader of the Organization
Jennifer Cannon	Strategic Leader of the Organization
Gord Johnston	Strategic Leader of the Organization
Jason Chance	Strategic Leader of the Organization
Stacy Fedechko	Strategic Leader of the Organization
Don Legge	To answer questions
Jay Bohachyk	To answer questions
Mavis Nathoo	Legislative Advice/ Clerk
Sara McKerry	Legislative Advice/ Clerk
Susanne Semchuk	Meeting Support
Amanda Vierboom	Meeting Support
Sharry Sowiak	Presenter

Council recessed from 12:03 p.m. until 2:00 p.m.

2021/ CB15

Moved by R. Parks

THAT Council revert to open session at 2:41 p.m. and recess until 2:55 p.m.

In Favor (9): R. Frank, R. Parks, D. Anderson, B. Tonita, C. Hartwick, G. Lawrence, K. Berghofer, L. Harvey, and A. Nelson

Carried

13. BUDGET AND RELATED APPROVALS

13.4 Budget Discussion and Approval

13.1 Subsequent Motions

2021/ CB16

Moved by R. Parks and D. Anderson

THAT Administration provide a report for Council's consideration by February 2022 on the possibility of providing a one-time grant of up to a maximum of \$100,000, to be funded from Municipal Reserves, to the Strathcona Community Hospital Foundation in 2022; and

THAT Administration work with the Foundation to undertake a sustainability study and assist with identifying funding sources available to the Foundation.

In Favor (9): R. Frank, R. Parks, D. Anderson, B. Tonita, C. Hartwick, G. Lawrence, K. Berghofer, L. Harvey, and A. Nelson

Carried

**ACTION: Family and Community Services
and Corporate Finance**

DUE: February 2022

2021/ CB17

Moved by K. Berghofer

THAT Administration include a tour of significant capital projects as part of the planned Council County Bus Tour in the Council Orientation program planned for Q2 2022.

In Favor (9): R. Frank, R. Parks, D. Anderson, B. Tonita, C. Hartwick, G. Lawrence, K. Berghofer, L. Harvey, and A. Nelson

Carried

**ACTION: Legislative and Legal Services,
and Recreation, Parks and Culture**

DUE: Q2 2022

2021/ CB18

Moved by B. Tonita

THAT Administration provide a report to Council in closed session by the end of Q2 2022 that provides an in-depth analysis of the pros and cons and financial impact of implementing different models or reductions to the programs identified in Flagged Item #5 of the 2022 Council Budget Process, and

THAT Flagged Item #5 response remain private pursuant to sections 17, 24 and 25 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

In Favor (9): R. Frank, R. Parks, D. Anderson, B. Tonita, C. Hartwick, G. Lawrence, K. Berghofer, L. Harvey, and A. Nelson

Carried

ACTION: Corporate Planning

DUE: Q2 2022

13.2 Bylaw 54-2021: 2022 Fees, Rates and Charges (Repeals Bylaw 49-2021)

2021/ CB19

Moved by B. Tonita

THAT Bylaw 54-2021 The 2022 Fees, Rates, and Charges Bylaw be given first reading.

In Favor (9): R. Frank, R. Parks, D. Anderson, B. Tonita, C. Hartwick, G. Lawrence, K. Berghofer, L. Harvey, and A. Nelson

Carried

2021/ CB20

Moved by R. Parks

THAT Bylaw 54-2021 be given second reading.

In Favor (9): R. Frank, R. Parks, D. Anderson, B. Tonita, C. Hartwick, G. Lawrence, K. Berghofer, L. Harvey, and A. Nelson

Carried

2021/ CB21

Moved by G. Lawrence

That Bylaw 54-2021 be considered for third reading.

In Favor (9): R. Frank, R. Parks, D. Anderson, B. Tonita, C. Hartwick, G. Lawrence, K. Berghofer, L. Harvey, and A. Nelson

Carried

2021/ CB22

Moved by A. Nelson

THAT Bylaw 54-2021 be given third reading.

In Favor (9): R. Frank, R. Parks, D. Anderson, B. Tonita, C. Hartwick, G. Lawrence, K. Berghofer, L. Harvey, and A. Nelson

Carried

Council recessed at 3:50 p.m. until 9:00 a.m. on December 2, 2021.

- December 2, 2021 -

Mayor Frank reconvened the meeting with a Territorial Acknowledgement at 9:00 a.m. with all members of Council present.

4. INTRODUCTION

4.5 Introduction and Addition and Change Sheets

There were no additional materials to add.

13. BUDGET AND RELATED APPROVALS

13.4 Budget Discussion and Approval

2021/ CB23

Moved by B. Tonita

THAT the 2022 Consolidated Operating Budget, including a 3.11% municipal tax revenue increase, a 1.44% Utility rate increase, and a 0.0% Library increase, in the amount of \$397.2M be adopted;

THAT the 2022 Consolidated Capital Budget in the amount of \$57.5 M be adopted;

THAT the proposed annual Consolidated Operating Plans for the years 2023-2025 (including projected 1.92%, 1.50% and 1.46% tax revenue increases respectively) be approved; and

THAT the proposed annual Consolidated Capital Plans for the years 2023-2026 (including projected consolidated capital budgets of \$86.8 M, \$54.6 M, \$71.0 M, and \$60.8 M respectively) be approved.

2021/ CB24

Referral Motion Moved by R. Parks

THAT the motion on the floor be referred to Administration to identify \$900,000 reductions or reallocations in the budget to reduce the municipal tax revenue increase from 3.11% to 2.69% and that Administration report back to Council with options by December 6, 2021

2021/ CB25

Moved by B. Tonita

THAT Council meet in private to discuss matters protected from disclosure under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act* sections 17, 24 and 25 at 10:35 a.m.

In Favor (9): R. Frank, R. Parks, D. Anderson, L. Harvey, B. Tonita, A. Nelson, C. Hartwick, G. Lawrence, and K. Berghofer

Carried

Name	Reason/ Purpose
Darrell Reid	Strategic Leader of the Organization / Presenter
Jennifer Cannon	Strategic Leader of the Organization
Gord Johnston	Strategic Leader of the Organization
Jason Chance	Strategic Leader of the Organization
Stacy Fedechko	Strategic Leader of the Organization
Don Legge	To answer questions
Jay Bohachyk	To answer questions
Mavis Nathoo	Legislative Advice/ Clerk
Sara McKerry	Legislative Advice/ Clerk
Susanne Semchuk	Meeting Support
Amanda Vierboom	Meeting Support
Sharry Sowiak	To answer questions

2021/ CB26

Moved by R. Parks

THAT Council revert to open session at 11:33 a.m.

In Favor (9): R. Frank, R. Parks, D. Anderson, L. Harvey, B. Tonita, A. Nelson, C. Hartwick, G. Lawrence, and K. Berghofer

Carried

2021/ CB24

Motion on the floor: R. Parks

THAT the motion on the floor be referred to Administration to identify \$900,000 reductions or reallocations in the budget to reduce the municipal tax revenue increase from 3.11% to 2.69% and that Administration report back to Council with options by December 6, 2021

In Favor (2): R. Frank, and A. Nelson

Opposed (7): R. Parks, D. Anderson, L. Harvey, B. Tonita, C. Hartwick, G. Lawrence, and K. Berghofer

Defeated

2021/ CB23

Motion on the floor: B. Tonita

THAT the 2022 Consolidated Operating Budget, including a 3.11% municipal tax revenue increase, a 1.44% Utility rate increase, and a 0.0% Library increase, in the amount of \$397.2M be adopted;

THAT the 2022 Consolidated Capital Budget in the amount of \$57.5 M be adopted;

THAT the proposed annual Consolidated Operating Plans for the years 2023-2025 (including projected 1.92%, 1.50% and 1.46% tax revenue increases respectively) be approved; and

THAT the proposed annual Consolidated Capital Plans for the years 2023-2026 (including projected consolidated capital budgets of \$86.8 M, \$54.6 M, \$71.0 M, and \$60.8 M respectively) be approved.

In Favor (8): R. Parks, D. Anderson, L. Harvey, B. Tonita, A. Nelson, C. Hartwick, G. Lawrence, and K. Berghofer

Opposed (1): R. Frank

Carried

14. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Frank declared the meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m., December 2, 2021.

Mayor

Director, Legislative & Legal Services