



2022 Budget – Our City. Our Future.

Draft Budget and Business Plan

Question and Answer Session with Members of Council and Staff

Date: November 25, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Members Present: Councillor Reid, Councillor Ermeta, and Mayor McGarry

Staff Present: David Calder – City Manager, Dave Bush – Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services, Hardy Bromberg – Deputy City Manager, Community Development, Cheryl Zahnleiter – Deputy City Manager, Corporate Enterprise, Yogesh Shah – Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Services, Sheryl Ayres – Chief Financial Officer, Katie Fischer - Deputy Treasurer, Victoria Terella – Supervisor of Financial Planning, Kate Hyde – Budget Analyst, Usama Seraj, Budget Analyst, Ashton Patis – Chief of Staff to the Mayor, Mallory Greenough - Council Committee Services Coordinator

Budget Section / Page Reference	Council Member	Question	Answer
Budget Overview	Councillor Reid	3.0% increase, are there any areas that could be recommended to reduce the amount?	There will no longer be a property tax re-assessment in 2022, province is delaying the re-assessment and the one-time impact of \$50,000 can be removed
	Councillor Reid – Menstrual Products Program Addition	What would be the impact to residents of this program if brought forward to be included in the budget? What would the impact be to the tax payer for the initial \$18,400? Would reducing the	If only universal washrooms and women’s washrooms are included in the program the cost would decrease from \$30,000 to \$18,400 as the initial impact and then \$4,000 for supplies

		installation in all public washrooms to only women's and universal washrooms lower the fee?	annually. This would be an impact of 0.02% increase per average household, approximately \$0.27.
	Mayor McGarry - Menstrual Products Program Addition	<p>If we could push the expense from the motion to span over two years will that make a smaller impact to the tax increase?</p> <p>Can we use baskets instead of having the equipment installed, similar to what City Hall was doing previous to Covid-19?</p>	<p>Yes, it could, the initial cost is the more expensive fee, once machines and equipment are installed, the annual cost of supplies reduces significantly.</p> <p>Yes, that is a possibility.</p>
Operating Summary			
Water Summary			
Capital Summary	Councillor Reid – Riverside Dam	What would be the cost if we allow the dam to naturalize?	<p>The report coming to Council will have 3 options to consider and will outline associated costs along with a presentation. The options available to Council will be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue with Council direction to rebuild 2. Passive management 3. Naturalizing <p>To naturalize would reduce the construction budget to \$8.5 million but would require re-examination of the Environmental Assessment with an estimated cost of \$600,000.</p>
	Councillor Reid – Riverside Dam	How much money have we put into the current design?	The Dam is 60% design at this time, as long as the Environmental Assessment doesn't change, the designs can be used in the future.
	Councillor Reid – Preston Auditorium	Is the increase budget amount going to cover the cost of the construction?	The budget for the scope presented in May 2021 is estimated at \$17 million which includes cost escalations since estimates were prepared in

			<p>April 2021.</p> <p>The recommendation in the staff report coming forward on December 2nd is to provide extensive renovations to the existing single-pad arena, with an estimated cost of \$14 million.</p>
	Mayor McGarry – Preston Auditorium	Can we move some of the amenities from Preston Auditorium to the Cambridge Sports Park on Franklin Boulevard?	Cambridge Sports Park proposal includes 2000 sq.ft. of climate-controlled storage and office space for city's use. There is an opportunity to allocate this space to user groups.
	Mayor McGarry – Preston Auditorium	Would it be better to phase into twinning the auditorium and then expand if necessary?	Yes, there would be an option to revisit this in the future.
	Councillor Ermeta – Green Wall replacement in City Hall	What does the green wall replacement entail?	The Green wall in City Hall has reached the end of its life cycle and the plants need to be removed and new plants need to be put in their place.
	Councillor Reid – Development Charges	Can you please explain why there is a large amount in Development Charges related debt?	<p>It is not uncommon for development charges to be needed for the City's share of infrastructure before builds start. And not uncommon to need to issue debt relating to this since this work is required before the City collects the development charges.</p> <p>A capital project is proposed for 2022 for a full update to the City's development charges.</p> <p>In Q1 the Community Development department will bring forward information on the waiving of DCs in the core.</p>

Reserves			
KPI			
Business Plans			
Mayor & Council			
City Manager	Councillor Reid	How many communications staff will be hired?	Two staff will be hired, one is currently a full-time temporary position and a communications associate is to be hired to replace a full-year co-op student.
Corp Services	Councillor Reid	Will there be assistance for Freedom of Information requests as some of the Archives employees have been helping and archives are very important and need to have focus.	Yes, there will be a Freedom of Information Coordinator position to assist with all of the requests.
Corp Enterprise			
Comm Dev			
Infra Serv			
Corp Exp			
Library			
Water Utility			
Capital Forecast			
Appendices			
General Questions	Councillor Reid – Menstrual Products Program Addition	If the \$50,000 was taken out of the tax supported one-time impact for anticipated assessment reviews and the Menstrual Products Program was added at a cost at \$16-18,000 what would that put us at for an overall budget increase?	The \$50,000 could be removed to reduce the one-time impact and bring us to a 2.99% increase with the Program cost included.
	Councillor Reid	How is Cambridge compared to KW?	Kitchener 1.9% with a 2.2% water utility which includes their storm utility increase Waterloo has not yet released their budget information.

	Councillor Reid	Putting \$1 million into the reserves would put us over the others?	Yes, our budget before the \$1 million works out to a tax increase of 1.99% which is in line with the other municipalities.
	Councillor Reid	How does this compare with inflation?	CPI inflation is currently 4.9% in Ontario, but it should be noted that this is for a typical basket of goods that a household would buy which is different than what the City operations and costs reflect. Our types of costs would be more in-line with the construction price index, which is close to 12% for non-residential and 24% for residential construction.