

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL REGULAR OPEN MEETING
HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2021
2022 – 2026 FINANCIAL PLAN**

PRESENT: Mayor V. Cumming

Councillors: K. Gares, K. Fehr, A. Mund
S. Anderson, B. Quiring (9:15 am)

Staff: W. Pearce, Chief Administrative Officer
D. Law, Director, Financial Services
A. Stuart, Manager, Financial Planning & Reporting
K. Poole, Director, Community Lands, Safety &
Administration
K. Austin, Manager, Legislative Services
J. Nicol, Deputy Corporate Officer
C. Poirier, Manager, Communications & Grants
J. Rice, Director, Operation Services
K. Walsh, Financial Analyst
K. Flick, Director, Community Infrastructure & Development
D. Ross, Director, Recreation Services
S. Melenko, Information Tech.*
D. Lind, Fire Chief, Vernon Fire & Rescue
Supt. S. Baher, OIC, Vernon RCMP*
J. Barrie, Admin. Assistant, Vernon Fire & Rescue*
R. Friesen, Deputy Fire Chief*
A. Hofsink, Deputy Fire Chief*
M. Dowhaniuk, Manager, Infrastructure*
K. Kryszak, Manager, Parks & Public Spaces Maintenance*
M. Beauregard, Manager, Building Services*
R. Strobel, Manager, Fleet Services*
S. Irwin, Manager, Utilities*
S. Kozin, Manager, Vernon Water Reclamation Centre*

**present as required*

Others: Media and Members of the public

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cumming called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

**LAND
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

*As Mayor of the City of Vernon, and in the spirit of this gathering,
I recognize the City of Vernon is located in the traditional territory of
the Syilx People of the Okanagan Nation.*

AGENDA ADOPTION

Moved by Councillor Mund, seconded by Councillor Gares:

THAT the Agenda for the November 29, 2021, Special Regular Open Meeting of Council be adopted.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Councillor Quiring entered the meeting at 9:15 pm.

**2022 - 2026
FINANCIAL PLAN**

The Chief Administrative Officer provided an overview of the proposed Budget for 2022.

The following points were reviewed:

- In 2021, Council resolved to defer the 1.9% Infrastructure Levy and to include the levy in the 2022 budget
- Council directed Administration to present an operating budget of no greater than 2%
- Proposed operating budget comes in at 2.17% and does its best to maintain service levels
- Most challenging item is the RCMP Contract commitments
- The increase of 9% on contract rates has resulted in an approximate increase of \$1M in the budget
- RCMP Officer salaries will be in line with other jurisdictions
- There are nine proposed service level increases
- Operating budget – 2.17%, RCMP budget – increase of 2.32% to maintain Officer levels
- This budget focuses on community safety
- Non-Market Growth from BC Assessment is 1.68% - overall tax rate is proposed to be 7.66%, there are two other options:
 1. Defer one service level increase – Fire Apparatus Reserve; or
 2. Defer Fire Apparatus Reserve and Infrastructure Levy and extend Infrastructure Reserve Program to 2024.

The Director, Financial Services reviewed the process proposed for review of the 2022 – 2026 Financial Plan and the Memo previously distributed. The Manager, Financial Planning & Reporting provided an overview of Taxation Base spreadsheet.

**DIVISIONAL BUDGET
REVIEWS**

Council invited Administration to proceed with their review of the Divisional Budgets.

RCMP

Superintendent Shawna Baher, Officer in Charge, RCMP reviewed the RCMP Budget.

Moved by Councillor Quiring, seconded by Councillor Mund:

THAT Council **receives and endorses** the 2022 RCMP Divisional Budget, in the amount of \$10,962,787, as presented.

CARRIED

FIRE RESCUE SERVICES

The Fire Chief reviewed the Fire Rescue Services Budget.

Moved by Councillor Mund, seconded by Councillor Fehr:

THAT Council **receives and endorses** the 2022 Fire Rescue Services Divisional Budget, in the amount of \$7,025,371, as presented.

CARRIED

CHANGE REQUEST – FIRE RESCUE SERVICES

Moved by Councillor Mund, seconded by Councillor Quiring:

THAT Council approves the following 2022 Change Request for Fire Rescue Services:

3917 *Two new Firefighters
\$218,925 (Taxation)

CARRIED

OPERATION SERVICES

The Director, Operation Services, reviewed the Operating Budget for Operation Services.

Councillor Anderson left the meeting at 10:30 am and returned at 10:32 am.

CHANGE REQUEST – OPERATION SERVICES

Moved by Mayor Cumming, seconded by Councillor Fehr:

THAT Council approves the following 2022 Change Request for Operation Services:

3915 *Civic Memorial Park
\$39,000 (Taxation)

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Mund, seconded by Councillor Quiring:

THAT Council **receives and endorses** the 2022 Operation Services Divisional Budget, in the amount of \$10,980,191, as presented.

CARRIED

RECESS

Mayor Cumming called a brief recess at 10:55 am.

RECONVENE

Mayor Cumming reconvened the meeting at 11:00 am.

PRESENT: Mayor V. Cumming

Councillors: K. Gares, K. Fehr, A. Mund
S. Anderson, B. Quiring

Staff: W. Pearce, Chief Administrative Officer
D. Law, Director, Financial Services
A. Stuart, Manager, Financial Planning & Reporting
K. Poole, Director, Community Lands, Safety & Administration
K. Austin, Manager, Legislative Services
J. Nicol, Deputy Corporate Officer
C. Poirier, Manager, Communications & Grants
J. Rice, Director, Operation Services
K. Walsh, Financial Analyst
K. Flick, Director, Community Infrastructure & Development
D. Ross, Director, Recreation Services
S. Melenko, Information Tech.*
D. Lind, Fire Chief, Vernon Fire & Rescue
M. Dowhaniuk, Manager, Infrastructure*

**present as required*

**PUBLIC INPUT
(11:00 am)**

Mayor Cumming called for Public Input on the 2022 to 2026 Financial Plan at 11:00 am.

1. Catherine Lord

- Concerned about the proposed 7.66% tax increase
- Median income for Vernon households is \$34,455, 29% of households are rented, many are on fixed pensions and participate in the 'Better at Home' Program', food prices are also expected to increase
- Concern for these people if they need to bear a 7.66% tax increase as they may need to choose between food and household expenses
- Recommends that 1.9% Infrastructure Levy gets deferred again this year with restart next year
- Climate change has shown that many residents have

relied on City staff and volunteers and staff increases are warranted

- Encourage Council to consider Option 3 – a 4.98% tax increase with the Infrastructure Levy and Fire Apparatus Levy deferred until next year
- Council should also lead by example - urge Council to attend conferences via Zoom rather than in-person as a cost-saving measure.

Mayor Cumming called a second, third, and final time for representation from the public, and there being none, Mayor Cumming closed the Public Input on the 2022 to 2026 Financial Plan until 3:00 pm.

CAPITAL BUDGET

The Manager, Infrastructure reviewed the 2022 proposed Capital Budget.

RECESS

Mayor Cumming called a recess at 12:00 pm.

RECONVENE

Mayor Cumming reconvened the meeting at 1:00 pm.

PRESENT: Mayor V. Cumming

Councillors: K. Gares, K. Fehr, A. Mund
B. Quiring, S. Anderson (1:05 pm)

Staff: W. Pearce, Chief Administrative Officer
D. Law, Director, Financial Services
A. Stuart, Manager, Financial Planning & Reporting
K. Poole, Director, Community Lands, Safety & Administration
K. Austin, Manager, Legislative Services
J. Nicol, Deputy Corporate Officer
C. Poirier, Manager, Communications & Grants
J. Rice, Director, Operation Services
Supt. S. Baher, OIC, RCMP
K. Walsh, Financial Analyst
K. Flick, Director, Community Infrastructure & Development
D. Ross, Director, Recreation Services
S. Melenko, Information Tech.*
D. Lind, Fire Chief, Vernon Fire & Rescue
M. Dowhaniuk, Manager, Infrastructure*
D. Lees, Manager, Protective Services*
G. Gaucher, General Manager, Municipal Support Services*
B. Bandy, Manager, Real Estate*
K. Satchell, Manager, Information Services*
L. Walker, Manager, Recreation Customer Services*
S. Mitchell, Manager, Recreation Facilities*
S. Wright, Manager, Community Recreation Programs*
G. Lefebvre, Manager, Aquatics*
D. Pridham, Manager, Recreation Operations*

**present as required*

CAPITAL BUDGET

The Manager, Infrastructure continued to review the 2022 proposed Capital Budget.

Councillor Anderson entered the meeting at 1:05 pm.

Moved by Councillor Mund, seconded by Councillor Gares:

THAT Council **receives and endorses** the following 2022 Capital Projects as follows:

- 2022-01 BUILDING FACILITY RENEWAL in the amount of \$730,000
- 2022-02 PRIORITY DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT in the amount of \$865,333
- 2022-03 TRENCHLESS STORM & CULVERT REHAB in the amount of \$1,200,000
- 2022-04 STORM MAINTENANCE – VARIOUS LOCATIONS in the amount of \$450,000
- 2022-05 SILVER STAR RD MULTI-USE PATH PHASE 2 in the amount of \$2,010,000
- 2022-06 31ST AVE – 29TH STREET TO 30TH STREET in the amount of \$1,014,297
- 2022-07 37TH AVENUE – 31ST STREET TO HWY 97 in the amount of \$433,000
- 2022-08 INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM SUPPORT in the amount of \$675,903
- 2022-09 LAND AQUISITION in the amount of \$200,000
- 2022-10 CAPITAL DESIGN in the amount of \$1,508,000
- 2022-11 TRANSPORTATION & ORGANIZATION ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANS in the amount of \$272,500
- 2022-12 PIPE VIDEO INSPECTION in amount of \$45,000
- 2022-13 CIVIC PARK PHASE 2 in the amount of \$280,000
- 2022-14 LAKEVIEW POOL REVITALIZATION in the amount \$356,124
- 2022-15 PARKS INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL in the amount of \$55,000
- 2022-16 CEMETERY ENTRANCE in the amount of \$350,000
- 2022-17 CEMERTERY IMPROVEMENTS ON MAPLE AVENUE in the amount of \$100,000
- 2022-18 TRENCHLESS SANITARY SEWER REHAB in the amount of \$500,000
- 2022-19 PRIORITY SANITARY REPLACEMENT in the amount of \$500,000
- 2022-20 TRONSON ROAD FORCE MAIN REPLACEMENT in the amount of \$2,120,000

- 2022-21 SANITARY FLOW MONITORING & MODELLING in the amount of \$50,000
- 2022-22 SANITARY TRUNK MAIN INSPECTION in the amount of \$80,000
- 2022-23 OKANAGAN LANDING SANITARY SEWER MUNICIPAL FEE in the amount of \$1,370,000
- 2022-24 SPRAY IRRIGATION ASSET RENEWAL in the amount of \$810,000
- 2022-25 VERNON WATER RECLAMATION CENTRE ASSET RENEWAL in the amount of \$335,000
- 2022-26 ROAD MAINTENANCE - VARIOUS in the amount of \$125,000
- 2022-27 PAVEMENT OVERLAYS - VARIOUS in the amount of \$250,000
- 2022-28 VERNON AIRPORT HELI-PADS in the amount of \$254,000
- 2022-29 ROCK SLOPE STABILIZATION in the amount of \$180,000
- 2022-30 TRANSPORTATION SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS – VARIOUS LOCATIONS in the amount of \$125,000
- 2022-31 LAKE ACCESS SITE – OKANAGAN LANDING ROAD BOAT LAUNCH in the amount of \$880,000
- 2022-32 TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS & SIDEWALK RAMPS – VARIOUS LOCATIONS in the amount of \$145,000.

CARRIED

**COMMUNITY
INFRASTRUCTURE &
DEVELOPMENT**

The Director, Community Infrastructure & Development reviewed the Operating Budget for Community Infrastructure & Development.

Moved by Councillor Quiring, seconded by Councillor Fehr:

THAT Council **receives and endorses** the 2022 Budget for Community Infrastructure & Development Division, in the amount of \$4,538,363, as presented.

CARRIED

**CHANGE REQUEST –
COMMUNITY
INFRASTRUCTURE &
DEVELOPMENT**

Moved by Councillor Fehr, seconded by Councillor Quiring:

THAT Council approves the following 2022 Change Request for Operation Services:

3920 *Climate Action Position
\$129,338 (Taxation)

CARRIED

RECREATION SERVICES

The Director, Recreation Services reviewed the Operating Budget for Recreation Services.

Moved by Councillor Mund, seconded by Councillor Gares:

THAT Council **receives and endorses** the 2022 Budget for Recreation Services Division, in the amount of \$2,590,691 as presented.

CARRIED

ADOPTION

- 5876

Moved by Councillor Mund, seconded by Councillor Quiring:

THAT Bylaw #5876 “**Recreation and Parks Services Fees and Charges (2022) Amendment Bylaw Number 5876, 2021**”, a bylaw to amend “Recreation and Parks Services Fees and Charges Bylaw Number 5472, 2013”, be **adopted**.

CARRIED

LAKERS CLUBHOUSE

Moved by Councillor Anderson, seconded by Councillor Mund:

THAT Council **receives and endorses** the 2022 Budget for Lakers Clubhouse, in the amount of \$16,284, as presented.

CARRIED

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Director, Human Resources reviewed the Operating Budget for Human Resources.

Moved by Councillor Fehr, seconded by Councillor Quiring:

THAT Council **receives and endorses** the 2022 Budget for Human Resources Division, in the amount of \$1,747,784, as presented.

CARRIED

**ADMINISTRATION/
COUNCIL**

The Chief Administrative Officer, reviewed the Operating Budget for Administration / Council.

Moved by Councillor Mund, seconded by Councillor Fehr:

THAT Council **receives and endorses** the 2022 City Administration Division Budget, in the amount of \$935,953, as presented.

CARRIED

FINANCIAL SERVICES

The Director, Financial Services reviewed the Operating budget for Financial Services.

Moved by Councillor Anderson, seconded by Councillor Quiring:

THAT Council approve an additional 2022 grant to Historic O’Keefe Ranch, in the amount of \$75,000, to be funded from the Casino Reserve.

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Gares, seconded by Councillor Quiring:

THAT Council **receives and endorses** the 2022 Budget for Financial Services, in the amount of \$2,329,943, as presented.

CARRIED

**COMMUNITY SAFETY,
LANDS &
ADMINISTRATION**

The Director, Community Safety, Lands & Administration reviewed the Operating Budget for the Community Safety, Lands & Administration Division.

Moved by Councillor Fehr, seconded by Councillor Anderson:

THAT Council **receives and endorses** the 2022 Budget for Community Lands, Safety and Administration Division, in the amount of \$5,112,161, as presented .

CARRIED

**CHANGE REQUESTS –
COMMUNITY SAFETY,
LANDS &
ADMINISTRATION**

Moved by Councillor Mund, seconded by Councillor Anderson:

THAT Council approves the following 2022 Change Request for Community Safety, Lands & Administration:

3940 *RCMP Support Services 2022 Priorities
\$231,556 (Taxation)

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Quiring, seconded by Councillor Fehr:

THAT Council approves the following 2022 Change Request for Community Safety, Lands & Administration:

3919 *Communications Officer
\$103,029 (Taxation)

CARRIED

RECESS

Mayor Cumming called a short recess at 2:48 pm.

RECONVENE

Mayor Cumming called for Public Input on the 2022 to 2026 Financial Plan at 3:00 pm.

1. Dawn Tucker

- Appreciate Staff's clear presentations
- Would like Council to consider implementing the 1.9% Infrastructure Levy for this year
- Residents understand that RCMP members are needed
- The more we defer, the more it will cost in the future
- Cannot afford to defer the Infrastructure Levy as we have seen what is happening in Merritt and Abbotsford, it will affect the residents in other ways if we defer
- There will also be other costs increase from the Cultural Centre and the Active Living Centre
- Speculates that Infrastructure Levy will run more than two additional years
- Doesn't recommend delaying the Fire Apparatus Levy as it won't lessen the cost later
- Cost of borrowing will likely increase in the future
- Please consider these items when you decide on the budget.

Mayor Cumming called a second, third, and final time for representation from the public, and there being none, Mayor Cumming closed the Public Input on the 2022 to 2026 Financial Plan at 3:09 pm.

**CHANGE REQUEST –
COMMUNITY
INFRASTRUCTURE &
DEVELOPMENT**

Moved by Councillor Mund, seconded by Councillor Gares:

THAT Council reconfirms the following 2021 Change Request for Community Infrastructure and Development:

2868 (2021) *Current Planner
\$116,610 (Taxation)

CARRIED

**CHANGE REQUESTS –
OPERATION SERVICES**

Moved by Councillor Anderson, seconded by Councillor Mund:

THAT Council approves the following 2022 Change Request for Operation Services:

3916 *Enhanced Turf Cleaning (\$45,000 equipment purchase)
\$83,000 (\$38,000 Taxations, \$45,000 Casino Reserves)

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Anderson, seconded by Councillor Fehr:

THAT Council approves the following 2022 Change Request for Operation Services:

3921 *Administrative Assistant - Operations
\$94,675 (taxation)

CARRIED

**CHANGE REQUEST –
FIRE RESCUE
SERVICES**

Moved by Mayor Cumming, seconded by Councillor Anderson:

THAT Council **defer** the 2022 Change Request for Fire Rescue Services:

3918 *Fire Apparatus Reserve
\$350,000 (Taxation)

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Mund, seconded by Councillor Anderson:

THAT Council **endorses** the 2022 budget, as presented within the 2022 – 2026 Financial Plan, with the inclusion of all amendments directed by Council resolution, and includes the continuation of the 1.9% annual cumulative infrastructure levy.

CARRIED, with Mayor Cumming opposed

Mayor Cumming closed the meeting at 3:29 pm.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CLOSE



Mayor



Corporate Officer