



MINUTES

Special meeting of Council - 2024 Budget

January 30, January 31 and February 1, 2024

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Council Chambers/Hybrid

Present: Mayor Bill Gordon
Councillor Beth Prost
Councillor Bill Meridis
Councillor Catherine MacDonald
Councillor Jamie-Lee Ball
Councillor Jim Downer
Councillor Roberta Bald
Councillor Sheldon East

Regrets:

Also Present: Chief Administrative Officer Rhonda Bunn
Clerk Sherri Edgar
Chief Financial Officer Lindsay Barron
Deputy Clerk Sarah Cathcart

1. Call to Order

The Mayor called the meeting to Order at 9:05 am.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None declared.

3. Motion to move into Closed Session

RES-2024-30

**Moved by Jamie-Lee Ball
Seconded by Sheldon East**

That Council move into closed session;

And further that this portion of the meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001, as indicated;

**Section 239 (2)(b) personal matters about an identifiable individual
Section 239 (2)(d) labour relations or employee negotiations**

•CLAC Negotiations - Update

**Section 239 (2)(b) personal matters about an identifiable individual
Section 239 (2)(d) labour relations or employee negotiations**

OPSEU Negotiations - Update

CARRIED

4. **CLOSED MEETING - IN-PERSON ONLY**

5. **Closed Meeting Items**

5.1. **CLAC Negotiations - Update**

The Chief Administrative Officer provided a verbal update with respect to the CLAC Negotiations.

Following discussion, Council directed Staff to prepare the appropriate motion for consideration upon conclusion of the Closed Meeting session.

5.2. **OPSEU Negotiations - Update**

The Chief Administrative Officer provided a verbal update with respect to the OPSEU Negotiations.

Following discussion, Council directed Staff to prepare the appropriate motion for consideration upon conclusion of the Closed Meeting session.

6. **Motion to rise to Open Session**

RES-2024-31

Moved by Beth Prost

Seconded by Jim Downer

That this Special Meeting of Council regarding the 2024 Budget, Closed Session, be adjourned at 9:22 a.m. and that Council now rise and report to Open Session.

CARRIED

7. **OPEN SESSION - Hybrid Meeting begins**

Additional Staff Now Present

Andre Pepin, Manager WWTC - January 30 - left at 11:45

Steve Farquharson, Executive Director, Community & Growth - January 30, 31 and February 1

Richard Renaud, Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief - January 30, 31

Ritch Lowell, Deputy Fire Chief - January 30, 31
Mitch Sobil, Manager of Engineering - January 30, 31 and February 1
Angela Grenier, Manager of CXO - January 30, 31
Jim Reichheld, Fleet, Facilities & Assets Supervisor - January 30, 31 and February 1
Dylan Flannery, Director of Operations - January 30, 31 and February 1
Josh Fuller, Operations Manager - January 30, 31
Dave Bressette, NSSRC, Operations Manager - January 30, 31
Karen Mealing, Manager of Culture and Community - January 30, 31 and February 1
Julie Ellery, Legal & Risk Advisor - January 31, and February 1
David Smiley, Manager, Municipal Law Enforcement - January 30, 31
Mike Campitelli, Chief Building Official - January 31
Jacqueline Genis, Supervisor Budget & Forecasting - January 30, 31 and February 1
Michael Hartrick, Manager IT Services - January 30, 31 and February 1
Kim Crewson - Manager of Procurement - January 30, 31 and February 1

8. Mayor's Introductory Remarks/Land Acknowledgment Statement/Moment of Silent Reflection

The Mayor recited the Town's Traditional Land Acknowledgment and Safety Message.

The Mayor advised that the Special Meeting of Council is being held to consider the proposed 2024 Budget. The Meeting is scheduled to take place over 3 days but could conclude sooner depending on how quickly the deliberation process advances. Conclusion of deliberations would result in adoption of the 2024 Budget.

9. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

- 9.1. Councillor Prost declared a conflict with respect to any discussion about Georgian Bay General Hospital as she is employed by GBGH.
- 9.2. Councillor Downer declared a conflict with respect to discussions surrounding Parking, as he has an Accessible Parking Permit.

10. Motions arising from Closed Session discussions

10.1. **RES-2024-32**

**Moved by Roberta Bald
Seconded by Bill Meridis**

That Council receive as information and confirm the directions as outlined in the verbal report and update provided by the Chief Administrative Officer at the Closed Meeting Session of the Special Meeting of Council re: 2024 Budget held January 30, 31 and February 1 2024, with respect to the CLAC Negotiations Update.

**CARRIED
RES-2024-33**

**Moved by Catherine MacDonald
Seconded by Jamie-Lee Ball**

**That Council receive as information and confirm the directions as outlined in the verbal report and update provided by the Chief Administrative Officer at the Closed Meeting Session of the Special Meeting of Council re: 2024 Budget held January 30, 31 and February 1 2024, with respect to the OPSEU Negotiations - Update.
CARRIED**

11. Approval of Agenda
RES-2024-34

**Moved by Beth Prost
Seconded by Jim Downer**

**That the contents of the Special Meeting of Council with Closed Session regarding the 2024 Budget held January 30, 31, and February 1, 2024, be approved.
CARRIED**

12. Reports

12.1. CSR-2024-13 2024 Budget Approval

The Chief Administrative Officer, R. Bunn and Chief Financial Officer, L. Barron provided an overview of the Budget process.

Council reviewed Staff Report CSR-2024-13 2024 Budget Approval with the following recommendations:

That Staff Report CSR-2024-13, 2024 Budget Approval, dated January 30, 2024, be received; and

1. That Council approve the 2024 Water and Wastewater supported Operating Budget, with total gross expenditures of \$8,396,976.
2. That the new water and wastewater rates take effect March 1, 2024.
3. That Staff be directed to present the 2024 Water Rate By-law for Council's consideration at the next regular meeting of Council.
4. That the 2024 draft Capital Budget, with total new requested expenditures of \$15,651,243 be approved.
5. That Council adopt that 10-year Capital Plan as presented in the 2024 draft budget, as amended.
6. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for Taxation & General Revenue be approved in principle.
7. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for Council & Committees be approved in principle.
8. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for the Office of the CAO be

approved in principle.

9. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for Fire be approved in principle.

10. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for Digital Government and Service Innovation be approved in principle.

11. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for Planning and Building be approved in principle.

12. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for By-law be approved in principle.

13. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for Culture, Tourism & Harbour be approved in principle.

14. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for Engineering be approved in principle.

15. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for Operations be approved in principle.

16. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for the NSSRC be approved in principle.

17. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for Transit be approved in principle.

18. That Service Level Change Requests with a net tax levy increase of \$376,522, reserve funding of \$832,867, and other revenue totaling \$90,000 be approved.

19. That Council Requests with a net tax levy increase of \$82,400 and reserve funding of \$27,400, and user fees funding of \$5,700 be approved.

20. That the Budget request by the EDCNS in the amount of \$147,709 be approved.

21. That the Budget request by the BIA in the amount of \$175,000 be approved.

22. That the Budget request by Huronia Airport in the amount of \$72,640 be approved.

23. That the Budget request by the Huronia Museum in the amount of \$84,000 be approved.

24. That the Budget request by the Midland Public Library in the amount of \$1,578,998 be approved.

25. That the Budget request by the Severn Sound Environmental Association in the amount of \$183,042 be approved.

26. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for Police Services be approved in principle.

27. That the Budget request by the Midland Police Service Board in the amount of \$29,831 and the service level change request in the amount of \$30,169 be approved.

28. That 2023 insurance premium relief to the Midland Cultural Centre of \$17,928 be XXXX.

29. That the Budget request by the Culture Alliance in the amount of \$12,500 be approved.

30. That pursuant to Ontario Regulation 284/09, Staff Report CSR-2024-13 serve as the method for communicating the exclusion of the following estimated expenses from the 2024 budget:

- a. Amortization expense - \$5.5 million
- b. Post-Employment Benefits - \$1.9 million

31. That in accordance with s.s.5(1) of the Development Charges Act, 1997 and s.5 of Ontario Regulation 82/98, it is Council's clear intention that any excess capacity provided by any of the above-referenced capital works will be paid for by future development charges.

32. That Council approve the 2024 tax supported base Operating Budget, with total gross expenditures of \$38,151,778 and a net property tax levy requirement of \$29,473,727.

33. That Staff be directed to present the 2024 Fees and Charges By-law for Council's consideration at the next regular meeting of Council.

34. That Staff be directed to present the 2024 Tax Rate By-law for all classes of property assessment for Council's consideration at a future meeting.

Council agreed to address each Recommendation as separate Motions during the 3 day Budget Deliberations.

RES-2024-35

Moved by Jim Downer

Seconded by Jamie-Lee Ball

That Staff Report CSR-2024-13, 2024 Budget Approval, dated January 30, 2024, be received; and

1. That Council approve the 2024 Water and Wastewater supported Operating Budget, with total gross expenditures of \$8,396,976.

CARRIED

RES-2024-36

Moved by Sheldon East

Seconded by Roberta Bald

2. That the new water and wastewater rates take effect March 1, 2024.

CARRIED

RES-2024-37

Moved by Bill Meridis

Seconded by Catherine MacDonald

3. That Staff be directed to present the 2024 Water Rate By-law for Council's consideration at the next regular meeting of Council.

CARRIED

Councillor MacDonald presented the following Motion:

**That lighting be installed at the base of the Trumpeter Swan sculpture located at the Midland Town Dock; and
That the cost for this lighting, in the amount of \$1,500.00 be funded from the Harbour Capital Reserve.**

Discussion occurred and Councillor MacDonald then asked that her motion be withdrawn. The matter was dealt with as part of Resolution 2024-38.

WITHDRAWN

RES-2024-38

Moved by Beth Prost

Seconded by Jim Downer

4. That the 2024 draft Capital Budget, with total new requested expenditures of \$14,540,243 be approved as amended:

- i. Reduce Fire and Emergency Services Capital Budget as follows:**
 - Reduce Firehall Window Replacements \$40,000**
 - Remove Sound Proofing of Office Area \$20,000**
 - Remove Training Room Furniture Replacement \$10,000**
 - Remove Emergency Services Campus Feasibility Study \$150,000**
 - Reduce Exercise and Wellness Equipment by \$10,000**
 - Reduce Crew Room furniture Replacement by \$5,000**
 - Remove Interior Door Refurbishments or Replacements \$12,000**
 - Remove Lower Level Room Renovations/Additional Window \$20,000**
- ii. Remove Human Resources Employer of Choice Strategic Plan \$60,000**
- iii. Reduce Digital Government and Service Innovation Capital Budget as follows:**
 - Remove Outdoor Electronic Message Board at NSSRC \$45,000**
 - Remove New Council Devices \$11,000**
- iv. Amend the Harbour Capital Budget as follows:**
 - Remove Aluminum Pavilion Ceilings \$20,000**
 - Addition of \$2,000 to the Gardens on Harbour Pier project to incorporate lighting at the base of the Trumpeter Swan**
- v. Amend the Operations Capital Budget as follows:**
 - Remove #7707 Pickup Truck in the amount of \$95,000**
 - Remove Street Lighting Assessment in the amount of \$100,000**
 - Reduce the Replacement Desks and Office setup by \$5,000**

- Reduce the Little Lake Park Community Garden Upgrades by \$10,000
 - i. Amend NSSRC Capital Budget as follows:
 - Remove the Portable Generator in the amount of \$500,000
- CARRIED**

RES-2024-39

**Moved by Roberta Bald
Seconded by Sheldon East**

**5. That Council adopt that 10-year Capital Plan as presented in the 2024 draft budget, as amended.
CARRIED**

13. Motion to recess and resume January 31, 2024

RES-2024-40

**Moved by Bill Meridis
Seconded by Roberta Bald**

**That this Special Meeting of Council regarding the 2024 Budget held on January 30, 2024 recess at 7:46 p.m. and resume tomorrow, January 31, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.
CARRIED**

14. Call to Order January 31, 2024

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The Mayor stated that this Special Meeting of Council is being held to consider the proposed 2024 Budget. This is day 2 of deliberations.

15. Staff Report CSR-2024-13 2024 Budget Approval (cont'd)

15.1. CSR-2024-13 2024 Budget Approval

Council continued the Budget Deliberations to consider the Recommendations as set out in the Staff Report CSR-2024-13

RES-2024-41

**6. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for Taxation & General Revenue be approved in principle.
CARRIED**

RES-2024-42

**Moved by Catherine MacDonald
Seconded by Beth Prost**

7. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for Council & Committees be approved in principle.

CARRIED

RES-2024-43

Moved by Jim Downer

Seconded by Jamie-Lee Ball

8. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for the Office of the CAO be approved in principle.

CARRIED

RES-2024-44

Moved by Sheldon East

Seconded by Roberta Bald

9. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for Fire be approved in principle.

CARRIED

RES-2024-45

Moved by Bill Meridis

Seconded by Catherine MacDonald

10. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for Digital Government and Service Innovation be approved in principle.

CARRIED

RES-2024-46

Moved by Beth Prost

Seconded by Jim Downer

11. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for Planning and Building be approved in principle.

CARRIED

RES-2024-47

Moved by Roberta Bald

Seconded by Sheldon East

12. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for By-law be approved in principle.

CARRIED

RES-2024-48

**Moved by Jamie-Lee Ball
Seconded by Bill Meridis**

13. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for Culture, Tourism & Harbour be approved in principle.

CARRIED

RES-2024-49

**Moved by Catherine MacDonald
Seconded by Beth Prost**

14. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for Engineering be approved in principle.

CARRIED

RES-2024-50

**Moved by Jim Downer
Seconded by Catherine MacDonald**

15. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for Operations be approved in principle.

CARRIED

RES-2024-51

**Moved by Sheldon East
Seconded by Jamie-Lee Ball**

16. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for the NSSRC be approved in principle.

CARRIED

RES-2024-52

**Moved by Bill Meridis
Seconded by Roberta Bald**

17. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for Transit be approved in principle.

CARRIED

RES-2024-53

That the Rules of Procedure be suspended in order for Council to go into a Closed Session to allow the CAO to provide a legal update for the property at 349 Lakewood Drive.

CARRIED

RES-2024-54

**Moved by Sheldon East
Seconded by Beth Prost**

That Council move into closed session;

And further that this portion of the meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001, as indicated;

(2)(e) Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals

349 Lakewood Drive

CARRIED

RES-2024-55

**Moved by Roberta Bald
Seconded by Catherine MacDonald**

That this Closed Meeting of Council be adjourned at 1:51 p.m. and that Council now rise and report to Open Session.

CARRIED

RES-2024-56

**Moved by Jamie-Lee Ball
Seconded by Jim Downer**

That Council receive as information and confirm the directions as outlined in the verbal update provided by the Chief Administrative Officer at the Closed Meeting Session of Council held January 31, 2024 with respect to the 349 Lakewood Drive.

CARRIED

RES-2024-57

**Moved by Beth Prost
Seconded by Jim Downer**

18. That Service Level Change Requests with a net tax levy increase of \$75,484, reserve funding of \$305,010, and other revenue totaling \$65,000 be approved as amended:

- Remove the One (1) FTE Community Planner position
- Remove the One (1) FTE Senior Analyst, IT Governance, Risk position
- That the One (1) FTE Facilities and Transit Project Coordinator be approved as a contract position
- Approve the four (4) additional firefighters at Fifth Class rate, adjusted annually for eligible wage increases
- That the Cruise Ship Passengers fees be increased to \$5.00 for a total annual estimated revenue of \$10,000
- That the Midland Cultural Centre – Forgiveness of Building Insurance request be approved for the Fiscal Year 2024 only
- Remove the 2028 Midland Sesquicentennial request from MAT
- Remove the new Dominion Avenue Sidewalk – Margaret Street to Woodland Drive
- Remove the Additional Dog Park request
- Remove the Skate Park Improvements – Pump Track Installation request

CARRIED

RES-2024-58

Moved by Sheldon East
Seconded by Jamie-Lee Ball

Amending Motion.

That motion 19 Council Requests be amended by approving the addition of the Pilot Transit Service to Balm Beach.

CARRIED

*****Having declared a Conflict of Interest with respect to Parking, Councillor Downer stepped back from the Dais and did not take part in the discussion or the vote.*

RES-2024-59

Moved by Roberta Bald
Seconded by Bill Meridis

19. That Council Requests a net tax levy increase of \$4,300 and funding added to the reserve of \$103,000 and user fees funding of \$700 be approved as amended:

- Remove the Boat Launch and Parking Attendant Shelter request
- Remove Aberdeen and Sunnyside Transit (Service) Pilot

•Add Parking Meter Disposal in the amount of \$103,000

CARRIED

RES-2024-60

**Moved by Beth Prost
Seconded by Sheldon East**

That the Rules of Procedure be suspended in order for Council to Reconsider Item 17.2 CSR-2023-97 Implementation of Parking Program Recommendation and more specifically COW-2023-56 respecting the disposal of the On-street parking meters that was discussed at the Regular Meeting of Council with Closed Session on December 6, 2023.

CARRIED

RES-2024-61

**Moved by Beth Prost
Seconded by Bill Meridis**

That Council approves the disposition of 70 on-street parking meters, with an estimated cost recovery of \$103,000, and a loss on disposal of \$414,500.

CARRIED

****Councillor Downer resumed his seat at the Dais and returned to the Meeting.**

16. Motion to recess and resume February 1, 2024

RES-2024-62

**Moved by Catherine MacDonald
Seconded by Sheldon East**

That this Special Meeting of Council with Closed Session regarding the 2024 Budget held on January 31, 2024, recess at 6:22 p.m. and resume tomorrow, February 1, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

CARRIED

17. Call to Order February 1, 2024

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The Mayor stated that this Special Meeting of Council is being held to consider the proposed 2024 Budget. This is day 3 of deliberations.

18. Staff Report CSR-2024-13 2024 Budget Approval (cont'd)

18.1. CSR-2024-13 2024 Budget Approval

Council continued the Budget Deliberations to consider the Recommendations as set out in the Staff Report CSR-2024-13.

RES-2024-63

**Moved by Beth Prost
Seconded by Sheldon East**

20. That the 2024 Budget request by EDCNS in the amount of \$147,709 be denied provided that there are no contractual obligations preventing a unilateral reduction and funding by the Town of Midland; and

That funding of \$50,000 be held in reserves until such time as Council determines the distribution of funds for Economic Development.

A Recorded Vote was requested

	YES	NO
Bill Gordon	x	
Beth Prost	x	
Bill Meridis	x	
Catherine MacDonald		x
Jamie-Lee Ball		x
Jim Downer		x
Roberta Bald	x	
Sheldon East	x	

Carried

RES-2024-64

**Moved by Catherine MacDonald
Seconded by Beth Prost**

21. That the Budget request by the BIA in the amount of \$175,000 be approved.

CARRIED

RES-2024-65

**Moved by Jim Downer
Seconded by Catherine MacDonald**

22. That the Budget request by Huronia Airport in the amount of \$78,900 be approved.

CARRIED

RES-2024-66

**Moved by Sheldon East
Seconded by Jamie-Lee Ball**

23. That the Budget request by the Huronia Museum in the amount of \$84,000 be approved.

CARRIED

RES-2024-67

**Moved by Bill Meridis
Seconded by Roberta Bald**

24. That the Budget request by the Midland Public Library in the amount of \$1,578,998 be approved.

CARRIED

RES-2024-68

**Moved by Beth Prost
Seconded by Jim Downer**

25. That the Budget for Severn Sound Environmental Association in the amount of \$183,042 be denied and that it remain at the 2023 Budget of \$161,763 by utilizing the Town's portion of the source protection reserve held by the SSEA.

CARRIED

RES-2024-69

**Moved by Roberta Bald
Seconded by Bill Meridis**

26. That the tax-supported 2024 Budget for Police Services be approved in principle.

CARRIED

RES-2024-70

**Moved by Jamie-Lee Ball
Seconded by Sheldon East**

27. That the Budget request by the Midland Police Service Board in the amount of \$29,831 and the service level change request in the amount of \$30,169 be approved.

CARRIED

RES-2024-71

**Moved by Catherine MacDonald
Seconded by Beth Prost**

28. That 2023 insurance premium relief to the Midland Cultural Centre of \$17,928 be approved.

DEFEATED

RES-2024-72

**Moved by Jim Downer
Seconded by Bill Meridis**

29. That the Budget request by the Culture Alliance in the amount of \$12,500 be approved.

CARRIED

RES-2024-73

**Moved by Sheldon East
Seconded by Jamie-Lee Ball**

30. That pursuant to Ontario Regulation 284/09, Staff Report CSR-2024-13 serve as the method for communicating the exclusion of the following estimated expenses from the 2024 budget:

- a. Amortization expense - \$5.5 million**
- b. Post-Employment Benefits - \$1.9 million**

CARRIED

RES-2024-74

**Moved by Bill Meridis
Seconded by Roberta Bald**

31. That in accordance with s.s.5(1) of the Development Charges Act, 1997 and s.5 of Ontario Regulation 82/98, it is Council's clear intention that any excess capacity provided by any of the above-referenced capital works will be paid for by future development charges.

CARRIED

RES-2024-75

**Moved by Sheldon East
Seconded by Jamie-Lee Ball**

That the Rules of Procedure be suspended in order for Council to Reconsider Motion 19 - Council Requests - to retain the Pilot-Transit Service to Balm Beach.

CARRIED

RES-2024-76

**Moved by Beth Prost
Seconded by Sheldon East**

32. That Council approve the 2024 tax supported base Operating Budget, with total gross expenditures of \$37,782,912 and a net property tax levy requirement of \$28,929,861.

CARRIED

RES-2024-77

**Moved by Roberta Bald
Seconded by Jim Downer**

33. That Staff be directed to present the 2024 Fees and Charges By-law for Council's consideration at the future meeting of Council.

CARRIED

RES-2024-78

**Moved by Jamie-Lee Ball
Seconded by Catherine MacDonald**

34. That Staff be directed to present the 2024 Tax Rate By-law for all classes of property assessment for Council's consideration at a future meeting.

CARRIED

RES-2024-79

**Moved by Sheldon East
Seconded by Beth Prost**

That the Sustainable Capital Levy be reduced from \$270,000 to \$218,000.

CARRIED

19. Confirmatory By-law

RES-2024-80

**Moved by Jamie-Lee Ball
Seconded by Beth Prost**

That By-law 2024-8 being a By-law to adopt the proceedings of the Special Meeting of Council regarding the 2024 Budget held January 30, 31 and February 1, 2024, be passed and enacted.

CARRIED

20. Adjournment

RES-2024-81

**Moved by Roberta Bald
Seconded by Catherine MacDonald**

That this Special Meeting of Council with Closed Session regarding the 2024 Budget adjourn at 4:07 p.m.

CARRIED

Bill Gordon, Mayor

Sherri Edgar, Clerk