



Location:	Council Chamber, Tom Davies Square
Commencement:	5:34 PM
Adjournment:	7:23 PM

Minutes

**For the 14th Finance Committee Meeting held
Monday, June 20, 2011**

COUNCILLOR TERRY KETT, IN THE CHAIR

Present

Councillors Cimino; Barbeau; Berthiaume; Dutrisac; Dupuis; Rivest; Kilgour; Belli; Craig; Landry-Altmann; Mayor Matichuk

City Officials

Lorella Hayes, Acting Chief Administrative Officer; Catherine Matheson, General Manager of Community Development; Bill Lautenbach, General Manager of Growth & Development; Tim Beadman, Chief of Emergency Services; Marc Leduc, Fire Chief; Lorella Hayes, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer; Lorraine Larose, Manager of Financial Support & Budget; Ed Stankiewicz, Manager of Financial Planning & Policy; Apryl Lukezic, Co-ordinator of Capital; Barbara Dubois, Senior Budget Analyst; Christine Hogarth, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office; Caroline Hallsworth, Executive Director, Administrative Services/City Clerk; Christopher St-Onge, Audio-Visual Operator; Liz Collin, Council Secretary

CUPE 4705

Fred Posadowski, President

News Media

Le Voyageur; Northern Life; Sudbury Star

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

Mayor Matichuk declared a conflict.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed those in attendance and advised that the purpose of the session was to receive input from the public regarding the 2011 budget.

Presentations

- 1 . Lorella Hayes, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer made an electronic presentation regarding the 2012 City of Greater Sudbury Budget. She explained the purpose of the Community Consultation session. She reviewed the 2011 Budget revenues, expenditures and municipal taxes. She outlined the Fiscal Sustainability and Long Term Financial Plan and the challenges and opportunities for 2012. She advised of the budget schedule for 2012.

The Chair concluded by stating that the public's comments would be noted. He stated that those on the speakers' list would speak first followed by anyone else in attendance who wished to speak. He

advised that ideas or comments could be submitted through the 2012 Budget Comment sheets.

Public Input

- 2 . A speakers' list was available and submissions were heard in the order that they appeared.

Lake Penache Campers' Association

Richard Bois, President, Lake Penache Campers' Association and Brian Young, Member, gave an electronic presentation regarding improving the conditions and increasing the width of the road so as to improve access to the helicopter pad.

Mr. Young stated the Campers' Association built the helicopter pad with funds raised by the Association and the former Town of Walden. He informed they received \$10,000 from the City in 2010 to complete Phase One of the reconstruction. They are requesting funds to repave the road and clean the ditch.

Computer Applications and Website

Jeff MacIntyre stated Google has an application for computers and cell phones to locate local buses on their routes at a lower cost and with more appropriate information. He spoke in support of open source data. He believes the two websites operated by the City (greatersudbury.ca and mysudbury.ca) could be upgraded.

PET Scanner

Brenda Tessaro, P.E.T. Scanner Steering Committee, suggested City Council approach other northern communities who would benefit from the purchase of a P.E.T. Scanner for funds towards the purchase of the scanner.

Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury

Naomi Grant, Chair, Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury, made a joint submission on behalf of Citizens Climate Lobby, Connect the Creek Partnership, Eat Local Sudbury, The Foodshed Project, Greater Sudbury Watershed Alliance, Junction Creek Stewardship Committee, Laurentian University Sustainable Earth Club, Rainbow Routes Association, rethink Green and the Sudbury Cyclists Union. She stated the community must work towards fiscal sustainability through environmental and social sustainability. She requested resources be found within the existing budget and the allocation of new funding to meet the needs of the Sustainable Mobility Plan and the Bicycle Technical Master Plan, to acquire priority green space, to complete the Junction Creek Waterway Park and to support the startup and sustainability of community gardens.

Rainbow Routes

Debra McIntosh, Rainbow Routes Association, requested the City move to implement the recommendations made in the Sustainable Mobility Plan for Greater Sudbury to develop and promote education programs for cyclists and motorists and increase accessibility to low cost bicycles to those living on a low income. They requested \$10,000 towards their "Sudbury Cycles" project.

Volunteer Sudbury

Christine Guillot-Proulx, Volunteer Sudbury, requested \$3,000 to upgrade their computer server, computers and software.

Dan Melanson

Dan Melanson stated he believes changes are required as well as a thorough review of the costs and necessity of all services. He believes the City should only fund core services. He requested support for Greater Sudbury Tax Payers Association which will provide a voice for the tax payers.

Perry Guilbault

Perry Guilbault indicated he reviewed the financial statements for 2004 to 2011. He stated taxpayers are unhappy with the financial trends and that the Greater Sudbury Taxpayers Association is being organized as a team of citizens to help Council and Senior Management find the tools to make the City of Greater Sudbury "Great".

Robert Ungar

Robert Ungar stated the City needs to be reminded of the goals and dreams of the business owners. He requested staff process applications and requests from businesses more efficiently.

Brent Edwards

Brent Edwards stated there is a more cost effective way for delivery of programs through prioritizing goals and objectives. He believes there is a flaw in the incremental increase of budgets and a zero base budget approach should be adopted.

Paul Demers

Paul Demers stated the Auditor General reports should help Council make changes on how the money is spent. He requested the City concentrate on core services and reduces spending in other areas. He suggested programs that are not core services and do not bring value to the City be reduced. He also suggested a zero base budget be adopted, taxpayers be provided with information regarding spending and working with community organizations.

Fred Posadowski

Fred Posadowski, President, CUPE 4705, requested the City not enter into any P3 agreements as they are too great of a financial risk and that it is irresponsible to use public funds in this manner. He feels the impact on the future budgets could be too great as the future costs are unclear

Theresa Park Association

Robert Bertrand, President, Theresa Park Association, stated the community playground requires revitalization as the playground equipment was removed and not replaced. Fundraisers have occurred and are ongoing to raise funds needed to replace the equipment. He stated 45 local businesses and the neighbourhood CAN have partnered with the Association to raise funds. He requested \$50,000 to purchase a new playground structure.

Gospel Fest

Amy St. John, Gospel Fest, requested the City waive the user fees for non-profit organizations using Bell Park as this fee causes financial hardships for the users.

Frank Benish

Frank Benish stated he is concerned with the rates of tax increases. He suggested eliminating programs such as mySudbury as it is not a core service. He requested: a zero base budget process; annual increases in the assessment base be made public during budget session along with dollar effect; continuing to seek new revenue sources and expense reductions; initiating a hiring freeze; facilitating staff reduction through attrition and reorganization; eliminating the existing retirement plan for new hires and replacing the existing plan with a defined plan, and all prior year budget surpluses being utilized to directly reduce tax rates or increases in the current year.

Friendly to Seniors

John Lindsay, Friendly to Seniors, stated all operating costs should be at or below inflation so as to be affordable for seniors. He suggested a 3% spending reduction from all departments, reducing contract workers and working towards a lean management system. A zero base budget should also be considered.

Charles Tossell

Charles Tossell suggested the store hours be deregulated and the Transit system available 24/7.

Fred Twilly

Fred Twilly stated there are increasing demands on tax dollars and costs need to be reduced. He suggested more bike paths, better transit services and replacing worn infrastructure. He also suggested looking at smaller projects and seeking grants to help with costs.

Closing Remarks

The Chair thanked those in attendance and advised that written submissions will be accepted until June 24, 2011.

Adjournment

2011-26 Cimino-Rivest: THAT this meeting does now adjourn. Time: 7:23 p.m.

CARRIED

Councillor Terry Kett, Chair

Caroline Hallsworth, Executive Director,
Administrative Services/City Clerk