

THE TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PRIORITIES COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY

**Council Chamber
Tom Davies Square**

**Wednesday, May 7, 2008
Commencement: 5:32 p.m.**

Chair

COUNCILLOR GASPARINI, IN THE CHAIR

Present

Councillors Cimino; Barbeau (A6:56pm); Berthiaume; Dutrisac; Dupuis; Rivest; Thompson; Callaghan (A5:35pm); Craig; Caldarelli; Landry-Altmann; Mayor Rodriguez

City Officials

M. Mieto, Chief Administrative Officer; C. Matheson, General Manager of Community Development; B. Gutjahr, Acting General Manager of Growth & Development; G. Clausen, General Manager of Infrastructure Services; J. Nicholls, Acting Chief of Emergency Services; D. Donaldson, Fire Chief; L. Hayes, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer; R. Swiddle, City Solicitor; I. Davidson, Chief of Police, Greater Sudbury Police Services; R. Falcioni, Director of Roads & Transportation; N. Mihelchic, Manager of Operations; E. Stankiewicz, Manager of Financial Planning & Policy; C. Wood, Manager of Operations; T. Derro, Supervisor of Tax; R. Moffat, Assessment Base Consultant; D. Stack, Platoon Chief, Fire Services; G. Lamothe, Manager of Communications & French Language Service; I. Wood, Special Advisor to the Mayor; A. Haché, City Clerk; L. Oldridge, Deputy City Clerk; P. Pelletier, Mail Clerk; F. Bortolussi, Council Secretary

C.U.P.E.

D. Burke, CUPE National Representative; W. MacKinnon, President, CUPE Local 4705; Rick Leroux, Sectional Chair, Cupe Local 4705 Outside; C. Marleau-Woitowich, CUPE Local 4705

News Media

Sudbury Star; CIGM; Persona 10 News; Northern Life

Declarations of
Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

COUNCILLOR BRIEFING SESSIONS

Item 2
Winter Sidewalk
Maintenance Options

Robert Falcioni, Director of Roads & Transportation, and Nathalie Mihelchic, Manager of Operations, made an electronic presentation regarding Winter Sidewalk Maintenance Options.

The Director of Roads & Transportation indicated that staff have reviewed options as requested by the Committee and are now looking for the Committee's direction prior to committing resources to investigate the options.

Item 2
Winter Sidewalk
Maintenance Options
(continued)

The Manager of Operations stated that winter sidewalk maintenance has been maintained at the service levels that existed prior to amalgamation. She explained the sidewalk policy in the City's Official Plan. She outlined the current level service of clearing sidewalks within 4 to 24 hours following the end of a winter event. She advised of the equipment used in sidewalk maintenance. She listed the issues to consider when developing a policy such as the fact that there is no provincial minimum maintenance standards, movement of pedestrians in winter and liability. She also listed the challenges such as some sidewalks are too small for the equipment and walking paths. She concluded by outlining the three options:

- ▶ Option 1 - Adopt the policy in the City's Official Plan;
- ▶ Option 2 - Maintain substandard sidewalks;
- ▶ Option 3 - Service provided by property owners.

After discussion, the Committee agreed as follows on the Options to be included in the report:

- ▶ Option 3 - No
- ▶ Option 2 - Yes. The report is to include options for alternative equipment and/or upgrade of sidewalks.
- ▶ Option 1 - Yes

The Committee agreed the report include the following:

- ▶ Options on time lines, i.e. 4 to 8 hour service, 4 to 12 hour service, etc.;
- ▶ Removal of snow at bus stops - options for work being carried out by contractors and city crews;
- ▶ Service on pathways and parks adjoining cul de sacs.

Councillor Callaghan requested that issues related to seniors be forwarded to the Seniors Advisory Panel for input.

POLICY DISCUSSION PAPERS - PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION

Item 3
2008 Property Tax
Policy

Report dated April 22, 2008 was received from the Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer regarding 2008 Property Tax Policy.

Lorella Hayes, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer, and Ed Stankiewicz, Manager of Financial Planning & Policy, made an electronic presentation regarding Property Tax Policy for 2008.

The Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer outlined the 2008 property tax revenues on the Current Value Assessment (CVA) of \$8.3 B. She provided a break down of the City of Greater Sudbury assessment by property tax class in 2001 compared to 2008. She commented on the 2008 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund grant of \$58.7 M.

Item 3
2008 Property Tax
Policy (continued)

The Manager of Financial Planning & Policy provided a comparison of the composition of the assessment by class compared to the municipal taxation generated by class. He advised that the tax policy decisions required from Council are the setting of tax ratios and capping decisions and outlined options and recommendations. He explained the options available to enable municipalities to have property reach their true CVA faster to eventually eliminate properties from the capping and clawback exercise. He compared taxes on a typical residential property if the recommendations are adopted and if area rating is eliminated. He stated the tax impact to classes other than residential and compared taxes on a residential property assessed at \$120,000 and a industrial property with the same assessment. He explained the revenue loss for Payment in Lieu of Taxation properties, specifically Federal properties. He advised of the increase of the elderly tax assistance credit from \$150 to \$200 in the 2008 Budget and of the recommendation that the \$600 property tax minimum be eliminated.

The Committee agreed that a report be prepared dealing with other tax tools such as a road levy tax for heavy trucks on the road.

RECOMMENDATION 2008-20: Moved by Councillor Berthiaume:

- (1) WHEREAS the City of Greater Sudbury continues the practice of having as many properties as possible pay their fair share of property taxes based on their Current Value Assessment (CVA);

AND WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has provided tax tools to achieve this outcome;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Greater Sudbury use these tools to the maximum, resulting in more business properties paying true CVA taxes, and the tools are as follows:

- 1) Implement a 10% tax increase cap rather than the mandatory 5% cap;
- 2) Implement a minimum annual increase of 5% of CVA level taxes for capped properties;
- 3) Move capped and clawed back properties within \$250 of CVA taxes directly to CVA taxes;
- 4) Tax newly constructed properties at 100% of their CVA;

AND THAT the City Solicitor prepare the necessary by-law.

- (2) WHEREAS to be consistent with this and previous Council's decisions on property tax policy to lessen the impact on residential taxpayers;

Item 3
2008 Property Tax
Policy (continued)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That Council approve the following ratios:

Residential 1.000
New Multi-Residential 1.000
Multiple Residential 2.0591
Commercial 1.720574
Industrial Occupied 2.438594
Large Industrial 2.764015
Pipelines 1.475204
Managed Forests .2500
Farmlands .2500

AND THAT the City Solicitor prepare the necessary by-law.

- (3) WHEREAS the Province of Ontario under Bill 140 has a maximum tax increase policy (capping) for business properties (Multi-Residential, Commercial and Industrial);

AND WHEREAS the City of Greater Sudbury, through past practice has funded this cap on taxes by clawing back from properties realizing reduced taxation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following clawback percentages, as calculated by the Online Property Taxation Analysis (OPTA) System, be adopted by the City of Greater Sudbury;

Multi-Residential 68.1294%
Commercial 71.6995%
Industrial 35.2857%

AND THAT the City Solicitor prepare the necessary by-law.

- (4) WHEREAS the \$600 minimum property taxes requirement prevented individuals from taking advantage of the Elderly Property Tax Assistance Credit;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the \$600 minimum tax requirement be eliminated from the criteria on the Elderly Property Tax Assistance Credit application;

AND THAT the City Solicitor amend the necessary by-law.

CARRIED

Rules of Procedure

The Committee, by a two-thirds majority, agreed to dispense with the Rules of Procedure, to alter the order of the Agenda and deal with Item 6 (2008 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund Report) and Item 8 (Revenue Loss for PIL Properties as a Result of Provincial Business Education Tax Reduction) as these matters were referred to in the previous presentation.

CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Item 6
2008 Ontario
Municipal Partnership
Fund Report

Report dated April 22, 2008 was received from the Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer regarding 2008 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund Report for information only.

Item 8
2008 Ontario
Municipal Partnership
Fund Report

Report dated April 22, 2008 was received from the Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer regarding 2008 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund Report for information only.

Rules of Procedure

The Committee, by a two-thirds majority, agreed to dispense with the Rules of Procedure, to alter the order of the Agenda and deal with Item 9 (Annual Update from Safe Communities Greater Sudbury).

CITIZEN DELEGATIONS

Item 9
Annual Update from
Safe Communities
Greater Sudbury

Tony Ingram, Chair, Safe Communities Coalition, made an electronic presentation to provide an annual update. He stated that their mission is 'to make the City of Greater Sudbury the safest place in the world to live, work and play by creating a culture instilled with safety, education and commitment to injury prevention'. He provided a background stating that it was founded by Paul Kells in 1996, there are now 54 Safe Communities in Canada and it is endorsed by the World Health Organization. He indicated that Safe Communities Canada along with safety experts across the country believe all injuries are predictable and preventable. He stated that October 1, 2008 is the second annual Safe Communities Day. He outlined the history of Safe Communities Greater Sudbury from the initiative in 2000 to the official declaration in June 2004. He indicated that Safe Communities Greater Sudbury's 'report card' of October 3, 2007 was 20/20 while the national average was 17/20. He stated that their current initiatives include the Risk Watch Program and Safe Communities Incentive Program. Also, there will be a 'Youth Expo on Safety' event on October 28, 2008 and a 'Protect Your Investment' on October 9, 2008. They are also working towards a 'Sudbury Safety Village'. He listed the Board of Directors and introduced Viola Tanner, the Program Coordinator, who was present.

Mr. Ingram advised that this presentation is to create awareness and advise Council that they will be making an application for funding at during the City's 2009 budget deliberations.

The Fire Chief advised that there is three to five acres of land available at the Lionel E. Lalonde site that could accommodate Sudbury Safety Village.

POLICY DISCUSSION PAPERS - DECISION REQUESTED

Item 4 City of Greater Sudbury's Open Air Burning By-law

Don Donaldson, Fire Chief, made an electronic presentation regarding the Open Air By-law Review and provided information requested by the Committee on March 5, 2008. He advised that Fire Services conducts annual spring education and smaller group presentations on an ongoing basis and feels there is no need nor resources to change the present strategy. He explained the enforcement through By-law Enforcement Services with input from Fire Services and the process when dealing with repeat offenders. He indicated that there appears to be no appropriate way to designate urban versus rural lands. Public Health input indicates smoke is not good for you as many studies have shown however, their expertise is more with regards to smoking or smoke indoors near food areas. He listed the following recommendations:

- ▶ allow winter daytime burning;
- ▶ allow for ceremonial and other culturally significant events;
- ▶ change the distance from residential structure to 20 feet from 10 feet;
- ▶ change procedures so that fire services will not respond to smoke complaints.

Mayor Rodriguez requested that it be made clear that the distance from residential structures is 20 feet and 10 feet from all other structures.

When asked, the City Solicitor advised that Council has the authority to pass a Nuisance Smoke By-law.

The Committee agreed to defer the matter to mid June in order that a report could be prepared and a presentation made by Fire Services and By-law Enforcement. The report should include and option for a Nuisance Smoke By-law, an enforcement plan with options as to the cost.

Item 5 Public Participation Policy

Report dated April 25, 2008 was received from the General Manager of Community Development regarding Public Participation Policy.

RECOMMENDATION 2008-21: Moved by Councillor Dupuis:

WHEREAS the value of civic engagement is recognized as a valuable means of encouraging public participation and involvement in municipal affairs,

AND WHEREAS the City of Greater Sudbury supports public participation through Advisory Boards and Panels, Committees, Community Action Networks, Neighbourhood Associations, public

meetings/community consultations and other means of civic engagement,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Greater Sudbury adopt the proposed Public Participation Policy to help guide and implement current and future civic engagement opportunities for the citizens of our community.

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Item 6

See page 5

Item 7
Financial Report on the Union's Options for Enhanced Winter Control Service Levels

Report dated April 29, 2008 was received from the General Manager of Infrastructure Services regarding Financial Report on the Union's Options for Enhanced Winter Control Service Levels.

Newsletter dated May 7, 2008 from CUPE Local 4705 regarding Winter Control was distributed to the Committee Members.

Proceed Past 8:30 p.m.

2008-22 Cimino THAT we proceed past the hour of 8:30 p.m.

CARRIED BY 2/3 MAJORITY

The following recommendation was presented:

THAT the Union's Options for Enhanced Winter Control Service Levels be referred to the 2009 Finance Committee budget deliberations.

It was suggested by Members of the Committee that, prior to the 2009 budget deliberations, a report be prepared including the following:

- ▶ more details with respect to how the dollar figures were calculated;
- ▶ dollar amounts with respect to damages caused year after year by contractors compared to City employees;
- ▶ number of times City crews have assisted contractors in winter maintenance;
- ▶ time line comparison between City crews and contractors performing winter maintenance;
- ▶ information on standby charges;
- ▶ information on what employees would do in December, January and February because of climate change.

Amendment

With the concurrence of the Committee, Councillor Gasparini requested that the foregoing motion be amended by adding:

THAT prior to the 2009 budget deliberations, Management and CUPE Local 4705 hold further discussions on the additional

Item 7
Financial Report on
the Union's Options
for Enhanced Winter
Control Service Levels
(continued)

information requested by Council as well proposals contained in the Newsletter of May 7, 2008 from CUPE Local 4705 and present their findings prior to the 2009 budget sessions.

The main motion as amended was presented:

RECOMMENDATION 2008-23: Moved by Mayor Rodriguez:

THAT the Union's Options for Enhanced Winter Control Service Levels be referred to the 2009 Finance Committee budget deliberations.

AND THAT prior to the 2009 budget deliberations, Management and CUPE Local 4705 hold further discussions on the additional information requested by Council as well proposals contained in the Newsletter of May 7, 2008 from CUPE Local 4705 and present their findings prior to the 2009 budget sessions.

CARRIED

Item 8

See page 5

Adjournment

RECOMMENDATION 2008-24: Moved by Councillor Cimino:

THAT this meeting does now adjourn. Time: 8:45 p.m.

CARRIED

Councillor J. Gasparini, Chair

Angie Haché, City Clerk