

**SPECIAL COUNCIL**  
**FINANCE DIVISION**

**REPORT FIN-2023-32**  
**November 27, 2023**

**SUBJECT: FIN-2023-32 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT RESOLUTION  
FORM PROCESS**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND receives for information report FIN-2023-32: 2024 Budget Amendment Resolution Form Process.

**RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

This recommendation is aligned to Council’s strategic priority of ensuring “**Economic Growth**” for creating a diverse economy through partnerships and emerging markets to ensure sustainable growth and quality employment.

This recommendation is aligned to Council’s strategic priority of ensuring “**Health and Wellbeing**” to promote personal health and well-being by offering an abundance of activities that meet the diverse needs and interests all while, advocating for improved health care throughout the city, and supporting the need for safety and security.

This recommendation is aligned to Council’s strategic priority of ensuring “**Environmental Stewardship**” to protect the ecosystems through a responsible approach to minimize the impact on the environment through supportive decision-making, professional processes, incentives, policies, and operational practices.

This recommendation is aligned to Council’s strategic priority of ensuring “**Liveability**” by creating a sense of belonging while enhancing mobility by improving access to recreation and community events, ensuring adequate housing options, encouraging job growth, and improving ways to efficiently move people throughout the city.

## **BACKGROUND:**

As a result of the newly legislated Strong Mayor Powers, Section 284.16 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, outlines a statutory process for the approval of municipal budgets beginning with the presentation of the Mayor's proposed budgets, amendment(s) of the proposed budgets by City Council, veto of amendments by the Mayor, and override of vetoes by City Council.

## **DISCUSSION:**

After receiving the Mayor's proposed budgets (November 6<sup>th</sup>) Council can amend the proposed budgets by meeting and passing budget amendments within 30-days (Nov 6 – Dec 5) by a majority vote.

Budget amendment resolution forms received by November 23, 2023 at noon will be considered at the November 27<sup>th</sup> Special Council Meeting. Any budget amendments received after the November 23, 2023 noon cutoff to November 30, 2023 at noon will be considered at the December 5<sup>th</sup> Special Council meeting. Each amendment must be directly related to the Mayor's proposed 2024 budgets with a quantifiable financial figure. Any budget amendments submitted that are non-quantifiable can be found in Appendix III of this report for Council information.

The budget amendment resolution forms have been listed in the order in which they have been received. Council members will have an opportunity to present their budget amendment(s) to Council for consideration. All tax supported operating and capital amendments will be considered first (Appendix I) followed by the rate (water/wastewater) operating and capital budget (Appendix II). Staff will provide Council with the estimated tax/rate impact of their amendment which will help Council consider whether the amendment should move forward to the two-step approval process.

### **Two-Step Approval Process for Amendments.**

Members of Council have two (2) scheduled Special Council Meetings to consider submitted amendments to the Mayor's proposed 2024 budgets. Any approved amendments will have a financial impact on the final tax and water rates for 2024.

In previous years, the Budget Review Committee (BRC) would recommend approved amendments to Council for consideration. Council would then have a final opportunity to make further amendments, such as adding additional items or removing previously supported items from the BRC.

In order to allow council an opportunity to review all approved amendments and consider the final tax and water rates, a two-step process will be followed for considering amendments to the Mayor's proposed 2024 Budgets.

## First Step

Any amendments approved will be as “Strictly Conditional”. The condition being that final approval will be required at the December 5<sup>th</sup> Special Council Meeting, following consideration of additional submitted amendments to the Mayor’s proposed 2024 budgets.

The amendments being approved strictly on condition will allow for Council to establish conditional tax and water/wastewater rates before considering for final approval at the December 5<sup>th</sup> Special Council Meeting. Council will be provided the final rates prior to approving the final amendments. This is outlined in the second step below.

## Second Step

Following the conclusion of considering all amendments submitted for the Mayor’s proposed 2024 Budgets, Council will consider the “strictly conditional” approved amendments for final decision. The City Clerk will read the approved conditional amendments individually for Council to vote on the item for final approval. If the conditional amendment is not supported by majority vote, the item is then removed from the final rates.

If Council approves the motion on the final amendments, the Mayor will have an opportunity following the meeting to veto any budget amendments.

If Council does not support the final amendments, the budget is approved without any amendments from Council.

### STEP ONE

Amendments considered as strictly conditional.

### STEP TWO

All amendments considered as one (1) final amendment. Amendments can be made to this motion to remove items.

### APPROVED

Mayor can veto amendments.

### NOT APPROVED

Budget is approved without amendments.

## **UPDATE – Mayor’s Proposed 2024 Rate Supported Operating (Water/Wastewater) Budget:**

On July 27, the Region’s BRC released their 2024 Budget Planning document, which contained a combined increase to the Water/Wastewater Budget of 9.8%. This 9.8% was used in preparing the 2024 Mayor’s Proposed Rate Supported Operating (Water/Wastewater) Budget.

On November 16, 2023, the Niagara Region Budget Review Committee approved the 2024 Niagara Region Water/Wastewater Budget. They recommended an overall combined increase of 7.95%. The Water By-Law and Wastewater By-Law will be considered by Regional Council on December 14.

As a result, the Mayor's Proposed 2024 Water/Wastewater Budget has been updated to reflect the new costs (Appendix II).

**FINANCIAL:**

The impact on the Mayor's 2024 budgets will be finalized at the December 5, 2023 Special Council meeting.

**CONCLUSION:**

That the City of Welland Council receives for information report FIN-2023-32 which outlines the 2024 budget amendment resolution process.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Appendix I - 2024 – Tax Supported Operating and Capital Budget Amendments  
Appendix II - 2024 – Rate Supported (Water/Wastewater) Operating and Capital Budget Amendments  
Appendix III - 2024 – Tax Supported/ Water and Wastewater Rate Supported Operating and Capital Budget Amendments (Non-Quantifiable)