

SPECIAL COUNCIL
FINANCE DIVISION

REPORT FIN-2023-34
December 5, 2023

SUBJECT: FIN-2023-34 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENTS - MEETING #2

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APPROVING: ROB AXIAK, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND receives for information report FIN-2023-34: 2024 Budget Amendments - Meeting #2.

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:

November 27, 2023, was the first of two scheduled Special Council Meetings to consider budget amendments provided members of Council. Councillors had an opportunity to present and discuss their submitted 2024 budget amendments.

Staff provided members of Council with a cost impact (increase/decrease) for each "Strictly Conditional" amendment that was carried. A second amendment meeting scheduled for December 5 is where members of Council will consider the balance of amendments submitted and proceed with a final vote on all councillor amendments.

DISCUSSION:

Any budget amendment resolution forms received after the November 23, 2023, noon cutoff to November 30, 2023, at noon have been included in this report.

Any budget amendments received after the November 30 noon cutoff until 4 p.m. on December 5, will be given to Council at the December 5 Special Council Meeting. Each amendment submitted 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 December 5, 2023, Special Council Meeting will follow a two-step process. In the first step, each Council member will have an opportunity to present their budget amendment(s) to Council for consideration. Staff will provide Council with the estimated tax/rate impact of their amendment(s) which will assist Council when considering the amendment and approving as "strictly conditional". Members of Council have been encouraged to provide budget amendments in writing in advance of the December 5 Special Council Meeting.

After all the submitted amendments have been considered, there will be a ten (10) minute recess prior to moving forward with the final approval of the amendments. At this time, no further budget amendments can be submitted.

The second step of this evening's meeting will be to provide Council an opportunity to vote on all conditional amendments for final approval individually. All carried amendments from this portion of the meeting will be added to the Mayor's 2024 Budgets.

Please note if the two-step process is not completed on the evening of December 5, the Mayor's 2024 proposed budgets will be deemed to have passed as originally submitted.

FINANCIAL:

The Mayor's proposed tax levy increase after assessment growth for 2024 is 2.69% while maintaining the existing service levels of 2023. Following the November 27, 2023, Special Council meeting, the amendments approved by Council to proceed to the December 5 meeting as "Strictly Conditional" have increased the tax levy tentatively to 3.43% after assessment growth.

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

CONCLUSION:

That the City of Welland Council receives for information report FIN-2023-34.

ATTACHMENT:

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)