

City of Melfort
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
January 16, 2006

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on Monday, January 16, 2006, in the Council Chambers, Melfort, Saskatchewan, commencing at 6:47 p.m.

PRESENT: COUNCIL: Alderman Degelman, Chairman; Mayor Collins and Aldermen Lang, Abbott, Terry, MacNaughton and White.

STAFF: J. Wade, City Manager; K. Ottenbreit, Director of Planning, Development & Leisure Services; C. Stevenson, City Treasurer and H. Audette, City Clerk.

1. PRELIMINARY BUDGET SESSION

2006 Capital Budget:

The City Treasurer reviewed the 2006 Capital Budget and 2006-2010 Capital Program, as highlighted in her memo dated January 12, 2006.

- The Regular Maintenance & Equipment Capital Budget has been aligned with interest earnings over the five year program.
- The regular program sees the completion of the scheduled essential sidewalk program by 2009 and 8 blocks of Saskatchewan Avenue in 2010.
- Administration believes that the Industrial Area Infrastructure Upgrade is the project that will best qualify for the gas tax funding and regional benefit.
- Under the Special Projects Capital Budget, \$145,000 of the gas tax funding has not yet been scheduled.
- The Director will discuss the issue of the diesel ice resurfacer with the Facilities Manager.

Discussion followed concerning Council policy and directives. Alderman Lang requested that a discussion on building reserves as opposed to maintaining reserves be placed on the next Legislative & Finance meeting agenda. The Treasurer noted that the Legislative & Finance Committee was directed to bring a reserve policy to Council by April, 2006.

In 2002, Council allocated surplus funds of \$197,000 to increase the Protect/EMO Equipment Reserve to finance the RCMP radio modernization project. At that time, the Council of the day agreed that reserves should be then drawn down in relation to this project. Council concurred with the previous Council's decision and were in favor of the reserve draw down over the next five years.

In order to establish a mechanism to replenish the special projects budget, Council agreed that any surpluses generated out of the general and utility budgets are to be directed to fund Council's highest priority project, as identified on the Special Capital Projects Five-year Program. However, before allocating the 2005 surplus funds to capital projects, the City Treasurer was directed to first use any surplus funds to replenish the mill rate stabilization reserve by the previous draw down amount of \$71,052.

2006 Preliminary Operating Budget:

The City Treasurer presented Council with the 2006 Preliminary Operating Budget and a memo explaining the initial deficit of \$534,935. This deficit includes \$100,000 for special projects which is to be reduced by the 2005 surplus, \$71,052 to replenish the mill rate stabilization reserve, but does not include any revenue returned from the winter games, which will be confirmed prior to final budget discussions. She reiterated that this is a preliminary overview of where Council stands right now.

The public portion of the Committee of the Whole meeting ended at 7:40 p.m. The remaining portion of the Committee of the Whole meeting was closed to the public due to the fact that the items on the agenda are included in the list of exemptions found in Part III of *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

2. **FACILITY PLANNING**

3. **CITY MANAGER EVALUATION**

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk