

Discussion continued on whether the City has a sufficient tax base to support funding local improvements through taxation or does the City look at undertaking local improvements without right of petition in order to complete necessary projects.

2007-08 GROWTH PROJECTS

The growth projects, approved at the 2007 planning session, will deplete the land development fund until the lots sell. Council agreed that the City should attempt to externally borrow for any projects that will comply with the provincial interest-free infrastructure program.

Council recessed at 6:00 p.m. and resume discussion at 6:45 p.m.

PRELIMINARY GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

The Treasurer referred to her memo dated January 31, 2008, detailing the following updated items that result in a preliminary budget deficit of \$489,741.00. This deficit figure includes estimated increased assessment and revenue sharing.

Reclass Facility Booking Position - Councillor MacNaughton declared conflict and refrained from discussion on this item.

Fire Chief Position . Council supported the Fire Chief position and the duties of fire inspection, enforcement of fire-related infractions and back-up building inspector; however, the salary range was referred to the Personnel Committee for a recommendation back to budget. The Committee is also to identify other wage imbalances in the City salary grids.

PW Salaries . Heavy Equipment Operator & Semi-skilled position. **Flagged**

Engineering Assistant Position . Council will see what discussion comes up at SUMA concerning the costs of implementing the tangible capital assets program.

Transportation Vehicle Pool . Schulte Mower and Snow Blower operating costs.

Facility Software . annual maintenance.

Feasibility Study . Diamond Interpretive Centre. Council will lobby the government on this project at SUMA and will be making application to the NE REDA and Newsask for funding.

General Operational Deficit . beginning balance \$ 489,741

2-8-12000-252 & 2-8-12000-258 . City Hall - Administration will check 2007 coding.

2-8-35500-252 Trans Workshop Building Repair . reduce budget by \$25,000 to \$10,000. Move new roof for old shop to capital budget. \$464,741

2-8-35500-111 Redraft workshop salaries to account for vacant mechanic position.

2-8-72052 NELC . examine all revenue and expense options for next meeting.

2-8-76063-251 The Director will report on the open space site repair 2007 ytd budget.

MELFORT GOLF COURSE

The Works & Utilities Committee and the Planning & Development Committee held a joint meeting to discuss the golf course request and recommend that the City provide the golf club with a \$50,000 interest free loan, to be repaid back over 10 years and further, that the City provide the club with an annual grant of \$5,000 for the next ten years.

2-8-68000-902 Community grants to organizations . increase budget by \$5,000 to \$41,800 to provide an annual grant to the Melfort Golf Club \$469,741

FLAGGED ITEMS

- Proposed recapping program through general operations and other unfunded special projects.
- Public Works Salaries for new positions: heavy equipment operator (\$26,000) and semi-skilled position (\$25,000).
- Canada Day Fireworks (\$5,000).
- Bylaw Enforcement Officer . waiting confirmation of Commissionaire's contract.
- NELC revenues.

FUTURE BUDGET DATES

Thursday, February 28, 2008 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 13, 2008 3:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk