



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

SPECIAL GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, February 5, 6 and 7, 2024 at 12:05 p.m.

Report of a meeting held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, February 5, 6, and 7, 2024 at 12:05 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Chair: Mayor R. Alty,
Councillor S. Arden-Smith,
Councillor G. Cochrane,
Councillor R. Fequet,
Councillor B. Hendriksen,
Councillor C. McGurk,
Councillor T. McLennan,
Councillor S. Payne, and
Councillor R. Warburton.

The following members of Administration staff were in attendance:

S. Bassi-Kellett,
C. Caljouw,
C. Greencorn,
C. MacLean,
K. Pandoo,
K. Thistle,
L. Vass,
G. White, and
S. Jovic.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
	(For Information Only)
1.	There were no disclosures of conflict of interest.
2.	Committee discussed 2024 draft budget.
3.	Mayor Alty stated that, pursuant to s.107 of Council Procedures By-law No. 4975, as amended, she wished to leave the Chair and participate in the debate.



4. Deputy Mayor Cochrane took the chair at 5:44 p.m.
5. Committee discussed the installation of the safety fence between Fritz Thiel ball park and Josephine Walcer Playground and the upgrade to the Rotary Range Lake Trail.
6. Mayor Alty assumed the chair at 5:57 p.m.
7. Committee heard a presentation regarding Fleet Management. Administration noted that in 2017 Fleet Study was completed by Mercury Associates Inc. and it is still relevant. Administration further noted that if the City does not make the choice to spend appropriately for replacement, it will incur the additional costs of an aging fleet, including higher maintenance and repair costs, increased reliability and safety concerns, higher downtime, and lower vehicle user satisfaction and performance. Administration provided information about Mobile Equipment Reserve Fund (MERF) and vehicle class based replacement system.
8. Committee recessed at 7:05 p.m. and reconvened at 7:15 p.m.
9. Committee continued its discussion regarding the 2024 Budget.
10. Committee defeated a motion to increase community grant funding by \$50,000 starting in 2024 and going forward, and to transfer \$15,000 from the reserve fund for use in 2024, leaving the reserve at \$25,000.
11. Committee recessed at 8:51 p.m. and reconvened at 9:00 p.m.
- (For Information Only)
12. Councillor Cochrane moved,
Councillor Warburton seconded,

That Committee move in camera at 9:00 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter; a matter still under consideration and a confidential matter.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- (For Information Only)
13. Committee discussed a personnel matter.
- (For Information Only)
14. Committee discussed a matter still under consideration.
- (For Information Only)
15. Committee discussed a confidential matter.



- (For Information Only)
16. Councillor Cochrane moved,
Councillor Warburton seconded,

That Committee return to an open meeting at 10:02 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- (For Information Only)
17. There was no business arising from the in camera session.

- (For Information Only)
18. Committee recessed at 10:04 p.m. and reconvened on February 6, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. with the following members in attendance:

Chair: Mayor R. Alty,
Councillor S. Arden-Smith,
Councillor G. Cochrane,
Councillor R. Fequet,
Councillor B. Hendriksen,
Councillor C. McGurk,
Councillor T. McLennan,
Councillor S. Payne, and
Councillor R. Warburton.

The following members of Administration staff were in attendance:

S. Bassi-Kellett,
C. Caljouw,
C. Greencorn,
C. MacLean,
K. Pandoo,
K. Thistle,
L. Vass,
G. White, and
S. Jovic.

- (For Information Only)
19. Committee continued its discussion regarding the draft 2024 Budget.
20. Committee heard a presentation regarding the current status of the Firehall, the original issues giving rise to the Firehall project, and options respecting renovations and expansion. Administration noted that the existing facility and building systems are not adequate to meet Yellowknife Fire Division requirements in providing the level of emergency services expected by the community and it no longer meets safety standards for staff.



Administration further noted that in 2021 Council accepted for information the Fire Hall Study and approved renovation/expansion of existing Fire Hall as the most feasible option for addressing requirements to improve the facility's condition and its building functions. Committee noted that Firehall project expenditure to date are \$1.8M in contract design and specification fees to Dillon Consulting Ltd. for Renovation/Expansion.

21. Mayor Alty stated that, pursuant to s.107 of Council Procedures By-law No. 4975, as amended, she wished to leave the Chair and participate in the debate.
22. Deputy Mayor Cochrane took the chair at 5:50 p.m.
23. Committee discussed funding for the Street Outreach Program Review. Committee noted that the 2024 Budget includes a one-time allocation of \$100,000 to fund a consultant to review and provide and operating model recommendation for the Street Outreach Program and draft a multi-year funding proposal to be presented to the Federal and Territorial Government. Committee noted that this review will be funded by the Federal Government.
24. Mayor Alty assumed the chair at 5:59 p.m.
25. Committee defeated a motion to increase funding for the Street Outreach Program by adding \$370,000 (totaling \$730,000) for 2024, \$1.1M for 2025, and \$915,000 for 2026.
26. Committee recessed at 6:55 p.m. and reconvened at 7:05 p.m.
27. Committee continued its discussion regarding the draft 2024 Budget.
28. Committee requested that Administration take under advisement the budget impact of tax abatements related to development incentives.
29. Mayor Alty stated that, pursuant to s.107 of Council Procedures By-law No. 4975, as amended, she wished to leave the Chair and participate in the debate.
30. Deputy Mayor Cochrane took the chair at 8:18 p.m.
31. Committee discussed whether to reduce Heritage Committee expenditure budget to \$25,000 from \$35,179.
32. Mayor Alty assumed the chair at 8:20 p.m.
- (For Information Only)
33. Committee recessed at 8:31 p.m. and reconvened on February 7, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. with the following members in attendance:

Chair: Mayor R. Alty,
Councillor S. Arden-Smith,



Councillor G. Cochrane,
Councillor R. Fequet,
Councillor B. Hendriksen,
Councillor C. McGurk,
Councillor T. McLennan, (via teleconference)
Councillor S. Payne, and
Councillor R. Warburton.

The following members of Administration staff were in attendance:

S. Bassi-Kellett,
C. Caljouw,
C. Greencorn,
C. MacLean,
K. Pandoo,
K. Thistle,
L. Vass,
C White, (via teleconference)
G. White, and
S. Jovic.

(For Information Only)

34. Committee continued its discussion regarding the draft 2024 Budget.
35. Committee recommended:
1. That \$130,754 Carry Over for the Backup Power Liftstation Generator Installation be released to the Capital Fund;
 2. That \$6,810.74 Carry Over for the Baling Facility Mechanical Upgrades be released to the Capital Fund;
 3. That \$38,711 Carry Over for the CEP Waste Strategic Plan be released to the Capital Fund;
 4. That \$25,000 Carry Over for the Implementation of 50/50 Recommendations be released to the Capital Fund;
 5. That \$872,611.20 Carry Over for the Lagoon Control Structure Replacements be released to the Capital Fund;
 6. That \$180,000 Carry Over for the Landfill Leachate Retention & Treatment be released to the Capital Fund;



7. That \$94,095.43 Carry Over for the PH4 Truckfill Safety Project be released to the Capital Fund;
8. That \$9,754 Carry Over for the Pumphouse & Liftstation Upgrades be released to the Capital Fund;
9. That \$90,421 Carry Over for the SWMP Implementation be released to the Capital Fund;
10. That the Sewage Forcemain Twinning Project be cut and to keep \$950,007 Carry Over in the Capital Fund;
11. That \$27,637.91 Carry Over for the Sustainability Coordinator be released to the Capital Fund;
12. That \$49,393.18 Carry Over for the Water Treatment Plant Pellet Boiler be released to the Capital Fund;
13. That \$4,022.14 Carry Over for the Wireless Infrastructure be released to the IT reserve;
14. That the Park Development – Fritz Theil Park project be cut and to keep \$80,000 in the Capital Fund;
15. That the Trail Development project be cut and to keep \$210,000 in the Capital Fund;
16. That the Budget be reduced by \$250,000 by removing the Accessibility Audit/Implementation, leaving \$1.3M carry forward for projects;
17. That the Budget be reduced by \$400,000 by removing the Niven Lake Ravine Trail Sludge Project;
18. That the Budget be reduced by \$250,000 by removing the Niven Lake Trail paving project;
19. That the Budget be reduced by \$1M by removing the Water Submarine Line project;
20. That the Budget be increased by \$10,000 for the Arctic Inspiration Prize Award;
21. That the Budget be reduced by \$75,000 by deferring the Economic Development Strategy renewal from 2024 to 2025.
22. That the Budget be reduced by \$100,000 from the Community Service directorate budget for funding the Street Outreach Program Review.



23. That the Budget be increased by increasing the Northwest Territorial Resident ambulance fee to \$500 and Out of Territory Resident ambulance fee to \$575.
24. That the Budget be reduced by \$50,000 contribution for the Capital Area Committee until such time that Council direct Administration to include funding again.
25. That the Budget be reduced by reducing Heritage Committee expenditure budget to \$25,000 from \$35,179
26. That the Budget be reduced by \$25,000 by deferring a consultant fee and defining regulations related to traditional structures in the City of Yellowknife to add to the Building By-law.
27. That the 2024 tax increase be set at 5% by reducing the transfer of taxes to the Capital Fund by \$513,000.
28. **Committee recommends that:**
 1. **Administration be directed to bring forward a memorandum on the creation of an Emerging Issues Reserve Fund to a future Governance and Priorities Committee meeting for discussion.**
 2. **The 2024 Draft Budget with revenues of \$93,370,000, debenture interest payments of \$616,000, debt principal repayments of \$2,280,000, expenditures of \$138,400,000 including capital investments of \$55,011,000 and amortization of \$15,993,000 be approved; and that the Council adopt the 2025 and 2026 Budget in principle.**

MOVE APPROVAL

37. The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.