



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

**SPECIAL GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

**December 2, 3, 4 and 5, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.**

Report of a meeting held on December 2, 3, 4 and 5, 2024 at 5:30 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. Van Dine,  
D. Gillard,  
C. Greencorn,  
C. MacLean,  
K. Pandoo,  
M. Rolland,  
K. Thistle,  
C White,  
G. White, and  
S. Jovic.

---

Item      Description

(For Information Only)

1. Councillor Warburton declared a conflict of interest with regard to any discussion regarding the Planning and Development carry forwards.
2. Committee deliberated the draft 2025 Budget.



---

(For Information Only)

3. Committee heard a presentation from Administration regarding Dog Impound Services.
4. Administration undertook to provide information regarding Cost Recovery/Revenue for Dog Impound Services.

(For Information Only)

5. Committee heard a presentation from Administration regarding Snow Removal.
6. Administration undertook to come back in 2025 with further research on Snow Removal, and analysis on moving from an 18 week to a 24 week Snow Removal Program.
7. Committee heard a presentation from Administration regarding PY Adjustments and Justification.
8. Administration undertook to add the PY presentation to the Council Portal.
9. Committee recessed at 6:57 p.m. and reconvened at 7:10 p.m.
10. Committee continued its discussion regarding the draft 2025 Budget.
11. Administration undertook to provide an update on the City Hall Retrofit in Q2 2025.
12. Committee spoke in favour of having a dedicated Project Manager for the Fire Hall Expansion. Administration undertook to bring it back if favourable for 2026 Budget.
13. A motion to incorporate Active Transportation Design when reconstructing the Old Town Hill (Franklin Avenue) was approved.
14. A motion to incorporate an active transportation and pedestrian safety design when reconstructing the signalized crosswalks at Ecole St. Joseph and NJ Macpherson schools was TABLED.
15. A motion to reincorporate landscaping features into paving programs in 2025 onward was deferred to a discussion in Q2 2025.
16. A motion to increase the budget by \$15,000 to include the Arts Walk Project (public submission) was withdrawn.
17. A motion to increase the budget by \$10,000 for trial painted bike lanes on Forrest Drive (between Franklin Avenue and 51A Avenue), Range Lake Road (between Finlayson Drive and Woolgar Avenue), and 52<sup>nd</sup> Street and 47<sup>th</sup> Street starting in spring 2025 was TABLED. Administration undertook to provide information regarding costing.
18. Committee recessed at 8:39 p.m. and reconvened at 8:50 p.m.



19. Committee continued its discussion regarding the draft 2025 Budget.
20. A motion to increase the budget by \$30,000 to upgrade the Dog Park was TABLED so that Administration can provide information on costing of upgrades.
21. A motion to increase the budget to address safety concerns at the intersection of Moyle and Haener Drives was withdrawn. Administration undertook to evaluate the intersection for safety considerations that signage may mitigate.
22. A motion to decrease the budget by striking the Director, Governance was TABLED.
23. A motion to allocate time for Grant Writer to find a longer term stable funding source for the City's Transform Your Yard Program was TABLED.
24. Committee recessed at 9:49 p.m. and reconvened at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 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. Van Dine,  
D. Gillard,  
C. Greencorn,  
C. MacLean,  
K. Pandoo,  
K. Thistle,  
C White,  
G. White, and  
S. Jovic.

25. Committee continued its discussion regarding the draft 2025 Budget.
26. A motion to incorporate an active transportation and pedestrian safety design when reconstructing signalized crosswalks at Ecole St. Joseph and NJ Macpherson schools was removed from the Table, amended to include \$90,000 and was TABLED.



27. A motion to defer \$95,000 to 2026 for the two crosswalk installations on Range Lake Road, was TABLED.
28. A motion to allocate time for the Grant Writer to find a longer term stable funding source for the City's Transform Your Yard Program was removed from the Table, amended to increase the budget by \$25,000 for GROW Implementation and was TABLED.
29. A motion to waive the admission fees for the Fieldhouse track and playground in 2025, and re-allocate booking clerk staff to other recreation facilities was TABLED.
30. Administration undertook to provide information regarding any legislative or regulatory health and safety issues if there is a reduction in the one proposed booking clerk at the Fieldhouse.
31. A motion to strike the Customer Service Booking Supervisor PY from the budget was TABLED.
32. Administration undertook to provide further information regarding the Xplore Rec software capabilities.
33. Committee recessed at 7:12 p.m. and reconvened at 7:22 p.m.
34. Committee continued its discussion regarding the draft 2025 Budget.
35. A motion to increase the budget from \$37,000 to \$50,000 for dog impound services was TABLED.
36. A motion to update the Fees and Charges By-law to increase impound services to \$250 / day was TABLED.
37. A motion to increase the budget by \$179,035 by creating a Transportation Master Plan Implementation Capital Project (Carbon Tax Revenue less Power Overage) was DEFEATED.
38. Committee recessed at 8:57 p.m. and reconvened at 9:10 p.m.
39. A motion to decrease the budget by striking the Transportation Master Plan was DEFEATED.
40. Administration undertook to update the 50 Year Forecast for Fleet Management diagram in the budget for clarity.
41. Committee recessed at 9:28 p.m. and reconvened at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 4, 2024 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. Van Dine,  
D. Gillard,  
C. Greencorn,  
C. MacLean,  
K. Pandoo,  
K. Thistle,  
C White,  
G. White, and  
S. Jovic.

42. Committee continued its discussion regarding the draft 2025 Budget.
43. A motion to defer \$95,000 to 2026 for the two crosswalk installations on Range Lake Road, was removed from the Table and amended to defer replacement to 2026 for Ecole St. Joseph and NJ Macpherson schools and to add \$10,000 for interim measures was APPROVED.
44. A motion to decrease the budget by striking the Director, Governance was removed from the Table and was DEFEATED.
45. A motion to waive the admission fees for the Fieldhouse track and playground in 2025, and re-allocate booking clerk staff to other recreation facilities was removed from the Table and was amended by striking “and re-allocate booking clerk staff to other recreation facilities” and was DEFEATED.
46. A motion to increase the budget from \$37,000 to \$50,000 for dog impound services was removed from the Table, amended to \$60,000 and was APPROVED.
47. A motion to update the Fees and Charges By-law to increase impound services to \$250 / day was removed from the Table and was APPROVED.
48. A motion to provide access to the Fieldhouse walking track seven days a week for seniors at no cost was DEFEATED.



49. Committee recessed at 7:03 p.m. and reconvened at 7:13 p.m.
50. Committee continued its discussion regarding the draft 2025 Budget.
51. A motion to waive the admission fees for the Fieldhouse track and playground in 2025 was reconsidered and was APPROVED.
52. A motion to include known fire hydrant upgrades or replacements for the Downtown in the 10-year Capital Plan to facilitate downtown revitalization was deferred to a discussion at a Governance and Priorities Committee meeting during Q1 2025.
53. Committee recessed at 9:28 p.m. and reconvened at 5:15 p.m. on Thursday, December 5, 2024 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. Van Dine,  
D. Gillard,  
C. Greencorn,  
C. MacLean,  
K. Pandoo,  
K. Thistle,  
C White,  
G. White, and  
S. Jovic.

54. Committee continued its discussion regarding the draft 2025 Budget.
55. Committee noted that the proposed tax increase is now at 6.019%.
56. Committee recommended that:
  1. The Budget for the Accessibility Audit/Implementation be reduced by \$400,000 which will remain in the Capital Fund.



2. The Budget for the Landfill Leachate Retention & Treatment be reduced by \$250,000 which will remain in the Capital Fund.
3. The Budget for the Arbour Development Study be reduced by \$68,000 which will remain in the Capital Fund.
4. The Budget for the Community Energy Plan (CEP) Community Outreach be reduced by \$33,000 which will remain in the Capital Fund.
5. The Budget for the Community Services Land Fund Capital Projects be reduced by \$1.66M which will remain in the Capital Fund.
6. The Budget be reduced by \$550,000 by striking City Dog Pound.
7. The Budget be reduced by \$60,000 by striking Fire Division Engine 2 Restoration.
8. The Budget be reduced by \$233,000 by striking the Fritz Theil Soccer Field.
9. The Budget be reduced by \$310,000 by deferring Resurfacing of Tennis Courts to 2026.
10. The Budget be increased by \$10,000 for trial painted bike lanes on Forrest Drive (between Franklin Avenue and 51A Avenue), Range Lake Road (between Finlayson Drive and Woolgar Avenue), and 52<sup>nd</sup> Street and 47<sup>th</sup> Street starting in spring 2025.
11. The Budget be increased by \$45,000 to upgrade the Dog Park.
12. The Budget be reduced by striking the two MED Officer II position.
13. The Budget be increased by \$10,000 for interim measures for two crosswalks at Ecole St. Joseph and NJ Macpherson schools.
14. The Budget be adjusted by using \$300,000 from the Wages and Salaries Vacancy Rate Variance to fund the two (2) term positions to implement the modernization initiative.
15. The Budget be adjusted by using \$75,000 from the Wages and Salaries Vacancy Rate Variance to fund the Organizational Review.
16. The Budget be increased by \$25,000 for GROW Implementation.
17. The Budget be reduced by striking Customer Service Booking Supervisor PY from the budget.



18. The Budget be increased by \$60,000 for dog pound service.
19. The Budget be reduced by removing \$50,000 wages and benefits of the Homelessness Specialist, and that it is covered by Reaching Home funding.
20. The Budget be increased by adding the Carbon Tax Revenue Sharing Grant in the amount of \$629,035.
21. **Committee recommends that:**

**That the 2025 Draft Budget with revenues of \$109,273,536, debenture interest payments of \$541,000, debt principal repayments of \$2,360,000, expenditures of \$142,088,844 including capital investments of \$50,593,970 and amortization of \$16,382,000, be approved; and that the Council adopt the 2026 and 2027 Budget in principle.**

57. The meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.