



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

SPECIAL GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

December 1, 2 and 3, 2025 at 12:05 p.m.

Report of a meeting held on December 1, 2 and 3, 2025 at 12:05 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber.
The following Committee members were in attendance:

Chair: Mayor B. Hendriksen,
Councillor S. Arden-Smith,
Councillor G. Cochrane,
Councillor R. Fequet,
Councillor R. Foote,
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, (via teleconference)
C. Caljouw,
D. Gillard,
C. Greencorn,
C. MacLean,
K. Pandoo,
K. Thistle,
M. Triffo,
C White,
G. White, and
S. Jovic.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
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| | (For Information Only) |
| 1. | There were no disclosures of conflict of interest. |
| 2. | Committee deliberated the draft 2026 Budget. |



3. Administration noted that they have been reviewing and refining the draft budget and advised that the proposed tax increase is now at 5.83%.
4. Administration undertook to provide information regarding the cost differential between above-ground tanks v. buried tanks for the YKCA and City Hall.
5. A motion to reduce the budget from \$560,000 to \$320,000 for the Pilots Monument Stairs, to bring them up to Code, was TABLED.
6. Committee recessed at 7:13 p.m. and reconvened at 7:23 p.m.
7. Committee continued its discussion regarding the draft 2026 Budget.
8. A motion to strike \$350,000 from the budget for the Snowblower was DEFEATED.
9. Committee recessed at 8:56 p.m. and reconvened at 8:56 p.m.
10. Committee continued its discussion regarding the draft 2026 Budget.
11. Administration undertook to clarify Capital submissions regarding the Transportation Plan.
12. Committee recessed at 9:49 p.m. and reconvened at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 with the following members in attendance:

Chair: Mayor B. Hendriksen,
Councillor S. Arden-Smith,
Councillor G. Cochrane,
Councillor R. Fequet,
Councillor R. Foote,
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, (via teleconference)
C. Caljouw,
D. Gillard,
C. Greencorn,
C. MacLean,
K. Pandoo,
K. Thistle,
M. Triffo,
C White,



G. White, and
S. Jovic.

13. Committee continued its discussion regarding the draft 2026 Budget.
14. A motion to reduce the budget from \$560,000 to \$200,000 for the Pilot's Monument Stair Replacement was DEFEATED.
15. A motion to strike the Emerging Issues Reserve and return \$1.5 million to the General Fund was DEFEATED.
16. Committee recessed at 7:09 p.m. and reconvened at 7:19 p.m.
17. Committee continued its discussion regarding the draft 2026 Budget.
18. Councillor Payne declared a conflict of interest with Street Outreach, as he is a Board Member of Home Base Yellowknife and left the meeting at 7:31 p.m.
19. A motion to increase the next Street Outreach contract from a one-year contract to a 3-year contract was APPROVED.
20. Councillor Payne returned to the meeting at 7:56 p.m.
21. Councillor Payne declared a conflict with discussion regarding the Mine Training Building, as he is a Board Member of Home Base who lease the building, and left the meeting at 7:57 p.m.
22. Committee discussed whether to direct Administration to prepare a recommendation for Council on options to divest the Mine Training Building with the majority of Committee speaking in favour.
23. Councillor Payne returned to the meeting at 8:01 p.m.
24. Mayor Hendriksen vacated the Chair to participate in debate and Deputy Mayor Warburton assumed the Chair at 8:01 p.m.
25. A motion to permanently remove admission fees for the Fieldhouse track and playground starting in 2026 was APPROVED.
26. Mayor Hendriksen resumed the Chair at 8:10 p.m.
27. Committee discussed whether to direct Administration to prepare a recommendation for Council on options to divest of the Wildcat Café with the majority of Committee speaking in favour.



28. A motion to increase burial plot fees such that an adult burial plot and burial permit fee cover 50% of the cost of a plot. The fees would be as follows: Adult - \$703.25 Infant - \$421.75 Military - \$421.75 Cremation and Columbarium - \$421.75 effective September 2026 was APPROVED.
29. Committee recessed at 8:48 p.m. and reconvened at 8:58 p.m.
30. Committee continued its discussion regarding the draft 2026 Budget.
31. A motion to amend the two MED 2 positions from FTE to two-year term positions for Downtown Enhancement, was TABLED.
32. Committee recessed at 10:28 p.m. and reconvened at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 3, 2025 with the following members in attendance:

Chair: Mayor B. Hendriksen,
Councillor S. Arden-Smith,
Councillor G. Cochrane,
Councillor R. Fequet,
Councillor R. Foote,
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, (via teleconference)
C. Caljouw,
D. Gillard,
C. Greencorn,
C. MacLean,
K. Pandoo,
K. Thistle,
C White,
G. White, and
S. Jovic.

33. Committee continued its discussion regarding the draft 2026 Budget.
34. Administration noted that following last night's budget deliberations, the draft budget has been updated, resulting in a proposed tax increase of 4.903%.



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35. A motion to amend the two MED 2 positions from FTE to two-year term positions for Downtown Enhancement, was DEFEATED.
 36. Administration undertook to consider incorporating MED service levels in the upcoming Workplan Update.
 37. A motion to strike \$150,000 from the budget for the Snow and Ice Study was DEFEATED.
 38. A motion to increase parking meter fees transferred from General Fund to Downtown Development Reserve from 25% to 50% with a corresponding increase in parking meter fees to offset revenue decrease to the General Fund was APPROVED.
 39. Committee recessed at 6:59 p.m. and reconvened at 7:10 p.m.
 40. A motion to strike the two MED positions for Downtown Enhancement from the budget was DEFEATED.
 41. Mayor Hendriksen vacated the Chair to participate in debate and Deputy Mayor Warburton assumed the Chair at 7:02 p.m.
 42. A motion to (1) keep an amount of \$1Million for the Emerging Issues Reserve in the General Fund, and (2) use the appropriate amount from the General Fund to reduce the overall proposed property tax by a further 1% was APPROVED.
 43. Mayor Hendriksen resumed the Chair at 7:22 p.m.
 44. Committee recessed at 7:23 p.m. and reconvened at 7:32 p.m.
 45. Committee recommended that:
 1. The Budget for the Chlorine Safety Equipment be reduced by \$170,000.
 2. The Budget for the paving of the remainder of Somba K'e Park be reduced by \$265,000.
 3. The Budget for the Ruth Inch Memorial Pool Repurposing Project be reduced by \$200,000.
 4. The Budget be reduced by \$100,000 in 2026 and only resurface the Somba K'e courts, and increase the draft 2027 budget by \$100,000 (\$200,000 total in 2027) for the Tennis Court Resurfacing project.
 5. The Budget be reduced from \$1,215,000 to \$1,074,000 for the Fuel Tank Replacement, to provide for above-ground tanks at YKCA and City Hall.



6. The Budget be increased by \$46,800 to increase Community Grants from 2026 onwards.
7. The Budget be reduced by striking the proposed Downtown Enhancement Maintainer positions.
8. The Budget be reduced by striking \$140,000 for the Downtown Enhancement Start Up Costs.
9. The Budget be increased from \$100,000 up to \$175,000 for the contract for downtown enhancement maintenance and expanding the service in line with current contractual obligations.
10. The Budget be increased by \$25,000 to support the GROW Strategy implementation.
11. **Committee recommends that:**
 1. **Council direct Administration to prepare a recommendation for Council on options to divest of the Wildcat Café.**
 2. **Council direct Administration to prepare a recommendation for Council on options to divest the Mine Training Building.**
 3. **That the 2026 Draft Budget with revenues of \$113,601,083, debenture interest payments of \$458,000, debt principal repayments of \$2,442,000, expenditures of \$147,432,268 including capital investments of \$49,150,000 and amortization and asset retirement obligations of \$18,431,000, be approved; and that Council adopt the 2027 and 2028 Budget in principle.**

MOVE APPROVAL

46. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.