



Finance and Corporate Services

Committee Minutes

November 25, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers - Hybrid

City of Kitchener

200 King Street W, Kitchener, ON N2G 4G7

Present:

Councillor S. Davey
Councillor D. Schnider
Councillor J. Deneault
Councillor C. Michaud
Councillor A. Owodunni
Councillor P. Singh
Councillor B. Ioannidis
Councillor M. Johnston
Councillor D. Chapman
Councillor S. Stretch

Absent:

Mayor B. Vrbanovic

Staff:

D. Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer
M. May, General Manager, Community Services and Deputy
Chief Administrator
V. Raab, General Manager, Corporate Services
J. Readman, General Manager, Development Services
J. Lautenbach, Chief Financial Officer, Financial Services
D. McGoldrick, General Manager, Infrastructure Services
C. Bluhm, Executive Director, Economic Development
L. Palubeski, Manager, Neighbourhood Programs and Services
D. Saunderson, Deputy Clerk
M. Blake, Committee Coordinator

1. Commencement

The Finance and Corporate Services Committee held a meeting this date commencing at 7:00 p.m.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None.

3. 2025 Budget - Public Consultation

R. Hagey provided opening remarks related to the 2025 Budget, including an overview on the tax levy and the proposed budget schedule, noting the purpose of this meeting was to receive feedback from residents on the proposed budget. R. Hagey further advised the Mayor would be formally proposing the budget on December 2, 2024, with Final Budget Day being December 12, 2024.

3.1 Delegations

Council was in receipt of a written submission from Geraldine Stafford, Caribana Ignite Festival, related to the proposed funding including in the 2025 budget in support of community events.

Linda Jutzi, Kitchener Downtown, Business Improvement Area (BIA), Board of Directors, addressed Committee in support of the continuation and expansion of the Downtown Ambassador program operated by the City's By-law Enforcement Division, included within the 2025 Budget. In response to questions, L. Jutzi noted the BIA has previously helped to fund the program in the amount of \$285,000. L. Jutzi indicated if the BIA was to assist in provide funding support to maintain the program, it would need to be considered and voted on by the Board. L. Jutzi noted the board's 2025 budget has been considered and approved as of this date. L. Jutzi acknowledged the comment and noted the funding request could be raised at their next available Board meeting. In response to further questions, L. Jutzi stated the board pay the City annually \$185,000. for the following special events, horticultural and the Christkindl Market. L. Jutzi stated the Downtown BIA has a annual budget of \$1.8M.

Cathy Lapar, Kitchener Minor Baseball, addressed Committee in support of the construction of an accessible baseball diamond for Kitchener Challenger Baseball at Upper Canada Park as proposed in the City's 2025 Budget. C. Lapar provided an overview of the Challenger Baseball program, stating the improvements proposed for Upper Canada Park will allow children and youth with cognitive and physical disabilities the opportunity to participate in a sport tailored to their unique needs. C. Lapar stated a fully integrated accessible baseball diamond will make the City a leader in inclusive sports.

Geraldine Stafford, Caribana Ignite Festival, addressed Committee in support for the proposed 2025 Budget, particularly the strategic focus on "creating an economically thriving city together." G. Stafford expressed appreciation for the recommendation to allocate an additional \$200,000 in funding towards supporting community events. G. Stafford noted in 2024 Caribana Ignite in partnership with the City of Kitchener, was able to achieve the first ever Caribana event outside of the city of Toronto. G. Stafford expressed appreciation to the City's Special Events team, indicating they were a collaborative partner that helped to make the event a success. G. Stafford then responded to questions from Committee.

4. Adjournment

On motion, this meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Dianna
Manager of Council/Committee Services & Deputy Clerk

Saunderson