



SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Monday, April 19, 2021 at 10:00 AM
Fraser River Presentation Theatre
4th Floor, 20338 – 65 Avenue, Langley, BC

AGENDA

A. ADOPTION AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

A.1 Special Council Meeting - April 19, 2021

Recommendation: That Council adopt the agenda and receive the agenda items of the Special Council meeting held April 19, 2021.

B. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

B.1 Council Priorities and Budget Process

Recommendation: That Dr. Gordon McIntosh lead an informal Council discussion on the Council Process Committee, Strategic Priorities, and 2022 Budget Guidance.

Attachments: [B.1 TOL CI Notepad.pdf](#)

C. OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Richter presented the following Notices of Motion within the deadlines according to Council's policy:

C.1 Setting Property Tax Increase

Recommendation: That the TOL Council set by resolution the acceptable property tax increase for the next year prior to the commencement of the budget process for that year.

C.2 Cost of Living Plus 1% Tax Increase

Recommendation: That the annual TOL property tax increase be set at no more than the current cost of living plus 1% unless exceptional circumstances warrant a change from this and such a change is fully justified by a detailed business case.

C.3 TOL Priority Projects

Recommendation: That TOL staff be directed to live within the Council-set tax increase for each year and to stop requiring TOL Council members to pick and choose which projects to add and delete each year. It is staff's responsibility as the paid experts to determine which projects should go forward.

C.4 Annual Debt Servicing Costs

Recommendation: That TOL Council set a firm limit on annual debt servicing costs and that this limit be adhered to for the term of the Council; and further that these costs be annually and separately reported out to the public as part of the budget process.

C.5 5-10 Years Debt-Free Plan

Recommendation: That TOL Council adopt a plan for being debt-free within 5-10 years for every major borrowing the Township incurs and that this plan be reviewed annually as a separate budget item and reported out to the public as a clear budget item.

C.6 Climate Action Plan - Budget

Recommendation: That the detailed costs of the "Climate Action Plan" be forecasted in each budget and that compensating costs be cut out of each budget to pay for these costs since the strategy document was approved but not funded.

C.7 TOL Vehicles - Budget

Recommendation: That the lifespan of TOL vehicles be extended to reduce/limit annual vehicle replacement costs to an acceptable and reasonable level.

C.8 Discretionary Reserves

Recommendation: That all the "discretionary" reserves of the Township be amalgamated into one fund and that the total amount of this be clearly reported out each year.

C.9 Budget Timelines

Recommendation: That the entire TOL budget be presented to Council no later than the end of October each year, other than in an election year. In an election year, the budget must be presented to the new Council no later than the end of November so that the new Council's first order of business is the budget for the next year.

C.10 Prior Years Surplus

Recommendation: That "Prior Years Surplus" in each budget be presented to Council as a raw number with no projects attached to it, and that these monies be used in each year by each Council as they see fit to fund their priority projects, not staff's projects.

C.11 Carry Forwards

Recommendation: That each budget includes a separate and detailed "Carry Forwards" Annual Report that specifies what projects are funded, what projects are not completed, what projects are not even initiated, and the year they were funded so that these funds can be re-allocated to current Council priorities as part of their discretionary funds.

C.12 Departmental Budget Reviews

Recommendation: That each annual budget contains two (2) complete and detailed "Departmental Budget Reviews" so that each major department in the Township undergoes a detailed Departmental Review which looks at their growth in costs at least once every four (4) years.

C.13 Departmental Budget Reviews Advisory Committee

Recommendation: That Council appoints an external Advisory Committee of qualified local experts and residents to assist in the detailed annual Departmental Reviews.

C.14 Performance Review - Budget

Recommendation: That Council annually receives in an open meeting prior to the start of the budget process, a specific performance review, a list of current directors, and a separate budget for every non-profit Society controlled by the Township of Langley including but not limited to:

- 1) Bedford House Rehabilitation Society;
- 2) Langley Facility Society;
- 3) Langley Parks and Recreation Foundation;
- 4) Ten Feet Sports and Entertainment Ltd;
- 5) TOL Facilities and Housing Development Society; and
- 6) University District Housing Society.

These should not be consolidated in a general budget but broken out annually for each society as part of the Township's budget process.

C.15 Public Consultation - Budget

Recommendation: That the annual public consultation on the budget must include at least a representative proportion of the taxpayers and be carried out via a statistically significant survey of the tax-paying population prior to budget adoption.

C.16 Assessment Averaging

Recommendation: That TOL Council strongly lobby the Provincial Government to reform their "Assessment Averaging" requirements to be less cumbersome, to be more efficient, and to stop penalizing long term residents in our community from dramatic annual property tax increases.

C.17 Mill Rate for High Density Development

Recommendation: That TOL Council strongly lobby the Provincial Government for a new "mill rate" for high density development which is driving much of the increased municipal costs in terms of required and expected municipal services.

C.18 TOL Growth Rate

Recommendation: That the annual TOL growth rate be set by each Council at the start of its term and in each subsequent budget at a manageable amount to reduce the escalating annual financial pressure on the municipality and its budget due to growth and its required infrastructure costs.

C.19 Budget Process Policy

Recommendation: That Council direct staff to draft a new TOL Council Budget Process Policy document for Council approval that puts all these requirements, and any others that arise, in place for all staff to follow in all future TOL budgets.

D. TERMINATE