

Public Meeting of Council

Council Chambers
Pembroke, Ontario
February 16, 2021
6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Present:

Mayor LeMay, Chair
Deputy Mayor Gervais
Councillor Abdallah (electronically)
Councillor Jacyno (electronically)
Councillor Lafreniere
Councillor Plummer
Councillor Reavie (electronically)

Also Present:

Terry Lapierre, Chief Administrative Officer
Angela Lochtie, Treasurer
Colleen Sauriol, Manager Planning & Building
Brian Lewis, Manager Operations (electronically)
Ron Conroy, Manager Parks & Recreation (electronically)
Heidi Martin, Recording Secretary

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest declared.

3. Approval/Amendment of Meeting Agenda

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Gervais
Seconded by Councillor Plummer

That the agenda of the Public Meeting of Council for February 16, 2021 be approved as circulated.

Carried

4. New Business

a. Presentation by A. Lochtie, Treasurer

Mayor LeMay advised that this meeting was called to consider the proposed By-laws to establish annual fees to be charged for garbage collection and disposal, the waste management facility; water and sewer rates; and to adopt the 2021 budgets for the City of Pembroke and local boards.

The Clerk advised that a media release was posted on the City's website and social media platforms on January 27, 2021. Local radio stations advertised the meeting beginning February 12th and ended today, February 16th.

Mayor LeMay asked to hear from the Treasurer. Ms. Lochtie presented an overview of the 2021 Operating and Capital budgets for the City of Pembroke and Local Boards, including a review of rate changes for sewer, water and PBIA.

Mayor LeMay asked to hear from the Chair of the Operations Committee. Deputy Mayor Gervais thanked the Treasurer and City Managers for their efforts in preparing the 2021 budget. He indicated that most of the operating expenditures such as policing and insurance are largely beyond the control of Council and that other townships often do not count the County tax levy in their media tax releases. Deputy Mayor Gervais stated that Operations Department is planning several worthwhile projects that will improve the infrastructure in Pembroke and that from an operational standpoint, he was very pleased with this budget.

Mayor LeMay asked to hear from the Chair of the Finance & Administration Committee. Councillor Plummer stated that the budget process is very well done and that Council worked together to be respectful to the tax payers. He commented that City Managers are well prepared and listen to the concerns expressed by Council and do the best they can to respond to those concerns. He indicated that the budget provided a good representation of what the City is able to do during these very difficult times and it does not present a large tax increase.

Mayor LeMay asked if there has been any opposition to the By-laws. There were no comments.

Mayor LeMay asked if there has been any support of the By-laws. There were no comments.

Mayor LeMay asked if there were any questions from Council. Councillor Abdallah asked if the City would consider another deferral on the tax and water/sewer bills this year. The Treasurer responded that staff were not recommending altering the due dates in 2021 as it caused confusion and negative feedback in 2020 and that she was not aware of any municipalities offering deferral options at this time. She indicated if significant concerns arise as the year progresses, staff will bring this issue back to Council.

Councillor Jacyno stated that he was amazed that only 3¢ of every \$1 is spent on the Library; Strategic Partnerships; and Planning, Building and By-law Enforcement and only 2¢ is spent on Economic Development & Tourism. He commented that even though the policing costs have raised since 2020, it is still not as high had the City remained with their own force.

Councillor Reavie indicated that she felt that this budget was a good budget and would see many projects completed.

Councillor Lafreniere stated that this budget did have an increase however the informed ratepayer understands that the rates are at a minimum.

Mayor LeMay indicated that grants are so important as currently 69% of the City's revenue has to come from the ratepayer yet there is no guarantee of what will happen to those grants in the future. He stated that the City will need to find other sources of revenue to bring the rate down. He thanked the Treasurer, Managers and Council for their work on the 2021 budget.

Mayor LeMay stated that anyone who wished to be notified of Council's decision, was to contact the City Treasurer.

5. Adjournment

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Lafreniere

Seconded by Councillor Reavie

That the Public Meeting of Council of February 16, 2021 adjourn at 6:44 p.m.

Carried