

**THE TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY**

**Council Chamber
Tom Davies Square**

**Monday, September 22, 2008
Commencement: 5:30 p.m.**

Chair

COUNCILLOR TED CALLAGHAN, IN THE CHAIR

Present

Councillors Cimino; Barbeau (D8:44pm); Berthiaume; Dutrisac; Dupuis; Rivest; Craig; Gasparini; Landry-Altman (A6:01pm)

City Officials

M. Mieto, Chief Administrative Officer, R. Falcioni, Acting General Manager of Infrastructure Services; C. Matheson, General Manager of Community Development; R. Sauve, Acting General Manager of Growth & Development; L. Webster, Acting Chief of Emergency Services; J. Dolson, Acting Executive Director, Administrative Services; L. Hayes, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer; P. Thomson, Director of Human Resources & Organizational Development; E. Stankiewicz, Manager of Financial Planning & Policy; D. Dumontelle, Manager of Financial Support and Budgeting; C. Gore, Manager of Volunteerism & Community Development; T. Parmar, Manager of Quality, Administration & Financial Services; K. Rossi, Coordinator of Seniors' and Health Development Community Services; J. McKechnie, Executive Assistant to the Mayor; K. Lang, Business Development Officer; A. Haché, City Clerk; P. Pelletier, Mail Clerk; F. Bortolussi, Council Secretary

Media

MCTV; Persona 10 News; Northern Life

Declarations of
Pecuniary Interest

Councillor Gasparini declared an interest in Item 14 on the Speakers' List (Bob Jeffrey, Board President, Social Planning Council of Sudbury) as it involves here employer, the Social Planning Council of Sudbury.

Councillor Rivest declared an interest in Item 11 on the Speakers' List (Lise Rheault, Executive Officer, Habitat for Humanity Sudbury District) as he is on the Habitat for Humanity Sudbury District Board.

Welcome and
Opening Remarks

Councillor Callaghan welcomed those in attendance to the Public Input Meeting of the Finance Committee of Council. He stated that the purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for the public to provide their input and opinions on the City's current budget.

PRESENTATION

2009 City of Greater Sudbury Budget

Councillor Ted Callaghan, Finance Committee Chair and Lorella Hayes, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer, provided an electronic presentation entitled '*Community Consultation Session*'.

Councillor Callaghan advised that the presentation outlines the 2008 budget with its challenges and opportunities. It also describes the 2009 budget process and the budget schedule.

The Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer advised the 2008 budget has expenditures of \$514M, revenues of \$337M and tax levy of \$177M. She explained how the operating dollars are spent, the sources of revenues and how tax dollars are spent by service area. She also explained the budgetary pressures or challenges including energy costs and aging infrastructure as well as the opportunities including assessment growth and the gas tax.

Councillor Callaghan concluded the presentation by stating that speakers would be heard in the order they are on the Speakers' List followed by anyone else who wished to address the Committee. He stated that, to ensure that comments are captured accurately, 2009 Budget Comment Forms should be completed. He indicated that the public has until September 24, 2008 to submit comments or requests.

PUBLIC INPUT

A speakers' list was available and submissions were heard in the order that they appeared.

Sudbury Arts Council

Gordon Harris, President, Sudbury Arts Council, indicated they have been talking about an arts building which could be designed by the proposed Northern Ontario School of Architecture. He stated that the arts community in Greater Sudbury is vibrant. He advised that in 2000 the spending on arts was \$4.32 per capita and in 2005 it was \$1.58 per capita. They have seen the same budget for the last few years; however, the number of organizations have increased. He stated that the total budget for arts is 1/1000 of the municipal budget. Arts make the city look great and it is now time to invest. He indicated they would like to see an 18% increase.

Rockhaven

Pat Delyea made an electronic presentation regarding Rockhaven. She stated that their mission is to provide residential supportive treatment services to males 16 year of age and over who are committed to abstinence from substance abuse. She provided a description of their work as well as a history since it was founded in 1968. She concluded by stating that their request is for a one-time contribution of \$60,000 to be applied to the mortgage of Beyond the Rock at 396 Brady Street, Sudbury

Rockhaven
(continued)

which is their latest venture and helps to address the housing gap for men in recovery.

Northern Water Sport Centre

Letter dated September 29, 2008 received from Jim Dickson, Chair, Northern Water Sports Centre Board of Directors was distributed to Committee members.

Jim Dickson indicated their grouping of four partners includes the Sudbury Canoe Club, the Sudbury Dragon Boat Festival, the Sudbury Rowing Club and the City of Greater Sudbury wishing to construct a Northern Water Sports Centre at Bell Grove on the shore of Lake Ramsey. They have been working on the project since 2001. Their current plan is to begin construction in spring of 2009 with some site development during this winter. He stated that they received Council's approval for the project and a commitment of \$500,000 over two years. Since they received \$250,000 from the City last year, they have hired a project manager and initiated the detailed design phase. He advised that they received \$1M from Xstrata and \$100,000 from FedNor and are now requesting the final instalment of \$250,000 from the 2009 budget.

Volunteer Sudbury

Handout received from Barbara Nott, President, Volunteer Sudbury, was distributed to Committee members.

Barbara Nott made an electronic presentation. She indicated that Volunteer Sudbury supports and promotes volunteerism in the City of Greater Sudbury which, in a recent survey, was ranked fourth in 37 cities in Canada with a 56.9% participation of its residents. The programs they offer are a Matching Program for individuals and organizations and a Young Philanthropist Program for high school students. She outlined the services and activities. She indicated that a Community Consultation identified over 800 volunteer organizations in the City. She further indicated they will be spearheading the recruitment of volunteers for the 2010 Summer Games. They are requesting a one-time grant of \$5,700 to sustain a media campaign to promote volunteerism in Greater Sudbury.

City of Lakes Family Health Team

Dr. Chris McKibbin, Chair, Steering Group, City of Lakes Family Health Team, advised the Committee of the ongoing programs. He indicated the Val Caron and Pioneer Manor sites were completed. He stated that the Steering Committee decided to move forward with the Walden and Chelmsford sites and requesting the Committee to remember the City of Lakes Health Team at budget time. They are beginning discussions with architects for the design of the next two sites at an estimated cost of \$500,000 to make good progress on both sites.

Marcel Rheault

Marcel Rheault made an electronic presentation regarding erosion along Junction Creek. He advised that Junction Creek has been eroding his back yard for five or six years. He has lost part of his back yard as well as hedges. He indicated he met with the Nickel District Conservation Authority who advised that the discharge from the culvert going across Hawthorne Drive was strong and caused the erosion. The culvert was repaired to slow down the surge across Hawthorne Drive. The erosion in his back yard has created a safety factor and he can not use his property. He stated he is looking for something to rebuild his back yard.

Robert Simms

Robert Simms indicated his support of Marcel Rheault. He stated that there are many people whose back yard is eroding. He feels this should be looked after as Junction Creek is like infrastructure and it is crumbling and the longer it goes on, the more expensive it will be to repair. He also stated that, while the Legacy Projects are worthwhile projects, they will not receive support if the cost falls on the backs of the taxpayers. He feels that the City does not receive enough of the mining revenues. He urged Council to lobby the government to make sure the City receives its fair share; whether from the government or from mining companies. He also feels that companies using heavy trucks on our roads should pay for the repair of the roads.

Mayor & Council's
Advisory Panel on
Seniors' Issues

Anadel Hastie, Chair, Mayor and Council's Advisory Panel on Seniors' Issues, indicated their main objective is to address the needs of the City's aging population. Also, the growing cost of gas, transportation, taxes and maintenance creates burdens for seniors who are trying to stay in their own homes on a fixed income. She indicated that the Advisory Panel held a public consultation on September 15, 2008 to receive insight from senior homeowners. She requested that the Finance Committee consider the following recommendations:

1. A working group of city staff, representatives of Council and representatives of the Advisory Panel review senior property tax policy;
2. City staff and seniors capitalize on funding opportunities for the *Seniors at Home* strategy;
3. Lobby the provincial and federal governments be lobbied for more affordable and accessible housing for all seniors;
4. Investigate what can be done to lower the cost of utilities;
5. Continue to fund Parkside Information Line which provides timely information on all programs in both English and French;
6. Consult with senior property owners and renters and present the findings to the Finance Committee annually.

She concluded by stating that municipal taxes are higher than average, when water costs are included, placing a financial burden on seniors on a fixed income. The economic surge as

Mayor & Council's
Advisory Panel on
Seniors' Issues
(continued)

increased their property values making them asset rich and income poor. With the vacancy rate at 1%, it is difficult for seniors to move out of their homes.

Habitat for Humanity
Sudbury District

Lise Rheault, Executive Officer, Habitat for Humanity Sudbury District, indicated their organization builds homes and also moves houses; having already moved three. Their work is done through fund raising and ReStore, a recycling store.

Jack Lanctot indicated they build affordable housing, are not government funded and require help to build homes in Sudbury. It has not been an easy venture because of property values and they require the assistance of the City of Greater Sudbury. He indicated that they recycle homes by moving, fixing and then selling them. Their cost has gone from \$80,000 to \$120,000 to build an affordable home and has therefore it has become difficult to reach their goal of one home per year. He indicated he would like to meet with the City to discuss this matter as some of the requests are not monetary. He advised he could not provide an exact figure.

Sharon Kunto

Sharon Kunto stated she is requesting traffic lights at Marie Street and MR 15 (also known as Main Street), Val Caron. She stated there has been a significant increase in the volume of traffic along Main Street generated by the rapid growth in the Valley. Also, many drivers, who do not live in the area, use this road to travel from one part of the city to another. She advised that, during the widening of Main Street to five lanes, the City prewired for traffic lights at Marie and Main Streets. She stated that safety is their main concern; especially for the children. She listed the schools, daycares, businesses, apartment complex and subdivisions in the area. She indicated they have the support of the Sudbury Student Services Consortium, the Valley East Community Action Network and Dan Joanis, owner of Northway Bus Lines. She advised she had a petition with approximately 1,000 signatures which she would present to Councillor Dupuis.

Laurentian Community
Track Capital
Campaign Cabinet

Lisa Labrecque, Honourary Co-chair, Laurentian Community Track Capital Campaign Cabinet, advised that \$23M has been donated by the City of Greater Sudbury, Laurentian University, all four school boards and Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation. For Phase II of the project, at a cost of \$900,000, they are requesting \$200,000 from the City. A video regarding the Laurentian Track was viewed.

Maureen Hay, Honourary Co-chair, Laurentian Community Track Capital Campaign Cabinet, indicated they have secured games which will result in exposure for the City including 2010 Ontario Summer Games and 2011 Francophone Games.

Social Planning Council
of Sudbury

Bob Jeffrey, Board President, Social Planning Council of Sudbury (SPC), advised that the SPC is twenty year old community based not for profit organization with a mandate for social research, community development and community education. Their two most significant issues are homelessness and children services. He listed organizations they provide services for, their partners and the projects in which they were involved. He indicated their request is for \$50,000 of permanent operational dollars to allow the SPC to continue to lead the civic engagement/social capital pillar of the Healthy Community Strategy. They will identify opportunities in housing, employment and training, early childhood education and emergency support.

Association des jeunes
de la rue

Lise Senecal, for Association des jeunes de la rue, advised of a new addition at Foyer Notre Dame House which will be opening in March of 2009. The organization provides transitional housing to encourage female youth between the ages of 16 and 19 to return home, to remain or return to school. She stated that last year they had a total of 244 admissions and received \$60,000 from the City of Greater Sudbury. This year they are requesting \$50,000 as top up money for their residential program as they have partnered with the Childrens' Aid Society.

Ron Bradley

Ron Bradley advised his two concerns are topsoil and roads. With respect to topsoil, he stated there is no by-law to regulate the removal of topsoil and clay and the residents are 'fed up' with contractors being allowed to remove topsoil and clay from agricultural lands and leaving behind a mess. With respect to roads, he stated they are badly neglected. He advised potholes are fixed and shortly after are in need of repair again. He stated that the infrastructure and roads should be repaired before proceeding with the legacy projects.

Sudbury Action Centre
for Youth

Handout received from Mardi Taylor, Executive Director, Sudbury Action Centre For Youth, was distributed to Committee members.

Mardi Taylor advised that the Centre provides a safe place for youth where they are given support and participate in activities. They are estimating approximately 270 new registrations this year. She requested that the City increase funding investment the addition of one youth work at a cost of \$49,120.

Coalition for a Livable
Sudbury

Handout received from Lilly Noble, Coalition for a Livable Sudbury (CLS), was distributed to Committee members.

Lilly Noble stated that the CLS is a coalition of citizens' groups working to ensure that planning and decision making in the City of Greater Sudbury is responsive to community input and citizen concerns in a way that is environmentally responsible and is guided by a long-term vision. The CLS is advocating for a budget that supports *Smart Growth* principles. She outlined their

Coalition for a Livable Sudbury (continued)

general recommendations and specific recommendations (i.e. investing in alternative transportation, increasing *Green* infrastructure and encouraging water conservation). She concluded by stating that the CLS recommends that a citizen's panel consisting of citizens, community experts and planning staff be formed to recommend the changes that can be made at the municipal level to support *Smart* Growth in the City of Greater Sudbury.

Bicycle Advisory Panel

Nathalie Gara-Boivin, Bicycle Advisory Panel, listed some of the projects the Panel has initiated:

- Ramsey Lake Bicycle Tour
- Pilot Project for *Rack & Roll*
- New Bike Racks at Market Square

She also listed some of the initiatives they are planning:

- Signage
- More bike racks in safe and secure places
- Survey to received feedback from the community
- Marketing the *Share the Road* Program in order to expand the program with advertisements in the newspapers, flyers, decals, etc.

She requested funding of \$50,000 for these initiatives.

Sleurette Aubin

Sleurette Aubin requested a bus stop and shelter at the Pioneer Manor Family Health Team. She stated that that doctors have relocated from downtown to Pioneer Manor causing problems for many citizens especially seniors and it is a long walk to cross the whole length of Pioneer Manor.

Joe McDonald Youth Football League

Dr. Mike Staffen, Resident, Joe McDonald Youth Football League, indicated they would like to partner with the City of Greater Sudbury for the purchase of a scoreboard and addition to the storage facility at James Jerome Sports Complex. The stated they require additional storage space due to the growth in participation. They are requesting \$15,000 for the purchase of the scoreboard and the cost of an addition to the field house.

LakeHouse Restaurant

Jeff Perry, LakeHouse Restaurant, advised he was planting a budgetary seed for a new initiative for the winter. The project is an outdoor hockey tournament at the bay at Science North. He stated this will be the winter equivalent to the Dragon Boat Festival. He requested an annual contribution of \$15,000 for construction and maintenance of ice pads.

Proceed Past 8:30 p.m.

2008-04 Barbeau-Cimino: THAT we proceed past the hour of 8:30 p.m.

CARRIED BY 2/3 MAJORITY

The Salvation Army

Major David Carey, The Salvation Army, advised their request is for operational top up costs for services for the homeless in our community as the per diem rate does not cover the cost. He requested the following operational top ups:

- \$22,000 for the hostel
- \$166,000 for the residence for the youth
- \$320,000 for the residence for women and families

Noreen Dalyk

Handout entitled 'Grandma's Housing (The Big Little House)' received from Noreen Dalyk was distributed to Committee members.

Noreen Dalyk stated that her proposal is for a tourist attraction that should be built in Greater Sudbury because the City has the Superstack and the Big Nickel. Her proposal is to build a house that is 2½ times the regular size so adults have a more realistic understanding of toddler as it grows and develops. She stated she carried out a business plan in 2001. She also stated that 62% of people stated liked the proposal, 25% stated they were not sure and the rest did not like the idea.

George Soule

George Soule stated he is a landlord with 180 apartment units in 29 locations. He is also developing another 120 units in the old Heritage School building. He asked why apartment buildings with seven or more units pay double taxes but receive less service. He advised that Sudbury Housing has 57 units in their housing allowance program and he has 40 of these units. He indicated that the program works well but has one complaint for Finance Services. The rents are due at the end of the month. The \$8,400 he receives per month from the City is dated the first day of the month except when the first is on a weekend in which case it is dated the next banking day because he is a supplier. Tenants are paid earlier so they can pay their rents on time. He advised that, if this does not change, he will not sign up for another unit. He concluded by stating that he will applaud if the City moves forward with the arts and recreational centres.

Richard Desormeaux

Richard Desormeaux advised of a new approach to bus passes similar to the one in Ottawa-Gatineau. He stated that bus passes should be sold for certain periods of time, i.e. 2 ½ hours. He indicated that the current method may have worked well at one time when there was only one shopping centre; however, does not work well today because of the many shopping outlets. He suggested a day pass that would be affordable and allow a passenger to go wherever he wants to go that day. He feels this would increase ridership.

Closing Remarks

Seeing no further speakers, Councillor Callaghan expressed appreciation to those present for their attendance and input. He reminded the public to complete and submit the 2009 Budget Comment Forms by September 24, 2008.

Adjournment

2008-05 Cimino-Barbeau: THAT this meeting does now adjourn.
Time: 9:13 p.m.

Councillor Ted Callaghan, Chair

Angie Haché, City Clerk