



**MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH MIDDLESEX
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

February 10, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

Members Present:	Mayor Brian Ropp Deputy Mayor Adrian Cornelissen Councillor Ward 1 Doreen McLinchey Councillor Ward 2 Joan Nichol Councillor Ward 3 Gord Moir Councillor Ward 4 John Keogh Councillor Ward 5 Andrew Hemming
Staff Present:	CAO Jonathon Graham Clerk Jackie Tiedeman Infrastructure Manager Jonathan Lampman Facilities Manager Brandon Drew Fire Chief Greg Vandenheuvel Treasurer, Estelle Chayer Ashley Kwarciak, Deputy Clerk/Communications Coordinator
Staff Absent	Drainage Superintendent Joanne Sadler Executive Assistant/HR Coordinator Donna Vanhooydonk

The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Municipality of North Middlesex was held under the provisions contained within the North Middlesex Procedural By-law and may held in whole or in part without physically being present at 229 Parkhill Main Street, Parkhil

1. CALL TO ORDER - SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

Mayor Ropp called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with a quorum present in person. The meeting was livestreamed on the North Middlesex You Tube Channel.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

(Municipal Conflict of Interest Act – Section 5 requires any member of Council to declare a pecuniary interest and general nature thereof, prior to any consideration on that matter. Where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the Act. The disclosures become part of a Public Registry as required under the Act.

None

3. CONTINUATION OF DRAFT 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

The detailed presentations can be viewed in the attachments.

The second budget meeting began with a brief recap of the previous evenings discussions.

Prior to reviewing the Water/Wastewater Proposed Budget, the Treasurer requested direction from Council on the outstanding matter of the Metercor Presentation. The Infrastructure Supervisor advised that at this time there is no additional facts or figures he can add relating to the report that was considered by Council on Feb.2, 2022. Although the proposal would have benefit, he understands the cost to implement the program (approximately two million dollars) in addition to other projects Council has before them, that this project could be removed from the budget for this year and reconsidered in the future. As there was provision within the 2022 budget for this project, if it does not proceed, \$107,000 will be removed.

The Clerk advised that there is a outstanding motion from Feb.2, 2022 requesting staff to obtain additional facts and figures. Based upon input from staff this evening that there is really no additional information that can be provided that was not covered in the report, if Council is of the same opinion, she suggested the mover and seconder of this motion on file could agree to have it withdrawn.

Following the discussion on the metercor proposal as it relates to the Water/Wastewater Budget the following motion was brought forward

Motion # 032/2022

Moved By: J. Nichol

Seconded By: G. Moir

That as a result of the additional discussion during budget deliberations regarding the Metercor Proposal, Motion 020/2022 be hereby withdrawn at the request of the mover and seconder.

CARRIED

Motion # 033/2022

Moved By: D. McLinchey

Seconded By: A. Hemming

That Council does not proceed with Metercor Meter Installation, Reading and Maintenance Proposal at this time.

CARRIED

4. CONTINUATION OF BUDGET DISCUSSION

The Treasurer proceeded with review of the balance of the Water/Wastewater Budget noting the removal of the contracted services for \$107,000 relating to the metercor project. Additionally it was noted that contracted services for OCWA included an expense for sludge removal at the Parkhill Lagoon as part of the Wessuc Proposal for approximately \$80,000. Staff is still in process of negotiation for this project and updates will be provided to Council in the near future. The outstanding debt with the Lake Huron and Elgin Water Supply System (City of London) repayment has been included and staff will be finalizing an agreement soon relating to the terms of repayment schedule.

The Treasurer concluded that the 2022 Budget represents a 5% increase to the rates. Additionally in response to concerns raised last year regarding the 2021 rate structure further changes to the billing structure have been recommended to include a 80% Base Charge Rate with a 20% Consumption Rate as well as a new user rate category for lower consumption users (0-50 cubic meters/year). Staff are recommending that the three historic average to establish the user's base charge rate category should be maintained. Council concurred with these recommendations and motions will be considered later in the meeting.

The 2022 Proposed Capital Projects were then reviewed independently and following an opportunity for question and answers council gave their verbal indication on whether they be retained or removed.

Administration - approved

Land Improvement - approved

Vehicles - approved

Machinery & Equipment - all approved with exception of water meter (107,000 remove)

Facilities - approved

Linear Assets - extensive discussion evolved as to priority of projects as well as acknowledgement that grant approvals have not been received and as a result may impact financing. Therefore, Council indicated their priority of projects only at this time pending full consideration when grant funding opportunities are known

1. Parkhill Main Street design, completion, tendering and construction and Parkhill Reservoir design completion, tendering and construction would occur simultaneously.

2. Queen & Petty Street design, completion, tendering and construction

Continuation of Meter Pit Installations through North Middlesex - approved for 35 (adjustment in budget relating to the amount - should be \$125,000)

Rolling Road Rehabilitation - approved

Staff assured Council that updates will be provided on the status of the various projects and many of which will require further input from Council prior to proceeding such as the Kerwood Road proposal.

The Mayor then opened up the floor once again to Council for any other questions about the budget for 2022 Operations, Capital and Water/Wastewater. Following that provision he then commended Staff for all their work in presenting this years budget and to Council on their contribution as a lot of hard decisions had to be made.

The Clerk then proceeded with introducing motions for the budget approval:

Motion # 034/2022

Moved By: J. Nichol

Seconded By: J. Keogh

That staff be directed to finalize an agreement with the Lake Huron and Elgin Water Supply System (City of London) representing a debt repayment schedule for monies that are owned as a result of the construction of the Strathroy Pipeline Project (2007) and that this be included within the annual Water/Wastewater Budget for the term of the agreement.

CARRIED

Motion # 035/2022

Moved By: J. Nichol

Seconded By: A. Hemming

That Council approve the implementation of a Lead Hand position internal within the Public Works Department personnel

CARRIED

Motion # 036/2022

Moved By: D. McLinchey

Seconded By: J. Keogh

That Council approve the creation of a Communication Officer Position on a one year contract basis

CARRIED

Motion # 037/2022

Moved By: A. Cornelissen

Seconded By: J. Keogh

That Council approve the Operational and Capital Budgets with noted adjustments for 2022 resulting with a Tax Levy of \$8,363,789 and set the general residential tax rate at 0.00808420 which represents an increase of 2% from 2021

CARRIED

Motion # 038/2022

Moved By: G. Moir

Seconded By: D. McLinchey

That Council approves the Water/Wastewater Budget for 2022 with noted adjustments,

and furthermore that the water/wastewater rates be established for 2022 representing an increase of 5%;

and in response to concerns raised from ratepayers regarding the 2021 rate structure Council hereby directs staff to incorporate the following changes to the water/wastewater billing structure:

80% Base Charge Rate with a 20% Consumption Rate; and
that a new user rate category will be implemented for lower consumption users
being of 0-50 m3,

Additionally that Council supports using the three year historic average to
establish the user's base charge rate category

CARRIED

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion # 039/2022

Moved By: D. McLinchey

Seconded By: G. Moir

That the Meeting adjourn at 8:30p.m.

CARRIED


MAYOR


CLERK