



MUNICIPALITY OF MORRIS-TURNBERRY

COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, January 9th, 2024, 9:00 am

The Council of the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry met in Council Chambers in a special meeting for the purpose of budget deliberations on the 9th day of January 2024, at 9:00 am.

Council in Attendance

Mayor Jamie Heffer
Deputy Mayor Kevin Freiburger
Councillor Sharen Zinn
Councillor Jodi Snell
Councillor Jamie McCallum

Staff in Attendance

Trevor Hallam	CAO/Clerk
Sean Brophy	Treasurer
Mike Alcock	Director of Public Works
Kirk Livingston	Chief Building Official / Drainage Superintendent / Property Standards Officer / Zoning Administrator

Others in Attendance

Scott Stephenson The Citizen

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Heffer called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Mayor Heffer noted that Scott Stephenson would be recording the meeting for the purpose of writing articles.

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion 1-2024

*Moved by Kevin Freiburger
Seconded by Jamie McCallum*

THAT the Council of the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry hereby adopts the agenda for the meeting of January 9th, 2024, as circulated.

Carried.

3.0 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST / POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

4.0 BUSINESS

BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

The purpose of this meeting is for Council to provide direction to staff on the draft 2024 municipal budget.

Treasurer Sean Brophy presented the draft budget for the consideration of Council. Director of Public Works Mike Alcock and Chief Building Official / Drainage

Superintendent / Property Standards Officer / Zoning Administrator Kirk Livingston presented the budgets for their departments.

4.1 Municipal Drains

No comments or questions from Council.

4.2 Building Department

Mr. Livingston noted that there will be an increase of \$1000 to the amount for training due to the introduction of a new code building code in 2024 that was announced after the first draft was issued.

No comments or questions from Council.

4.3 Property Standards

No comments or questions from Council.

4.4 Parks and Cemeteries

Mayor Heffer questioned if the increase to the municipality's Cash in Lieu of Parkland fee accounts for the increase in contributions to reserves, which was confirmed by Mr. Alcock.

Councillor Zinn asked if providing parkland is mandatory. Mr. Alcock noted that with an increase in residential development there is likely to be an increase in the demand for park space, and it would be prudent to build reserves to fund future expenditures. \

4.5 Belgrave Water System

4.5.1 Belgrave Water Rate 2024

Councillor Zinn asked for confirmation that the water rate will be the same for users of the system regardless of where they reside. Mr. Alcock confirmed.

Motion 2-2024

*Moved by Kevin Freiburger
Seconded by Jodi Snell*

THAT the Council of the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry hereby establishes the water rate for the Belgrave Water System at \$1234.91 per user for 2024.

Carried.

4.6 Landfill & Waste Disposal

No comments or questions from Council.

4.7 Roads

Council discussed upgrading Alice street at north street to provide full load access to a vacant lot that is zoned and designated for industrial development. The consensus of council was to discuss any proposals if or when a developer comes forward and to consider a cost sharing arrangement for the upgrades to the road at that time.

Mr. Alcock noted that the biennial bridge inspection does not appear in the first draft, but will be in the second at an estimated \$7000.00.

Deputy Mayor Freiburger submitted question in advance of the meeting regarding the return on investment for the proposed purchase of the shoulder spreader. Mr. Alcock estimated that the equipment would pay for itself within 8 to 9 years with a potential working life span of approximately 20 years. Snell asked if there would be a reduction in other budget lines if the equipment was purchased. Mr. Alcock confirmed that there would be minor reductions elsewhere, but that the municipality is currently behind in its shoulder work, and so the costs aren't currently seen in the budget but will be in future years.

Mayor Heffer called for a 5-minute recess.

4.8 Administration

Mr. Brophy highlighted the amount of interest currently being earned as a result of the increase to reserve amounts allocated by Council over the preceding years, and proposed allocating interest amounts back into the reserve that earned it proportionately, rather than allocating all earned interest to the general reserve. Council was supportive of allocating interest amounts this way.

4.9 Policing

No comments or questions from Council.

4.10 Fire

Mr. Brophy noted that there are likely to be increases in the second draft budget for operation and capital amounts for the North Huron fire department, and for the Huron East fire department as they are currently estimates using a CPI increase only.

No comments or questions from Council.

4.11 Animal Control

No comments or questions from Council.

4.12 Cross Border Utilities

No comments or questions from Council.

4.13 Grants and Donations

Council indicated a desire to charge an administrative fee for staff time for administering the Vance Gund grant for the Wingham Golf and Curling Club.

Mayor Heffer suggested that the donation towards the playground equipment in Belgrave be left out, citing a previous donation request for a school playground that was turned down by Council. Councillor McCallum spoke in support of the request, noting that the school playground was under the jurisdiction of the province and school board and should have been funded by those levels of government, but this is a community project that will benefit residents in Belgrave, and isn't under the jurisdiction of any other level of government. Zinn, Freiburger and Snell were also supportive of leaving the request in the budget.

Councillor Zinn noted that in their request the projects highlighted by the United Way duplicate the work that is proposed to be done by the Community Safety and Wellbeing Oversight Committee and suggested that the request for funding be denied. Mayor Heffer supported denying the request, as Council has chosen not to use tax dollars to donate to charitable organizations in the past. There was a consensus of Council to deny the request of the United Way.

There was a consensus of Council that the grant and donation policy should be reviewed to ensure it aligns with Council's direction.

4.14 Recreation

McCallum noted that there are expected capital expenditures for the Belmore arena board that have yet to be communicated.

Councillor Zinn recommended that payments to North Huron be made quarterly rather than in a lump sum.

4.15 Belgrave Development

No comments or questions from Council.

4.16 Assessment

No comments or questions from Council.

4.17 Tax Rates

Council expressed appreciation for the state of the budget, and there was a consensus that the final increase should be as close to CPI as possible.

4.18 Streetlights

No comments or questions from Council.

4.19 Reserves

Councillor McCallum confirmed that the Community Benefit reserve was the remaining funds from the sale of the Belgrave property.

5.0 CONFIRMING BY-LAW

Motion 3-2024

Moved by Jodi Snell

Seconded by Jamie McCallum

THAT leave be given to introduce By-Law # 01-2024, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry meeting of Council held on January 9th, 2024, and that it now be read severally a first, second, and third time, and finally passed this 9th day of January 2024.

Carried.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion 4-2024

Moved by Sharen Zinn

Seconded by Jodi Snell

THAT the Council of the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry does now adjourn at 10:58 am.

Carried.

NEXT MEETINGS:

Regular Meeting of Council – Tuesday, January 16th, 2024, 7:30 pm

Regular Meeting of Council – Tuesday, February 6th, 2024, 7:30 pm

Mayor, Jamie Heffer

Clerk, Trevor Hallam