



Adam A. Donaldson @adamadonaldson

May 2 · 63 tweets · [adamadonaldson/status/1653457364048044032](https://twitter.com/adamadonaldson/status/1653457364048044032)

Coming up at 2 pm, it's time for this month's Committee of the Whole. On the agenda:



Committee of the Whole Preview – What's on the Agenda for the May 2 ...

Money matters are at the forefront of the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

After a couple of months with stacked agendas, this coming committee meeting will be almost entirely one note was coun...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2023/04/21/committee-of-the-whole-preview-whats-on-the-age...>

Chair Caron calls the meeting to order.

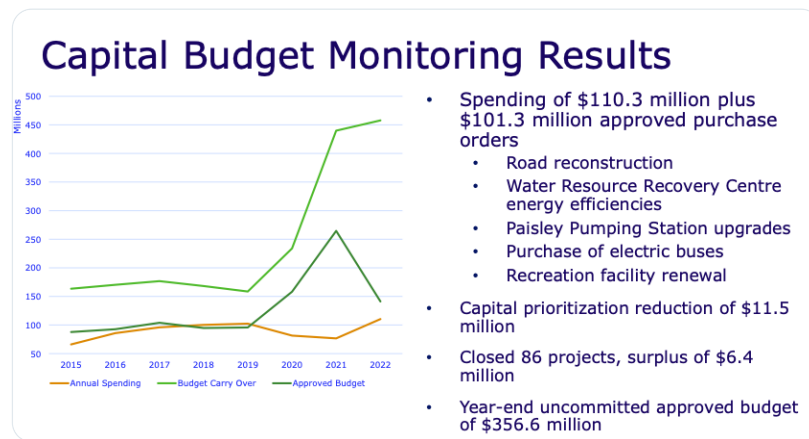
Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof? Nope.

First item: 2022 Year-end Capital and Operation Budget Monitoring and Long-term Financial Statement Reporting. tl;dr - The City had an operating surplus of 13,698,567. DCAO Lee says staff are "pleased" with the financial statements despite the challenges.

Tight labour market, escalating fuel prices, 7 interest rate hikes and later-period pandemic challenges were potential drags on the budget. Lee notes that some of the money in the surplus was already allocated to projects approved at the 2023 budget confirmation.

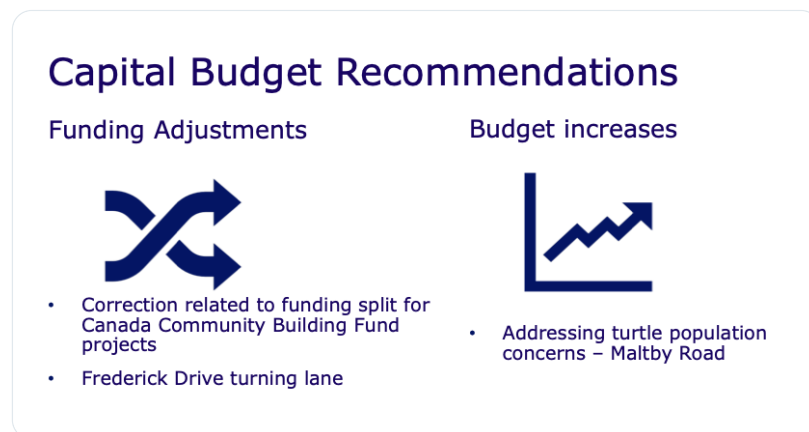
Also, note that these are not the audited financial statements, which council should receive next month.

Tara Baker, GM of Finance/City Treasurer, takes over and starts with capital.



This attachment presents the full list of capital prioritisation reductions, which add up to the \$11.5 million saved. <https://pub-guelph.escrimemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=36353>

There are two recommendations coming out of this report for the Capital Budget, including the construction of a wildlife crossing on Maltby Road.



How'd we get the surplus for operating?

2022 Operating Year-end Summary

City of Guelph Year-end Position	Tax Supported	Non-tax Supported	Total
Year-end position prior to Safe Restart Funds	\$11,314,527	\$2,384,040	\$13,698,566
Use of Transit Safe Restart Funds	\$997,565		\$997,565
Use of Operating Safe Restart Funds		\$476,873	\$476,873
Total net year-end surplus	\$12,312,092	\$2,860,913	\$15,173,005

- ### 2022 Operating Year-end Summary
- Variance Drivers:
 - Higher than budgeted revenue in grants, water and wastewater rates, and investment income.
 - Compensation savings of \$5.6 million or 2.4% variance driven by staff turnover resulting in increased vacancy rates.
 - A favourable year-end position for hydro mainly due to sustained energy conservation and efficiency measures.
 - An unfavourable year-end position for fuel due to unprecedented pricing.

Service demand (or lack there of) is a driver to a lot of the individual department variances. Those are listed in this attachment: <https://pub-guelph.escrimemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=36355>

Baker says that many factors are outside of staff's ability to control, but a 3% variance "in this environment" is pretty good.

The focus of the recommendation is putting surplus into contingency reserves though the contribution does quite add up to the amount that should be referred. \$1.3 million of the surplus were allocation to various initiatives in the 2023 budget approval.

2022 Funding Recommendations

Tax Supported Surplus / (Deficit) Allocation	Amount \$
Transfer from Safe Restart Funding Transit and Transit Phase 4	(997,565)
Transfer to Library Capital Reserve	140,000
Transfer to Police Capital Reserve Fund	840,000
Transfer to 100RE Reserve Fund	976,000
Transfer to City Building Reserve Fund	587,000
Transfer to Growth Reserve Fund	1,370,000
Transfer to Infrastructure Renewal Reserve Fund	4,569,092
Transfer to Police Operating Contingency Reserve	790,000
Transfer to Tax Rate Operating Contingency Reserve	1,300,000
Transfer to Environment and Utility Reserve	1,200,000
Transfer to WSIB Reserve Fund	540,000
Total	11,314,527

2022 Funding Recommendations

Non-Tax Supported Surplus / (Deficit) Allocation	Amount \$
Transfer to Water Capital Reserve Fund	1,814,411
Transfer to Wastewater Capital Reserve Fund	1,542,518
Transfer to Stormwater Capital Reserve Fund	55,384
Transfer to Building Services OBC Stabilization Reserve Fund	124,307
Transfer from Safe Restart Grant Operating to fund Parking Services deficit	(476,876)
Transfer from Parking Operating Contingency Reserve	(786,877)
Transfer to Court Capital Reserve Fund	111,173
Total	2,384,041

Baker points out the Guelph Police request to hold on to their surplus and allocate it to their own reserve funds. This was approved at the April GPS Board meeting.

At its meeting on April 20, 2023, the Guelph Police Services Board was advised that there is an anticipated year-end surplus in the Guelph Police Service 2022 operating budget. The Board passed the following motion:

THAT the Guelph Police Services Board in accordance with the Year End Operating Surplus Policy request that the 2022 year-end surplus in the amount of \$2,170,000.00 be allocated as follows:

- \$540,000.00 be allocated to the Workplace Safety and Insurance (WSIB) Board Reserve Fund;
- \$790,000.00 be allocated to the Police Operating Contingency Reserve;
- \$840,000.00 be allocated to the Police Capital Reserve Fund

The Guelph Police Services Board respectfully requests consideration of the aforementioned recommendation by Guelph City Council.

I look forward to hearing from you.

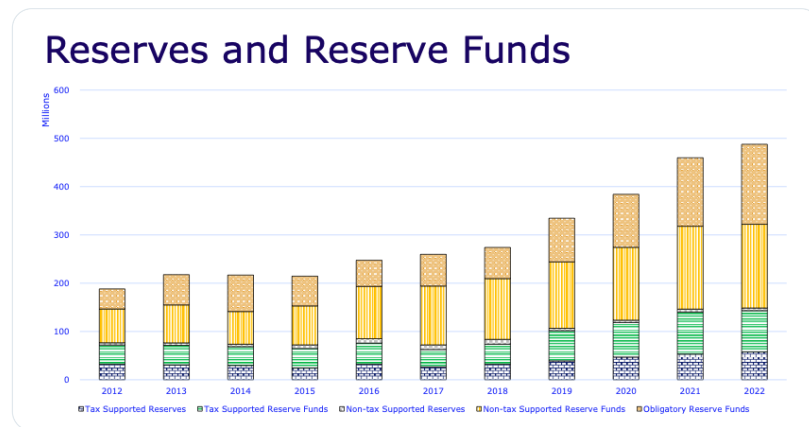
Sincerely,



Peter McSherry, Chair
Guelph Police Services Board

cc. Scott Stewart, CAO, City of Guelph
Tara Baker, General Manager/City Treasurer, City of Guelph
Gordon Cobey, Chief of Police, Guelph Police Service
Lisa Pelton, Finance Manager, Guelph Police Service

Corporate contingency sitting at 72% of target right now. (It's the dark blue bar at the bottom.) This is owed to council using that reserve for one-time program funding in the 2022/23 budget.

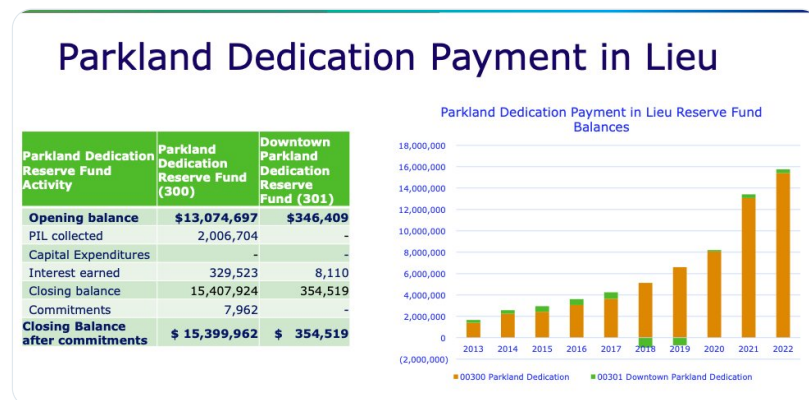


DCs! There was an increase in exemptions last year, but don't blame Bill 23. In this case it was the construction of accessory apartments. Otherwise, DC collections stayed close to where they were in 2021.

Development Charge Reserve Funds

Development Charge Reserve Fund Activity	Total (\$)
Opening balance	\$90,198,489
Collections	20,866,331
Exemptions	6,891,613
Interest Earned	4,134,333
Capital Expenditures	(8,829,418)
Debt Charges	(1,332,669)
Closing Balance	\$111,928,679
Commitments not yet spent	(149,712,670)
Closing Balance after commitments	(37,783,991)
Year-end DC Debt Outstanding	73,096,638
Net DC Reserve Fund Balance	\$35,312,647

On the flip side, while cash-in-lieu for parkland got a boost, the City didn't get any land for parks in 2022.



And finally, debt! \$49.1 million was borrowed for Baker/SECC in 2021 when the rates were good. 2022 was the first full year that the City had to pay the cost of that borrowing. \$124 million in debt is outstanding, which is in the comfy zone for debt carried.

Debt		
Metric	2022 Change from 2021	Comparison with Target
Debt servicing costs to own source revenue	↑	●
Direct debt to operating revenue	↓	●

Questions from council? Cllr Allt asks if the 2.8% will be able to offset any increase for next year. Baker says these are one-time revenues, and the effects of Bill 23 will be ongoing. Too early to say where we're sitting for 24-27. Still work to do, but surpluses can help.

Cllr O'Rourke asks about 86 projects closed with \$6 million surplus, were this projects done under budget? Baker says some did, but in some cases there were project reductions where efficiencies were found combining work with other projects.

O'Rourke asks about reserves for water, wastewater and stormwater, weren't those at 100% already? Baker says we're not collecting "too much" but the long-term capital plan is significant and trying to manage rate increases so there's no big jump year to year.

Having said that, Baker adds that they have to review the targets. The reserves have been typically used for renewal, but there's also growth and upgrades to consider. Finance is doing that work now.

O'Rourke asks if Finance can look at service area surplus trends, despite the hiccup of COVID. Baker says they've got that info, and they've been using it to develop 24-27 budget. That can be included in budget materials as background material.

Cllr Caton asks about the police reserve request. Baker says she believes it will be allocated to the new dedicated downtown officers. Mayor Guthrie, who's on the GPS Board, confirms that this is the intent, and they will collect data through deployment too.

Caton asks how that's different from what Welcoming Streets does. Guthrie says WS is social, while Police focus on enforcement.

Cllr Gibson asks if we don't already budget a reserve transfer in infrastructure. Is this in addition? Baker says yes.

Gibson asks if staff will take that into context when revisiting the pace of reserve collections. DCAO Holmes says that an info report on the rate study will be coming to council in September to outline best practices. That will confirm if City has right targets.

Gibson says he's nervous about putting money in the water reserve right away without knowing how it will be spent, but he will support the recommendation.

Caron asks if staff are working on a new DC bylaw. Baker says there's been one stakeholder meeting, another coming next week. Look for draft in June, final approval in October.

Recommendation #1 and it's 19 clauses put on the floor.

Recommendation:

1. That the 2022 operating surplus of 13,698,567 be allocated to or funded from the City's reserve and reserve funds or grants as follows:
 - a. Transfer \$841,703 from Safe Restart Funding Transit Reserve Fund (344) to Transit Services to fully utilize this Grant in 2022.
 - b. Transfer \$155,862 from Safe Restart Funding Transit Phase 4 to Transit Services to fully utilize this Grant in 2022.
 - c. Transfer the Guelph Public Library surplus of \$140,000 to the Library Capital Reserve Fund (157).
 - d. Transfer \$540,000 to the WSIB Reserve (330) in accordance with the request from the Guelph Police Board.
 - e. Transfer \$790,000 to the Police Operating Contingency Reserve (115) in accordance with the request from the Guelph Police Board.
 - f. Transfer \$840,000 to the Police Capital Reserve Fund (158) in accordance with the request from the Guelph Police Board.
 - g. Transfer \$1,300,000 to the Tax Operating Contingency Reserve (180) to partially build back one-time funds used in the 2023 approved budget.
 - h. Transfer \$976,000 to 100RE Reserve Fund (355) for savings from corporate utilities.
 - i. Transfer \$1,200,000 to Environment and Utility Reserve (198) for revenue surplus for sale of recycled goods.
 - j. Transfer \$587,000 to the City Building Reserve Fund (159) to mitigate future tax impacts related to inflation.
 - k. Transfer \$1,370,000 to the Growth Reserve Fund (156) to mitigate future tax impacts related to inflation and growth revenue shortfalls associated with Bill 23.
 - l. Transfer \$4,569,092 to the Infrastructure Renewal Reserve Fund (150) to mitigate future tax impacts related to inflation.
 - m. Transfer the Water Services surplus of \$1,814,411 to the Water Capital Reserve Fund (152).
 - n. Transfer the Wastewater Services surplus of \$1,542,519 to the Wastewater Capital Reserve Fund (153).
 - o. Transfer the Stormwater Services surplus of \$55,385 to the Stormwater Capital Reserve Fund (165).
 - p. Transfer the Building Services surplus of \$124,305 to the Building Services OBC Stabilization Reserve Fund (188).
 - q. Transfer \$476,876 from the Safe Restart Operating Stream Grant held in the Tax Operating Contingency Reserve (180) to parking services to fund COVID-related revenue shortfalls.
 - r. Transfer \$786,877 from the Parking Operating Contingency Reserve (106) to fund COVID-related revenue shortfalls.
 - s. Transfer the Court Services surplus of \$111,172 to the Court Capital Reserve Fund (120).

You've been warned: Cllr Downer says that she will have a motion about one time funding for heritage at the end of the month. (She's collecting info still.)

Motion approved.

Next, recommendation #2 put on the floor:

4.1.2 2022 Year-end Capital Budget Monitoring Report - 2023-154

Recommendation:

1. That the funding adjustments as detailed in Table 5 of Attachment-2 of the 2022 Year-end Capital Budget Monitoring Report dated May 2, 2023, be approved.
2. That \$375,000 be approved for RD0449 Wildlife Crossing – Maltby Road and be funded from the Infrastructure Renewal Reserve Fund (#150) to install permanent wildlife crossing and fencing on Maltby Road between Gordon Street and Victoria Road South.

Allt says that area residents will be "thrill" that the City is taking concrete action here. (He was doing an Earth Day clean up in the area on the weekend.)

O'Rourke asks about the decrease in the Gordon Street Construction project. Baker says that's due to some efficiencies found in the planning for that work.

That motion is passed, and so is this one.

4.1.3 2022 Long-term Financial Statement - Reserves and Debt - 2023-159



Recommendation:

1. That the 2022 Long-term Financial Statement: Reserves and Debt be received for information.

That's the end of Corporate Services. We now switch chairs to Cllr Downer for the Public Services portion of the meeting.

Chair Downer calls the meeting to order.

One topic: E-scooter, a Councillor Goller Motion.

We start with Goller who says he intends to move this motion that will allow the use of private escooters in Guelph. There's a pilot program in Ontario right now, but the municipalities got to buy in. Goller notes they're already in use so we need to regulate.

Recommendation:

1. That staff be directed to bring a report and draft bylaw/bylaw amendment to the Traffic Bylaw to the July 5th, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting to permit the operation of personal use e-scooters, meeting all Provincially required conditions and regulations, and including any other recommended conditions.
2. That due to the Provincial e-scooter Pilot ending on January 1st 2025 and the opportunity to regulate e-scooters in 2023, City Council acknowledges that the City will not undertake the normal public consultation. City Council encourages the public to provide feedback to Council directly, and to delegate at the July Committee of the Whole or City Council meetings.
3. That City Council requests that Guelph Police Services provide input into the July staff report related to enforcement of the proposed bylaw, impacts for provincial reporting requirements concerning crash data, and recommendations regarding an e-scooter public education campaign

Adrian Salvatore, vice-chair of Guelph Coalition for Active Transportation is the one delegate. Obviously, they're in favour and consider escooters a valuable tool in creating active transportation.

Salvatore notes that bike theft is a big issue for people, and escooter eliminates those concerns because you can fold it up and take it inside. It's also used for "the last mile", you drive to a lot and take it the rest of the way.

Allt asks Salvatore if there are areas where escooters should not be allowed. Salvatore says he understands under the ON pilot escooters are not allowed on sidewalks and most people use the cycling infrastructure.

Allt: Trails and parks?

Salvatore: It's best to defer to staff on that.

O'Rourke asks about conflict potential with young riders and people with mobility issues.

Salvatore says he believes it will come down to eduction, but believes best practice on multi-use paths is to slow down.

Goller motion seconded by Allt put on the floor:

Recommendation:

1. That staff be directed to bring a report and draft bylaw/bylaw amendment to the Traffic Bylaw to the July 5th, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting to permit the operation of personal use e-scooters, meeting all Provincially required conditions and regulations, and including any other recommended conditions.
2. That due to the Provincial e-scooter Pilot ending on January 1st 2025 and the opportunity to regulate e-scooters in 2023, City Council acknowledges that the City will not undertake the normal public consultation. City Council encourages the public to provide feedback to Council directly, and to delegate at the July Committee of the Whole or City Council meetings.
3. That City Council requests that Guelph Police Services provide input into the July staff report related to enforcement of the proposed bylaw, impacts for provincial reporting requirements concerning crash data, and recommendations regarding an e-scooter public education campaign

The big thing is that the City will not undertake the normal public consultation process due to the timelines. The pilot expires in 2025. People who have issues or concerns will have to speak up before CoW in July.

Cllr Busuttill asks about "normal public consultation". DCAO Clack-Bush says they won't be doing any under the public engagement framework b/c of timeline. Staff will have 2 weeks to develop bylaw between regular council meeting and when agenda is due for July.

Busuttill: What's the rush?

Goller: It might take 8 months to a year to get that process done, and by then they will have less than a year before conclusion of bylaw. Also, e-scooters in use now, and we could just acknowledge plan, but that undermines dedication to active transpo.

Caron asks to change the word "consultation" to "pre-consultation". Doesn't want to preclude the possibility of doing consultation after the fact.

Recommendation:

1. That staff be directed to bring a report and draft bylaw/bylaw amendment to the Traffic Bylaw to the July 5th, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting to permit the operation of personal use e-scooters, meeting all Provincially required conditions and regulations, and including any other recommended conditions.
2. That due to the Provincial e-scooter Pilot ending on January 1st 2025 and the opportunity to regulate e-scooters in 2023, City Council acknowledges that the City will not undertake the normal public consultation. City Council encourages the public to provide feedback to Council directly, and to delegate at the July Committee of the Whole or City Council meetings.
3. That City Council requests that Guelph Police Services provide input into the July staff report related to enforcement of the proposed bylaw, impacts for provincial reporting requirements concerning crash data, and recommendations regarding an e-scooter public education campaign

Clack-Bush notes that we're 3.5 years into a 5yr pilot, so there's a question of how much Guelph can contribute. They don't have staff resources, so this will be a minimal bylaw. Lack of resources was why they didn't get in to begin with. By 2025 e-scooters will be legal or not.

Caron's amendment approved unanimously.

Cllr Klassen asks if there was any consideration about eskateboards. Clack-Bush says not, but hopes that the ONgov will give direction on all varieties of e-vehicles. This is their bailiwick after all.

Klassen asks if there's any harm adding eskateboards. Downer says they're not covered in the pilot.

Allt notes that other than hoverboards, they're probably going to cover all kinds of evehicles with this. The complaints are coming in, so council needs to set some standard. Plus, it's environmentally-friendly and there is a business to it.

Caton wants to make sure that sidewalk safety is paramount when considering policy, but also notes that young people using escooters on the roads might be a safety issue too, so they hope that's a consideration.

O'Rourke asks about staff capacity to get this done, and if Police are able to get this done too. Clack-Bush says they can't act till after May 31 when its ratified. Will be using other municipalities and best practices to guide, and has talked to Chief Cobey. Briefly.

Holmes notes that there are always staff resource concerns, so they'll have to rejigger some things to get it done on time. Btw: They would have a staff resource for this, but council has approved the last two years.

O'Rourke asks if kids 16 and under be required to wear helmets like bikes. Clack-Bush says that's the plan, and Cobey has had similar concerns b/c making escooters legal means they can educate about safety.

Goller says according to ONgov, riders much be 16 and over, and anyone under 18 has to wear a helmet. Those are their guidelines.

Guthrie says he likes this, but is disappointed that there's no ride share. He just came back from Denver and scooter ride shares are a big hit there. The residents are ahead of the City on this, and hopes this is a beginning.

Goller's motion carries unanimously.

No announcements, so that's a wrap.



[@threadreaderapp](#), unroll please!

...