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Nov 8, 2024 · 46 tweets · [adamadonaldson/status/1855030554170712148](#)

It's Friday night, so I'm obviously at a Budget Town Hall. Stand by for updates:

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Please note the room change. Tomorrow night's town hall will be held in the Oak Room. Join Mayor Cam Guthrie to ask questions and learn more.


November 8 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Victoria Road Recreation Centre
Oak Room
151 Victoria Rd N, Guelph ON




2025
Budget

Attention Wards 1 and 2

**Town Hall
Location Update**

November 8 | Victoria Road Recreation Centre **Oak Room** | 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
151 Victoria Rd N

6:20 PM · Nov 7, 2024 

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Mayor Guthrie begins with a recap of how we got here, and if you've been paying attention to any of the other recaps I've done, then this will be fairly familiar.



There are about 20 people here, and Guthrie remarks that this may be the biggest crowd that he's had yet for a town hall.

On Wednesday, Guthrie will sign off on the budget as complete, and then council will have that opportunity to make amendments at the end of the month. Guthrie again notes that he doesn't want to issue a veto.

Guthrie hands things off to DCAO of Public Services Colleen Clack-Bush to cover the slide show. She notes this is not a typical confirmation budget year because there have been so many changes.

What changes?

- 4% max increase between City and local boards
- balance housing needs and affordability
- fully-funded capital plan.

New developments:

- Guthrie says about the Tool Library that he's heard a lot of people talking, and there will be funding in the budget. He's working with the leadership.
- On Welcoming Streets, Guthrie says he's done a 180. That will be going into the budget...

...Why? Guthrie says WS has been a big asset at the library. Also, the program is getting 400+ interactions a month and 150+ phone calls for assistance. He says that speaks to the effectiveness of the program. Also, they team well with GPS and have good back-and-forth.

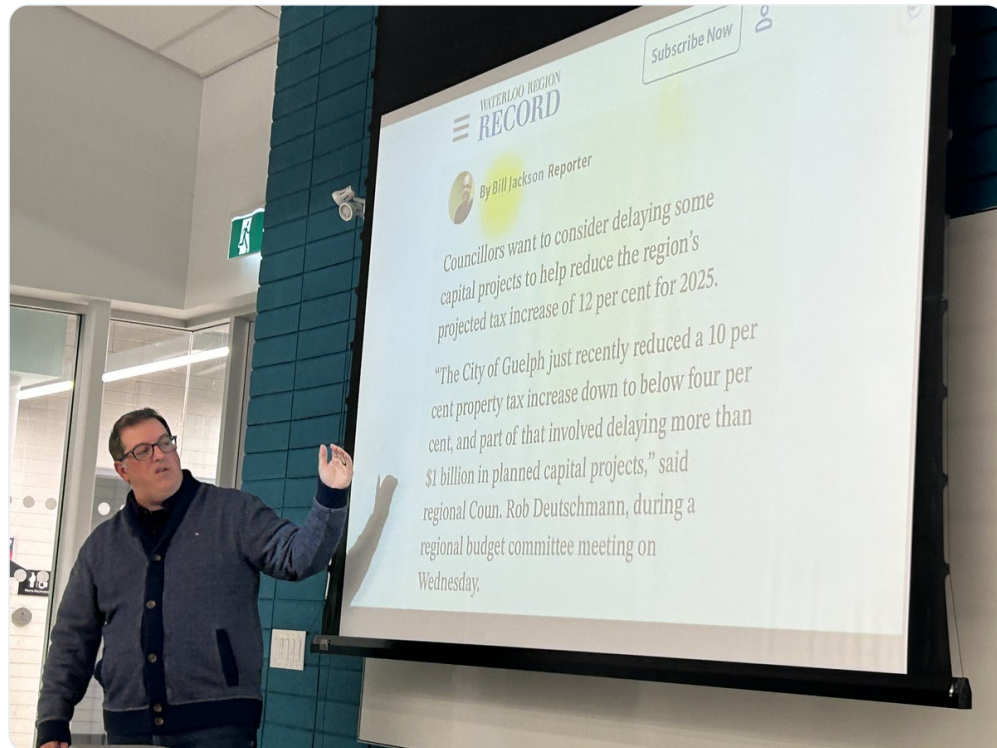
- Forestry. Guthrie says they were looking to making changes to the response times.
- On Bicentennial, he says he wants a party, but not \$900k in want. He says there will be a committee in 2025 to look at what's possible and wants to hear from that process b4 committing funds.

Guthrie: Are we trying to find efficiencies? Yes we are, there's a continuous improvement office in city hall, and there will be a focus on staff to help find efficiencies and this is important for any org to do.

Guthrie draws attention to this chart, the difference in expected impact on the tax bill. (This was from Monday night.)

City tax impact		
	2025 adopted	2025 update
Average monthly impact to the median single family detached residential homeowner	7.16%	2.59%
Approximate monthly impact to:		
Small office building A single tenant or owner-occupied office building under 7,500 sq. ft.	\$28.40	\$10.27
Small retail commercial building A one storey retail property under 10,000 sq. ft.	\$94.59	\$34.22
Standard industrial property Industrial property not identified by type or use	\$77.49	\$28.03
	\$312.37	\$112.99

Guthrie shares praise from a Waterloo Regional councillor.



Guthrie says that a lot of cities are getting hung up on capital. In Guelph's case, they were putting everything in the budget even though they never had the money to do it all. The full-funded budget acknowledges that reality and there will be shifts over time.

Next steps:

- Draft budget signed off on Nov 13
- Public delegation night Nov 19

-Amendments on Nov 27

-Possible veto and veto override votes in Dec.

Guthrie notes with the changes, things will likely bump up over 4%, but it won't be 10%

Questions? Is there anything in this budget that will create affordable housing? Guthrie says "putting pipes in the ground" can unlock all types of housing. Plus, there are incentives from the Housing Accelerator Fund.

Next question: Is the City keeping an eye on short-term rentals? Guthrie says the City passed a bylaw about STRs and it's in force. Also, the City's looking at creating a renovation bylaw, and it will be embedded in Affordable Housing Strategy, with 20 options.

Guthrie says that will be in two parts, creating more affordable housing and holding on to the affordable units we presently have.

Next: What does "unlock" mean when talking about housing? Guthrie says he needs to have capacity issues with size of the pipes that can limit how much housing gets built. Some construction is repair, but others are about bigger pipes.

Guthrie also adds that the Housing Accelerator Fund comes with three-year targets, and the full funding is depending on getting there.

Question about priority areas. Guthrie notes that there are three high priority: GID lands, downtown, and Clair-Maltby. What about low? Guthrie says some areas of the west end he can think, and there's also a sequencing issue with developers' schedules.

Question: What housing is there for people in encampments? Guthrie says the County has the details, but explains that the social services budget went up by \$4 mn, and most of that goes to supportive housing, rent supplement and other housing.

Guthrie says that there will likely be an increase in the social services budget, though he doesn't say how much. He also points to the \$450k for basic needs approved by council in the summer.

Next: Is there an equity focus on how cuts or delays were determined? Sensory rooms for autistic ppl, ACOC co-ordinator, service enhancements w/o grants, transit infrastructure, and MOAR!

Guthrie says the options were brought to him by staff. So no equity lens? Holmes says that when they're trying to push out projects, like road reconstruction, everything gets pushed out. Lorelei Root is asking about who, who from marginalised communities.

Guthrie says that projects are in the budget or deferred, were all developed with an equity lens, and that didn't go away. He says he's shown in the last week that when people tell him something's important, he listens.

Root says that she thinks Guthrie doesn't understand his question. Clack-Bush says that there are staff who make sure that they're looking at a variety of factors and she doesn't want to leave anyone with an impression that cuts were made w/o thinking about equity and inclusion.

Clack-Bush says sensory rooms weren't cut, but they are delayed because they were part of the work in the Parks and Rec Master Plan, and most of that work has been delayed. The City definitely wants to hear that they're addressing equity seeking groups.

Next, Morgan Dandie (at her 3rd town hall) asks why while we're being told affordability and housing are important, why transit is a low priority? She says there are places in the city where she can't live b/c the bus stop is a 15 minute walk away.

Dandie says the many of the people on transit are people of colour, and working class, and the people who keep this city running are not given a higher priority. She lives near Lyon Park and it took her an hour to get here.

Dandie makes the point again about the need for bathrooms downtown, you can't take the bus and use the bathroom. Guthrie says that we have the most affordable affordable bus passes, and there's free transit for kids under 12.

Guthrie notes that *he* was the one that brought back the Sunday on-demand service after his Strong Mayor directive put a pause on it. The capital changes are still happening, but it's just being delayed over time.

Dandie asks about a downtown bathroom, it seems like it doesn't matter. Guthrie says that he agrees, that's a problem. He has a lot of frustration with Metrolinx, who own the train station and lock the bathrooms. They're trying to deal.

Question: Concerns about Cityview near York, where they really need a sidewalk and a park. Guthrie says the Ward 1 cllrs have also asked about that, and consultation was supposed to start next year but it's pushed out to 2027 for the park.

Next, how does Guthrie rationalise preventable deaths because of his actions on CTS, Tiny Homes, encampment, et al? Guthrie says he used Strong Mayor Powers to activate tiny homes, but they looked at dozens of places and but out a public call.

Nothing came back from the public call either, but he had the money to make it happen. Plus, there were issues on the operational side with Wellington County. Tiny Homes are not dead, he says.

The questioner says he's more concerned about the democracy issue, pushing for notwithstanding clause and the Public Space Use Bylaw. Guthrie says any member of council can bring a notice of reconsideration, but that wasn't happened yet.

The questioner says that the meeting itself was entirely democratic because the gallery was full of people that didn't want that bylaw passed. People will die from Guthrie's decision. You're killing people.

Guthrie says that if he wants to take it that way, it's fine

Next Q, is there really no City-owned land or building for unhoused people? Guthrie says the surplus asset review had only about 8 things on it, and that's rare for a city. We're using the assets, or it's a well head or something.

Sometimes they think they've found somewhere and they find out it's in a flood plain, or the land is contaminated. Guthrie says he's frustrated too. Questioner asks about PSUB are now

floundering and the map has no realistic options.

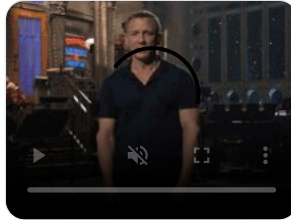
Guthrie says they're not using the maps as they were intended, but there's shelter space today. That got a big explosion of pushback. "No there's fucking not," one person says. Guthrie's dad tells him not to swear and the other guy says, "Don't tell me what to do."

Next question: What about using OR land for encampments? Guthrie says he's tried to talk to the province, and he's talked to the feds about the Armoury, got the no go from both. There's a lot of work behind the scenes, and they are running into road blocks.

Question: What about remediation of contaminated land, or putting houses on stilts? Guthrie says he's not wrong, and they've asked about that but MoE says no, you can't puncture the land as a matter of course.

So we're wrapping up. Guthrie says if anyone wants to rap further send him an email at mayor [at] Guelph [dot] ca.

And now...



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