



**Minutes of the Special
General Government Committee Meeting
Held in the River Plate Room, Ajax Town Hall
At 1:00 p.m. on January 6, 2020**

*Alternative formats available upon request by contacting:
accessibility@ajax.ca or 905-619-2529 ext. 3347*

Present:	Chair - Councillor	R. Tyler Morin, Chair
	Regional Councillors	M. Crawford
		S. Lee
		J. Dies
	Councillors	A. Khan
		L. Bower
	Mayor	S. Collier

1. Call to Order

Chair Tyler Morin called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interests.

3. Presentations

3.1 2020 Operating Budget Workshop and Discussion

Sandra Serrao, Acting Director of Finance / Treasurer, delivered a presentation regarding the upcoming 2020 Operating Budget. S. Serrao discussed the operating budget overview, process and timelines for development of the budget, operating budget framework, expenditures by category, funding and revenue sources, exceptions to the tax rate, and operating budget pressures. Catherine Bridgeman, Director of Operations & Environmental Services, discussed the Town's winter control maintenance program and reviewed pressures related to hours of work legislation, minimum maintenance standards, resources, and assumption of subdivisions. S. Serrao reviewed the 2020 operating budget tax rate, sources of increases and decreases, tax implications for the average assessed home in Ajax, preliminary regional tax increase, property tax distribution between the Town, the Region, and Education, and the overall proposed tax rate increase for the Town. Shane Baker, Chief Administrative Officer, reviewed the process undertaken to reach the proposed 2020 operating budget tax rate and discussed efforts by staff to identify efficiencies and savings.

Committee Members asked questions regarding costs of contracted services, means to reduce the proposed tax rate increase, winter control maintenance activities and brine application, use of assessment growth and library surplus revenues, future assessment and population growth, annualization of proposed new staff positions, savings realized from implementing LED streetlights, education and training funds, comparison of wages & benefits spending to neighbouring municipalities, and use of development charge funds. S. Baker discussed the development of the proposed 2020 tax rate, efficiencies identified by staff, and levels of service provided by the Town. Dana Smith, Manager of Operations & Fleet Services, reviewed the Town's winter control maintenance activities, including protocols for brine application. S. Serrao discussed the Town's Financial Sustainability Plan and use of assessment growth funds and the accumulated library surplus. C. Bridgeman reviewed the LED streetlight conversion program and contractual terms for grass cutting and winter maintenance. Geoff Romanowski, Acting Director of Planning & Development Services, discussed future growth potential and impacts of intensification on municipal infrastructure needs. Julie Mepham, Acting Manager of Budgets & Accounting, reviewed rules for the use of development charges.

Moved by: S. Lee

That the 2020 Operating Budget Workshop and Discussion presentation be received for information.

CARRIED

4. Adjournment (1:51 p.m.)

Moved by: L. Bower

That the January 6, 2020 special meeting of the General Government Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED


Chair


D-Clerk