



**CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF CLARENCE-ROCKLAND
BUDGET MEETING MINUTES**

January 9-10, 2023
Council Chambers
415 rue Lemay Street, Clarence Creek, Ont.

PRESENT: Mario Zanth, Mayor
Kyle Cyr, Councillor Ward 1
Stephane Fournier, Councillor Ward 2 (Absent on Jan. 10)
Carl Grimard, Councillor Ward 3
Samuel Cardarelli, Councillor Ward 4
André J. Lalonde, Councillor Ward 5
Simon-Olivier Péladeau-Houle, Councillor Ward 6
Trevor Stewart, Councillor Ward 7 (late 6:04 p.m. Jan. 9)
Diane Choinière, Councillor Ward 8
Pierre Voisine, Chief Administrative Officer
Monique Ouellet, Clerk
Maryse St-Pierre, Deputy Clerk

1. Opening of the meeting

Mayor Zanth calls the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Adoption of the agenda

RESOLUTION COW2023-001

Moved by Kyle Cyr

Seconded by Carl Grimard

THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. Disclosure of pecuniary interests (none)

4. Public Comments (none)

5. Delegations / Presentations

5.1 2023 Budget Requisition presented by Catherina Rouse for the Public Library Board

Catherina Rouse presents the Public Library's operating budget.

Further to questions, Catherina Rouse confirms that the majority of the Public Library's users are seniors, young families and students.

5.2 Funding Request presented by Stephanie Marcil for the Rockland Community Garden

Stephanie Marcil presents the request for funds for the Rockland Community Garden. She reiterates the comments presented in August 2022. She asks for a contribution of \$10,000 for a project estimated at \$25,000.

Further to questions, Stephanie Marcil confirms that this is a one-time funding request.

Further to questions, Stephanie Marcil explains that the funds to operate the community garden will be raised through membership. She adds that some people in the community also want to contribute personally.

Mayor Mario Zanth explains that the budget deliberations of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell allow the mayors to have an allocation of \$50,000 to contribute to local projects in their community. He announces that he will be honoured to give an amount of \$10,000 for the community garden project through this budget.

6. Presentation of the 2023 Preliminary Budget

Frédéric Desnoyers presents the preliminary 2023 budget.

Pierre Voisine presents the project proposed by the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Further to questions, Pierre Voisine explains that the purpose of the strategic plan project is to draw a portrait of the City for the next 10 years.

Michel Cousineau presents the projects proposed by Corporate Services. Frédéric Desnoyers presents the Secondary Asset Management Plan and the ERP financial software replacement project.

Further to questions, Michel Cousineau confirms that the part-time customer service person is already in place.

Further to questions, Frédéric Desnoyers gives details on the investment required in the ERP financial software, in particular on obtaining bilingual services.

Mario Villeneuve presents the proposed projects for the Building Department.

Further to questions on the addition of a new resource for an emergency coordinator, Mario Villeneuve explains that the budget request covers a ten-month period for 2023.

Jean-Luc Jubinville presents the proposed projects for the Operations Department.

Further to questions, Jean-Luc Jubinville explains that the proposed budget for the maintenance of the YMCA operations does not include the \$10,000 per month already included in the base budget.

Julian Lenhart presents the proposed projects for community development. He explains that the project coordinator in addition is funded by the capital projects.

Further to questions, Julian Lenhart confirms that the part-time position for the Clarence-Rockland market will be for the market period only.

Further to questions, Julian Lenhart explains that part of the St-Jean/Poupart roundabout project will be financed by development charges and the other part by debt, for a proportion of approximately 50%.

Further to questions, Mayor Zanth explains that when projects affect the growth of the municipality, even if the work is required on a county road, it is the municipality's responsibility.

Further to questions, Julian Lenhart confirms that the revenues of the Clarence-Rockland market correspond to approximately \$10,000.

Further to questions on the free concerts, Julian Lenhart confirms that the City has a sponsorship program in place but that the budget cannot be based on the sponsorships that will be obtained.

Julian Lenhart presents the proposed economic development projects.

Frédéric Desnoyers presents the other items and reviews the proposed capital projects.

Further to questions, Frédéric Desnoyers explains that many of the proposed projects are built and managed by the developers, which has an impact.

Further to questions on the construction of sidewalks and multipurpose trails, Julian Lenhart confirms that the type of construction chosen is based on the location of the project.

Further to questions on the road improvement plan, Julian Lenhart confirms that the roads are determined based on the current ten-year plan.

Further to questions on the proposed YMCA project, Jean-Luc Jubinville confirms that the City is responsible for all fixed elements of the building.

Further to questions on the ice resurfacer, Jean-Luc Jubinville confirms that the technology now allows for a fully electric vehicle and that the battery life matches the life of the vehicle.

Further to questions, Julian Lenhart confirms that the dog park project and Pago Road will be designed and built by the developer.

Frédéric Desnoyers presents the breakdown of funding sources for capital projects.

Frédéric Desnoyers explains that an additional change must be made following the increase in the insurance premium, corresponding to an increase of \$160,000 instead of \$60,000, which brings the rate of tax increase to 5.3%.

7. 2023 Preliminary Budget Wrap-up

Further to questions on the St. John/Poupart roundabout, Julian Lenhart confirms that it is the adaptation of the street to standards that requires the majority of funds and not the construction of a roundabout versus traffic lights. He adds that this change is due to development growth, which is why the United Counties do not have a financial responsibility in the project.

Directive: THAT the proposed increase for the addition of a new resource - Emergency Coordinator/Health & Safety Officer be reduced by 6 months, corresponding to a 4-month period, be approved.

Directive: THAT the proposed increase of \$50,000 for the Economic Development Reserve be withdrawn.

Further to questions, Frédéric Desnoyers explains that the reductions on the increases to the reserves have impacts on subsequent years.

Further to questions, Julian Lenhart confirms that the inflation in the construction field is 12%, which includes asphalt.

Further to the proposed changes, Frederic Desnoyers explains that the tax increase rate is now 4.85%.

Mayor Zanth adjourned the meeting at 9:43 p.m. and explains that the meeting will be continued the next day, January 10, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Zanth calls the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. on January 10, 2023.

Councillor Carl Grimard moves the following amendments, seconded by Councillor Kyle Cyr:

THAT the proposed increase for the addition of a new resource - Emergency Coordinator / Health & Safety Officer be implemented only in December 2023; and

THAT the proposed increase in service level for gravel roads be reduced by \$100,000 in order to complete the remaining 30 km as much as possible; and

THAT the proposed increase for the public library be reduced only for the pay equity exercise and salary improvements and that no other funding be withheld this year; and

THAT no additional contribution be made to the equipment reserve; and

THAT the proposed increase of \$50,000 for the building reserve be withdrawn.

Further to the changes proposed by Councillor Carl Grimard, Frédéric Desnoyers explains that the tax rate increase would be 3.86%.

Further to Councillor Grimard's proposal, Councillor Trevor Stewart moves the following amendments, which amendments are seconded by Councillor Diane Choinière:

THAT Council mandates the administration to prepare a report on the current costs of gravel road maintenance in order to allocate, if additional funds are required, the surplus to this project in order to complete the 30 km; and

THAT if funds from the surplus are not sufficient, to allocate funds from the tax stabilization fund; and

THAT the proposed increase to the library operating budget be reduced by \$20,000 in order to maintain the level of service.

Further to Councillor Stewart's proposal, Councillor André J. Lalonde explains that according to the City's policies, 40% of the surplus goes back to the reserve.

Further to questions, Frédéric Desnoyers explains that the proportion of development charges for the St-Jean/Poupart roundabout project has already been studied and that the calculated proportion is already paid to the developers.

He adds that it is not possible to charge the remaining portion afterwards, even though this portion would be reimbursed.

It is shown that following the modifications proposed by Councillor Trevor Stewart, the tax rate increase would be 3.89%.

Council members voted in favour of the proposals put forward by Councillor Grimard, as amended by Councillor Stewart.

Further to questions on the part-time position for the Clarence-Rockland Market, Julian Lenhart explains that the proposed increase of \$21,000 is a continuation of the 2022 pilot project and does not represent the addition of a resource.

Directive: THAT a tax increase of 3.89% be recommended for approval.

8. Adjournment

The Mayor adjourns the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

Mario Zanth, Mayor

Maryse St-Pierre, Deputy Clerk