



VISION - We will be a democratically elected, vibrant, safe and clean city focused on economic growth and livability.

MISSION - To provide positive experiences for everyone through the delivery of quality initiatives and services.

CORPORATION OF HAMILTON

CORPORATION BOARD

PUBLIC SESSION

Thursday, November 24, 2022, 9:30 am
Mayor's Parlour, City Hall, Hamilton

Present: Rt. Wor. Charles R. Gosling, JP, Chairman
Councillor John Harvey, MBE, JP
Councillor Dennis Tucker, MBE, JP
Councillor Lawrence Scott, JP
Councillor Henry Ming
Councillor George Scott, JP
Councillor RoseAnn Edwards
Councillor Jenefer Brimmer

Apologies: Councillor Nicholas Swan

Staff: CEO/City Secretary - Dwayne A. Caines, JP
CFO/Acting City Secretary – Tanya Iris
COO/City Engineer - Patrick Cooper
Director of HR/Learning and Development – Lindell Foster
Director of Marketing & Communications – Jessica Astwood
Controller – Siobhan Fubler

Apologies: Public Relations Manager - Helen Zoellner

1. Confirmation of Notice

The CEO/City Secretary confirmed that the appropriate notices of the meeting were duly given according to the Meeting Guide.

2. Role of the Chairman

The Mayor confirmed his role as the Chairman.

3. Open Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 9.30 am.

4. Apologies

The CEO/City Secretary confirmed that no apologies had been received.

5. Board Recommendations for Review

5.1 2023 Budget

The Mayor said that this had been first time that he and the Council had seen the draft 2023 Budget document.

The CFO/Acting City Secretary introduced the Executive Summary, followed by the Operations Budget.

After discussion on the items below, Councillor Tucker said that he had not seen the draft Budget document until receipt of the Agenda for this Special Board Meeting. He asked why the 2023 Budget document had not been forwarded to the Finance Committee who would usually make the detailed considerations and forward a Recommendation to a Board or Special Board meeting to vote on the Resolution to approve the Budget. The CFO/Acting City Secretary said that presentation of the Budget was extremely late.

The CEO/City Secretary confirmed that the Financial Instructions, Page 14, Paragraph 5.1.2 stated that the draft budget shall be presented to the Finance Committee in the first instance, and he apologised for the oversight. A Special Finance Committee Meeting would therefore be arranged in order to discuss the Finance Committee's Recommendation, prior to the next Board Meeting to be held on 7 December 2022, for approval and Resolution.

The Mayor agreed that the legislated process would be adhered to and appreciated the tremendous amount of work done by the COO/City Engineer and all to bring the Budget document to this stage. He said that the Council's input into the budget process was vital. He looked forward to the Special Finance Committee meeting and the Resolution on the Board Meeting Agenda on 7 December 2022.

The Mayor said that the Budget process should be formalised. He suggested that the Budget would be the first item on the Agenda of each Committee in the meetings following the summer break. This would give opportunity for detailed discussion on each item of the following year's budget where Members would be involved in the ongoing process. Also, the summer break would be formalised to be either July or August.

The CEO/City Secretary acknowledged that the CFO/Acting City Secretary and the Controller were under constant pressure to prioritise tasks and this year's Budget had unfortunately fallen short. He apologised that the correct procedure had not been followed.

RESOLUTION:

That the Board approve the COH 2023 Budget.

Tabled

ACTION:

Arrange a Special Finance Committee Meeting in order to discuss the 2023 Budget document and the Finance Committee's Recommendation, prior to the next Board Meeting to be held on 7 December 2022, for approval and Resolution. **(Recording Secretary)**

ACTION:

Consider and formalise the Budget process. The Budget would be the first item on the Agenda of each Committee in the meetings following the summer break. This would give opportunity for detailed discussion on each item of the following year's budget where Members would be involved in the process. Also, the summer break would be formalised to be either July or August. **(CEO/City Secretary)**

5.1.1 Electricity Budget

Discussion ensued around the increase in electricity costs, specifically at Pier-6 where solar panels which would be installed.

5.1.2 Events Budget

Discussion ensued around the Events strategy and budget. The CEO/City Secretary said that the community sponsorship event of the Taste of Bermuda, had fallen short of the total costs, which had been met by the COH.

The Mayor referred to the Strategic Planning meeting held in 2009, when the Events Department had been formed specifically to awaken event organisers and businesses, locally and internationally, to the possibilities available to them in the City. He said that the Events Team had done a great job in this respect. He said that the COH would primarily consider sponsorship of community initiatives rather than implement events with or without community sponsors. He cautioned that the COH should be conscious of taking on the semblance of the Bermuda Tourism Authority in the City. Whilst the COH strived to create a vibrant City, it should not be to the detriment of its other responsibilities.

The CEO/City Secretary said that after the period of lockdowns, this year the COH had demonstrated what could be achieved to create a lively City in order to attract visitors. This should be an encouragement for the community to take an expanded view of its participation and event organisation going forward. The shift would represent a change in the strategic intent of the COH from event organiser to venue provider. The Mayor said that what had happened had been

a natural progression, however, this would more align with the original strategy for the COH as a venue provider and event encourager in the City, over elsewhere on the Island. He said that the COH want to encourage people to hold events in the City which would be exciting for the public.

The CEO/City Secretary said that the strategic mandate from the Strategic Planning meeting held in 2019, was to create livability with dynamic activities which draw people to the City. He said that the COH hosted approximately one (1) event each month, which brought life into the City.

Councillor Harvey said that he agreed with the Mayor of the original intent of the Events Department. He said that they had organised great events and he would like to see more to keep the City busy and buoyant. In the current economic climate, which could deteriorate, he cautioned more mindfulness of the costs to the COH.

The CFO/Acting City Secretary said that the COH did not make a profit from any of the events.

The Mayor noted again that this was a meeting of the Council who had not had the prior opportunity to consider the Draft Budget, hence the discussion of Events as being one of the first items. This would not reflect that attention was to Events only.

The Mayor referred to the proposed Town Crier Competition and asked who would benefit from the event. The Director of Marketing and Communications said that she had not been involved in this event in the past. There would have been approximately 20 international visiting Town Criers, however, next year it was proposed to promote the City of Hamilton through wider social media. Around five (5) to ten (10) International Town Criers would be invited to participate, with the COH meeting the cost of accommodation at Grotto Bay, meals and transport whilst in Bermuda. She said that whenever Hamilton's Town Crier visits other cities for similar competitions, the COH paid his entire costs. It had been agreed that the budget for the event should be reduced. Councillor L. Scott congratulated the initiation of the event and said that the comments made would enhance the genius of the Events Department rather than be critical. The Mayor said that the focus should be on making Hamilton a vibrant City by promoting local participants in events. The CEO/City Secretary said that research of the event historically and the current level of sponsorship from the Bermuda Tourism Authority should be sought.

Councillor Harvey left at 10.28 am.

5.1.3 Materials and Equipment

The CFO/Acting City Secretary said that the cost of Materials and Equipment had increased.

5.1.4 Capital Budget

The CFO/Acting City Secretary said that the Capital Budget included the annual purchase of vehicles. These had been budgeted for in 2022 but had not been purchased, therefore the budget would be carried over to 2023. There were other items which would also be carried over to 2023.

The CFO/Acting City Secretary said that the largest capital item was to turn Fort Hamilton as a vending and catering venue. The second largest capital item was the upgrading of the City Hall Offices and the HVAC system.

The Mayor acknowledged that financing would be required to completed the Sewage Project. The Capital Projects budget had exceeded that which had been expected.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Members Intentions - May 2023

The Mayor and Councillors would comment on their intentions to continue or run for office from May 2023.

The CEO/City Secretary referred to the pending Privy Council ruling on the COH's Constitutionality case, together with the postponement of the May 2022 election due to the uncertainty, which had resulted in the extension of the Council's term of office for one (1) year until May 2023. There had been an exchange of emails with the Permanent Secretary to request the Minister's intention to hold an election in May 2023 or not. This had raised the question of whether the Mayor and Council would intend to continue to serve from May 2023. The Council's intentions would have some bearing on discussions with the Minister.

The CEO/City Secretary said that he would support the democratic process for an election in 2023, however a directive would be expected from the Minister.

Councillor L. Scott said that he intended to seek re-election as a commitment to the COH.

Councillor H. Ming said yes.

Councillor J. Brimmer said that she intended to seek re-election.

Councillor G. Scott said that he intended to seek re-election.

Councillor R. Edwards said that she was undecided.

Councillor D. Tucker said that he did not intend to seek re-election, but would accept an extension for continuity.

Mayor, Charles Gosling said that he did not intend to seek re-election, but would accept an extension for continuity, until and if the Privy Council ruled against the COH Constitutionality case. He would prefer the electoral process in May 2023.

Councillor J. Harvey and Councillor N. Swan were not present.

6.2 Celebrations

The COO/City Engineer advised the meeting that the Roof Wetting of Pier-6 had been arranged for Tuesday, 29 November 2022 at 4.00 pm.

The Director of Marketing and Communications reminded the meeting that the Mayor's Reception at City Hall was arranged for Friday, 25 November 2022 at 5.30 pm for cocktails, followed by entertainment on the lawn from 6.30 pm. The tree would be lit at approximately 7.20 pm.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 7 December 2022.

The next meeting will be held on 7 December 2022.

8. Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 11.01 am.

Mayor

CEO/City Secretary

Date