



FINANCE AND LABOUR RELATIONS COMMITTEE ADDENDA

Adoption of Addenda to the Finance and Labour Relations Committee Agenda:

Motion by

THAT the Addenda to the Finance and Labour Relations Committee Agenda dated January 31, 2022, be added to the agenda as printed to include the following:

3.0 Delegations:

3.2 Request for Delegation by the Stratford & District Chamber of Commerce

Eddie Matthews, General Manager, Stratford & District Chamber of Commerce, has requested to present a brief recap of the letter submitted by the Chamber regarding Stratford municipal tax deliberations.

Attachment – Letter from Stratford & District Chamber of Commerce

Motion by

THAT the delegation by Eddie Matthews on behalf of the Stratford & District Chamber of Commerce, regarding tax deliberations, be heard.

4.0 Treasurer Update

A revised Airport Capital form is attached for the information of Committee.

Attachment – Revised Airport Capital form



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Stratford City Council

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January 5, 2021

Re: Stratford Municipal Tax deliberations

On behalf of the Stratford & District Chamber of Commerce and our Stratford business members, we are pleased to provide our members' views and concerns regarding the City of Stratford's Operating Budget and its proposed municipal property tax increase. We realize that at the moment this budget increase of 8.6 per cent, is currently in its early forms.

We also noted that in the message from the CAO, Joan Thomson stated that part of "the City's approach to financial sustainability includes controlling expenditures, while keeping property taxes and fees affordable." We agree that it is important to focus on controlling expenditures and keeping property taxes affordable for both residential and commercial property owners. However, we fear the proposed 8.6 per cent property tax hike will only add to a number of cost pressures that business owners are already facing, including the federal government's duty changes, upcoming payroll tax increases, minimum wage increases and a costly federally-imposed carbon tax and lingering uncertainty over trade and competitiveness with the U.S.

Another large municipal property tax hike will just make it more difficult for our local businesses to stay competitive.

We realize there is always new demands and challenges – such as funding social services, confronting climate change, and keeping up with growth. Considering these new demands, the pressure on the municipal property tax is increasing.

While we acknowledge the City kept its operational spending increase to 2.2 per cent in 2021, which is in the range of a sustainable benchmark (population growth (2.0%), plus inflation (2.2%)), we believe the City should further contain costs and find additional cost-savings and efficiencies to mitigate the large proposed municipal property tax increase.

Difficult times means difficult decisions, and sacrifices may have to be made, however our hope is not to place extra burden on the local taxpayer.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "E Matthews".

Eddie Matthews

*In Business
For Business*
SINCE 1860

CITY OF STRATFORD
2022 TAX SUPPORTED CAPITAL BUDGET
2023 -2031 TAX SUPPORTED CAPITAL FORECAST

[illegible]