



**PUBLIC MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING
GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, August 15, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Council Chamber, City Hall**

PRESENT: His Worship Mayor C. Clark, Chair
Councillor C. Block
Councillor T. Davies, via teleconference
Councillor R. Donauer
Councillor B. Dubois, via teleconference
Councillor S. Gersher, at 9:41 a.m.
Councillor H. Gough
Councillor D. Hill
Councillor Z. Jeffries, at 10:15 a.m.
Councillor D. Kirton
Councillor M. Loewen

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager J. Jorgenson
City Solicitor C. Yelland
City Clerk A. Tittlemore
Deputy City Clerk S. Bryant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Clark called the meeting to order on Treaty 6 Territory and the traditional Homeland of the Métis People and confirmed roll call.

2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Moved By: Councillor Donauer

1. That the following letters be added to Item 4.1
 1. Submitting Comments
 - Janelle S. Unrau, dated August 14, 2023;
 2. Request to Speak
 - Keith Moen, NSBA, dated August 10, 2023;

- Jory Vermette, Saskatoon Climate Hub, dated August 12, 2023;
2. That the request to speak from Robert Clipperton, Bus Riders of Saskatoon, dated August 12, 2023 be added to Item 4.2.1;
 3. That the following letters be added to Item 4.2.4:
 1. Submitting Comments
 - Nancy Howse, dated August 10, 2023;
 - Tim Quigley, dated August 11, 2023;
 - Glen Wright, dated August 12, 2023;
 - Mark Bigland - Pritchard, dated August 12, 2023;
 - Mary Uzelman, dated August 12, 2023;
 - Brenda MacDonald, dated August 13, 2023;
 - Carroll Chubb, dated August 13, 2023;
 - Julia Boughner, dated August 13, 2023;
 - Joanne Blythe, Chad Hammond and Candace Savage, Wild About Saskatoon, dated August 14, 2023;
 - Caylin Lee, dated August 14, 2023;
 - Peter and Verna Gallen, dated August 14, 2023;
 - Ines Sanchez Rodriguez, dated August 14, 2023;
 - Jason Hanson, dated August 14, 2023;
 - Jody Busch, dated August 14, 2023;
 - Joel Van Impe, dated August 14, 2023;
 - John Krowina, dated August 14, 2023;
 - Justin Fisher, dated August 14, 2023;
 - Romualdo Zwolinski, dated August 14, 2023;
 - Margret Asmuss, Bob Halliday, Glenn Wright, Saskatchewan Environmental Society, dated August 14, 2023;
 - Mackenzie Burnett, dated August 14, 2023; and

4. That the agenda be confirmed as amended.

In Favour: (9): Mayor Clark, Councillor Block, Councillor Davies, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Gough, Councillor Hill, Councillor Kirton, and Councillor Loewen

Absent: (2): Councillor Gersher, and Councillor Jeffries

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (9 to 0)

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

4.1 2024/2025 Budget Information Update – August 2023 [GPC2023-0802]

A report of the Corporate Financial Services Division was provided along with the following letters:

Submitting Comments

- Janelle S. Unrau, dated August 14, 2023;

Request to Speak

- Keith Moen, NSBA, dated August 10, 2023; and
- Jory Vermette, Saskatoon Climate Hub, dated August 14, 2023.

Councillor Gersher entered the meeting in person at 9:41 a.m. during introduction of this item.

City Manager Jorgenson provided an introduction and Chief Financial Officer Hack presented the report. They responded to questions of Committee.

Committee heard from the following speakers:

- Keith Moen, NSBA (responded to questions)
- Jory Vermette, Saskatoon Climate Hub

Councillor Jeffries entered the meeting in person at 10:15 a.m. during the presentation from Jory Vermette.

Moved By: Councillor Hill

That the information be received.

In Favour: (11): Mayor Clark, Councillor Block, Councillor Davies, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Gersher, Councillor Gough, Councillor Hill, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor Kirton, and Councillor Loewen

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (11 to 0)

4.2 Business Line Reports

4.2.1 Transportation Business Line Information [GPC2023-0703]

The City Clerk reported that the Governance and Priorities Committee considered this item at its special meeting held on July 25, 2023 and passed numerous resolutions as outlined in the minutes [here](#) under item 4.3.1. Consideration for Options 8.c, 9, 10, 11, 12.c, 14.b, 15 and 16 in the report were deferred to the August 15, 2023 special meeting. A copy of the report and following communications that were presented at the July 25, 2023 meeting was provided to this meeting:

- Robert Clipperton, Bus Riders of Saskatoon, dated July 20, 2023;
- Mackenzie Burnett and Ines Sanchez-Rodriguez, Saskatoon Climate Hub, dated July 24, 2023; and
- DeeAnn Mercier, Broadway Business Improvement District, Brent Penner, Downtown Saskatoon and Randy Pshebylo, Riversdale Business Improvement District, dated July 24, 2023.

A request to speak from Robert Clipperton, Bus Riders of Saskatoon, dated August 12, 2023 was provided.

Option 13a - Eliminate Soft Surface Media Sweep was added to the list for consideration.

Option 8c - Reductions to Transit Operations - Reduce Inflationary Impact

Director of Saskatoon Transit Puffalt introduced the option and responded to questions.

Committee heard from Robert Clipperton, Bus Riders of Saskatoon. He responded to questions of Committee.

Moved By: Councillor Donauer

That the 12% inflationary impact on required maintenance of its assets in the amount of \$268,700 in 2024 **be removed** from the budget.

In Favour: (3): Councillor Davies, Councillor Donauer, and Councillor Hill

Against: (8): Mayor Clark, Councillor Block, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Gersher, Councillor Gough, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor Kirton, and Councillor Loewen

DEFEATED (3 to 8)

Option 9 – Increasing Transit Revenues

Director of Saskatoon Transit Puffalt introduced the option.

The Committee recessed at 10:56 a.m. and reconvened at 11:04 a.m. with all members present. Councillor Davies temporarily excused himself from the meeting during discussion of this item.

Moved By: Councillor Donauer

That Administration bring forward a transit fare increase in the amount of 7.5% to the 2024/25 budget deliberations.

In Favour: (5): Councillor Block, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Hill, and Councillor Jeffries

Against: (5): Mayor Clark, Councillor Gersher, Councillor Gough, Councillor Kirton, and Councillor Loewen

Absent: (1): Councillor Davies

DEFEATED ON A TIE VOTE (5 to 5)

Moved By: Councillor Hill

That, ahead of the final 2024/25 budget meetings, the Administration report on the impact of eliminating fares for children 5 to 13 years of age (13 under). The report should incorporate details from Regina Transit related to their elimination of fares for children under 13.

In Favour: (10): Mayor Clark, Councillor Block, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Gersher, Councillor Gough, Councillor Hill, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor Kirton, and Councillor Loewen

Absent: (1): Councillor Davies

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (10 to 0)

The meeting recessed at 11:47 a.m. and reconvened at 11:55 a.m. with all members in attendance.

Option 10 – Reduction to Transportation Services Request

Director of Transportation Magus introduced the option and responded to questions of Committee.

Moved By: Councillor Donauer

That Transportation Services inflationary impact for painting and signing be reduced by \$96,400.

In Favour: (8): Councillor Block, Councillor Davies, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Hill, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor Kirton, and Councillor Loewen

Against: (3): Mayor Clark, Councillor Gersher, and Councillor Gough

CARRIED (8 to 3)

Option 11 – Road Surface Back Lane Maintenance Reductions

Director of Roadways, Fleet and Support Saric introduced the option and responded to questions of Committee.

Moved By: Councillor Hill

That back lane grading service level be reduced to grading back lanes only when conditions deteriorate to the point that light vehicles have difficulty travelling them, for an associated savings of \$150,000.

Against: (11): Mayor Clark, Councillor Block, Councillor Davies, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Gersher, Councillor Gough, Councillor Hill, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor Kirton, and Councillor Loewen

DEFEATED (0 to 11)

Option 12.c - Delay sidewalk, multi-use pathway and cycle track snow clearing

Director of Roadways, Fleet and Support Saric introduced the option.

Moved By: Councillor Donauer

That snow clearing service level on sidewalks, multi-use pathways, and cycle tracks be reduced to extend the timeline for snow clearing on the facilities to 96 hours, instead of the current 48 hours, with an associated savings of \$75,000.

In Favour: (1): Councillor Donauer

Against: (10): Mayor Clark, Councillor Block, Councillor Davies, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Gersher, Councillor Gough, Councillor Hill, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor Kirton, and Councillor Loewen

DEFEATED (1 to 10)

Option 13.a – Sweeping Program Service Level Changes - Eliminate soft Surface median sweep

Director of Roadways, Fleet and Support Saric introduced the option and responded to questions along with Director of Parks Crilly and Director of Transportation Magus.

Moved By: Councillor Loewen

That soft surface median sweeping be reduced to one sweep every two years, resulting in a projected \$200,000 annual savings.

In Favour: (11): Mayor Clark, Councillor Block, Councillor Davies, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Gersher, Councillor Gough, Councillor Hill, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor Kirton, and Councillor Loewen

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (11 to 0)

The meeting recessed at 1:00 p.m. and reconvened at 1:45 p.m. with all members in attendance with the exception of Councillor Davies.

14.b Eliminate seasonal decoration material replacement program

General Manager, Utilities and Environment introduced the option and responded to questions of Committee.

Moved By: Councillor Gough

That replacement of Doves of Peace cross streetlights on 2nd Avenue (2024) and replacing the non-illuminated Christmas-themed banners on 20th Street and on 2nd Avenue (2025) amounting to \$48,000 in each of 2024 and 2025 be deferred.

In Favour: (5): Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Gersher, Councillor Gough, and Councillor Jeffries

Against: (5): Mayor Clark, Councillor Block, Councillor Hill, Councillor Kirton, and Councillor Loewen

Absent: (1): Councillor Davies

DEFEATED ON A TIE VOTE (5 to 5)

Option 15 – Adjust Saskatoon Transit Service Levels

Director of Saskatoon Transit Puffalt introduced the option and responded to questions of Committee along with Chief Financial Officer Hack.

Councillor Davies returned to the meeting virtually at 2:15 p.m. during consideration of this option.

Moved By: Councillor Dubois

That Administration report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation on service level options and associated revenue/expense impacts on:

- Introduction into new neighborhoods by adjusting the population density from 25% to a higher percentage.
- Elimination of low ridership routes and/or replacement with on-demand service.
- Decreasing frequencies on low ridership routes (e.g., if a low ridership route is currently a 30-minute service review impacts of a 60-minute service).
- Currently Saskatoon Transit offers service during the week (Monday to Saturday) until 1:00 a.m., review impacts if service is discontinued at 12:00 a.m., 11:00 p.m. or 10:00 p.m. on those days.
- Reduction of service on Sundays and statutory holidays.

Reporting should include consultation with current partners who may have a vested interest in the resulting impacts.

In Favour: (5): Councillor Block, Councillor Davies, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, and Councillor Jeffries

Against: (6): Mayor Clark, Councillor Gersher, Councillor Gough, Councillor Hill, Councillor Kirton, and Councillor Loewen

DEFEATED (5 to 6)

Moved By: Councillor Gough

That Administration report back to Standing Policy Committee on Transportation, and separate from the 2024/25 budget process, on transit service options such as on demand transit on low ridership routes and/or at low ridership times while maintaining service levels.

In Favour: (11): Mayor Clark, Councillor Block, Councillor Davies, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Gersher, Councillor Gough, Councillor Hill, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor Kirton, and Councillor Loewen

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (11 to 0)

Option 16 – Parking Pay Station Zone Expansion

General Manager, Community Services Lacroix introduced the option and responded to questions of Committee.

Moved By: Councillor Gough

That addition of approximately 130 paid on-street parking spaces occur at the following locations:

- 24th Street from Idylwyld Dr to 1st Ave N;
- 200 and 300 block of Wall Street;
- 300 bk of Pacific Ave up to 25th St E;
- 300 bk of Ontario Ave up to 25th St E;
- Northern section of 400 bk of 1st Ave N up to 26th St E; and
- 100 bk of 26th St E.

In Favour: (10): Mayor Clark, Councillor Block, Councillor Davies, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Gough, Councillor Hill, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor Kirton, and Councillor Loewen

Against: (1): Councillor Gersher

CARRIED (10 to 1)

Councillor Loewen excused herself from the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

4.2.2 Community Support Business Line Information [GPC2023-0616]

The City Clerk reported that due to time constraints at the July 25, 2023 Governance and Priorities Committee Special meeting, this matter was deferred to the August 15, 2023 Special meeting.

A report of the Corporate Financial Services Division was provided.

General Manager, Community Services Lacroix presented the report and responded to questions of Committee.

The meeting recessed at 3:29 p.m. and reconvened at 3:42 p.m. with all members in attendance with the exception of Councillor Loewen.

Option 1 – Increase Pet Licensing Rates and Fees

Option 2 – Increase Cemetery Rates and Fees

Moved By: Councillor Gersher

That the Governance and Priorities Committee direct Administration to include the following options in the 2024/2025 Preliminary Business Plan and Budget:

1. Option 1 – A further 10% increase in all pet licenses
2. Option 2 – A further 3% increase to Cemetery Rates and Fees

In Favour: (9): Mayor Clark, Councillor Block, Councillor Davies, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Gersher, Councillor Gough, Councillor Jeffries, and Councillor Kirton

Against: (1): Councillor Hill

Absent: (1): Councillor Loewen

CARRIED (9 to 1)

Option 3A – Reductions to Community Grants and Investments

Moved By: Councillor Hill

That contribution to the special event reserve be reduced by \$200,000 for 2024 and increased by \$68,700 for 2025.

In Favour: (8): Councillor Davies, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Gough, Councillor Hill, Councillor Jeffries, Councillor Kirton, and Councillor Loewen

Against: (3): Mayor Clark, Councillor Block, and Councillor Gersher

CARRIED (8 to 3)

Option 5 – Reductions to other Donations, Grants and Subsidies

Moved By: Councillor Dubois

That the proposed increases for grants and community support be eliminated from the 2024/25 budget as outlined below, which excepts those that fall within the tax abatement policy as outlined:

Transfer to heritage reserve \$3,400 in 2024 and \$2,900 in 2025

Culture participation grant

Green gardening fund \$1,500

Cash grants \$15,800 in 2024 and \$8,800 in 2025

Youth sports subsidy \$137,500 in 2025

Tourism \$15,000 in 2024 and \$14,900 in 2025; and

MVA \$42,800 2024 and \$36,900 in 2025

In Favour: (6): Councillor Block, Councillor Davies, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Jeffries, and Councillor Kirton

Against: (4): Mayor Clark, Councillor Gersher, Councillor Gough, and Councillor Hill

Absent: (1): Councillor Loewen

CARRIED (6 to 4)

Councillor Jeffries excused himself from the meeting.

4.2.3 Saskatoon Fire Business Line Information Report [GPC2023-0618]

The City Clerk reported that due to time constraints at the July 25, 2023 Governance and Priorities Committee Special meeting, this matter was deferred to the August 15, 2023 special meeting.

A report of the Corporate Financial Services Division was provided.

Saskatoon Fire Chief Hackl presented the report with a PowerPoint and responded to questions of Committee.

Option 1A – Deferring the Asset Management position

Option 1B – Deferral of the Communications Consultant position

Moved By: Councillor Davies

That the Governance and Priorities Committee direct Administration to include the following options in the 2024/2025 Preliminary Business Plan and Budget:

1. Option 1A – Defer the Fire Services Asset Management Position to 2025; and
2. Option 1B – Defer the Communications Consultant.

In Favour: (9): Mayor Clark, Councillor Block, Councillor Davies, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Gersher, Councillor Gough, Councillor Hill, and Councillor Kirton

Absent: (2): Councillor Jeffries, and Councillor Loewen

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (9 to 0)

Option 1C – Deferral of the Operations Dispatch Manager

Moved By: Councillor Hill

That the Operations Dispatch Manager Position be implemented halfway through 2024 with half of the funding added in 2024 and the other half in 2025.

In Favour: (9): Mayor Clark, Councillor Block, Councillor Davies, Councillor Donauer, Councillor Dubois, Councillor Gersher, Councillor Gough, Councillor Hill, and Councillor Kirton

Absent: (2): Councillor Jeffries, and Councillor Loewen

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (9 to 0)

4.2.4 Environmental Health Business Line Information [GPC2023-0701]

The City Clerk reported that due to time constraints at the July 25, 2023 Governance and Priorities Committee Special meeting, this matter was deferred to the August 15, 2023 special meeting.

A report of the Corporate Financial Services Division was provided along with a letter submitting comments from Mackenzie Burnett and Ines Sanchez-Rodriguez, Saskatoon Climate Hub, dated July 24, 2023.

The following letters were also provided:

- Submitting Comments
 - Nancy Howse, dated August 10, 2023;
 - Tim Quigley, dated August 11, 2023;
 - Glen Wright, dated August 12, 2023;
 - Mark Bigland - Pritchard, dated August 12, 2023;
 - Mary Uzelman, dated August 12, 2023;
 - Brenda MacDonald, dated August 13, 2023;
 - Carroll Chubb, dated August 13, 2023;
 - Julia Boughner, dated August 13, 2023;
 - Joanne Blythe, Chad Hammond and Candace Savage, Wild About Saskatoon, dated August 14, 2023;
 - Caylin Lee, dated August 14, 2023; and
 - Peter and Verna Gallen, dated August 14, 2023.
 - Ines Sanchez Rodriguez, dated August 14, 2023;
 - Jason Hanson, dated August 14, 2023;
 - Jody Busch, dated August 14, 2023;
 - Joel Van Impe, dated August 14, 2023;
 - John Krowina, dated August 14, 2023;
 - Justin Fisher, dated August 14, 2023;
 - Romualdo Zwolinski, dated August 14, 2023; and

- Margret Asmuss, Bob Halliday, Glenn Wright, Saskatchewan Environmental Society, dated August 14, 2023.

Due to further time constraints, this matter was deferred to the August 31, 2023 Special Meeting of the Governance and Priorities Committee.

4.2.5 Taxation and General Revenues Business Line Budgetary Information [GPC2023-0615]

The City Clerk reported that due to time constraints at the July 25, 2023 Governance and Priorities Committee Special meeting, this matter was deferred to the August 15, 2023 special meeting.

A revised report of the Corporate Financial Services Division was provided along with a letter submitting comments from DeeAnn Mercier, Broadway Business Improvement District, Brent Penner, Downtown Saskatoon and Randy Pshebylo, Riversdale Business Improvement District, dated July 24, 2023.

Due to further time constraints, this matter was deferred to the August 31, 2023 Special Meeting of the Governance and Priorities Committee.

4.2.6 Land Development Business Line Information [GPC2023-0702]

The City Clerk reported that due to time constraints at the July 25, 2023 Governance and Priorities Committee Special meeting, this matter was deferred to the August 15, 2023 special meeting.

A report of the Corporate Financial Services Division was provided.

Due to further time constraints, this matter was deferred to the August 31, 2023 Special Meeting of the Governance and Priorities Committee.

4.2.7 Arts, Culture and Events Venues Business Line Budgetary Information [GPC2023-0614]

The City Clerk reported that due to time constraints at the July 25, 2023 Governance and Priorities Committee Special meeting, this matter was deferred to the August 15, 2023 special meeting.

A revised report of the Corporate Financial Services Division was provided.

Due to further time constraints, this matter was deferred to the August 31, 2023 Special Meeting of the Governance and Priorities Committee.

4.2.8 Recreation and Culture Business Line Information [GPC2023-0807]

A report of the Corporate Financial Services Division was provided.

Due to time constraints, this matter was deferred to the August 31, 2023 Special Meeting of the Governance and Priorities Committee.

4.2.9 Urban Planning and Development Business Line Information [GPC2023-0806]

A report of the Corporate Financial Services Division was provided.

Due to time constraints, this matter was deferred to the August 31, 2023 Special Meeting of the Governance and Priorities Committee.

4.3 FTE Reports

4.3.1 Full-Time Equivalent Municipal Comparison [GPC2023-0605]

The City Clerk reported that due to time constraints at the July 25, 2023 Governance and Priorities Committee Special meeting, this matter was deferred to the August 15, 2023 special meeting.

A report of the Corporate Financial Services Division was provided.

Due to further time constraints, this matter was deferred to the August 31, 2023 Special Meeting of the Governance and Priorities Committee.

4.3.2 Impacts of Hiring Freeze or Not Adding Future Staff [GPC2023-0605]

The City Clerk reported that due to time constraints at the July 25, 2023 Governance and Priorities Committee Special meeting, this matter was deferred to the August 15, 2023 special meeting.

A report of the City Manager's Office was provided.

Due to further time constraints, this matter was deferred to the August 31, 2023 Special Meeting of the Governance and Priorities Committee.

4.3.3 Temporary Workforce Report [GPC2023-0704]

The City Clerk reported that due to time constraints at the July 25, 2023 Governance and Priorities Committee Special meeting, this matter was deferred to the August 15, 2023 special meeting.

A report of the Human Resources Division was provided.

Due to further time constraints, this matter was deferred to the August 31, 2023 Special Meeting of the Governance and Priorities Committee.

4.4 Comparing the Growth in Federal, Provincial, and Municipal Operating Budgetary Expenditures 2017 - 2023 [CC2023-0604]

The City Clerk reported that due to time constraints at the July 25, 2023 Governance and Priorities Committee Special meeting, this matter was deferred to the August 15, 2023 special meeting.

A report of the City Manager's Office was provided.

Due to further time constraints, this matter was deferred to the August 31, 2023 Special Meeting of the Governance and Priorities Committee.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Mayor C. Clark, Chair

City Clerk A. Tittlemore