

**The Following Matters Were Dealt With At the  
Council and General Committee Meetings held on March 5, 2007**

**COUNCIL**

**PRESENTATION – M.P. PATRICK BROWN**

Mayor Aspden welcomed Patrick Brown, Member of Parliament for Barrie and former Councillor representing Ward 3 to the City Council meeting. M.P. Brown presented the City of Barrie with a cheque in the amount of \$353,976 as the Federal government's one-third contribution to the Canada Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (COMRIF) for the Hotchkiss Creek Project. He noted that under the COMRIF Program, the Federal contribution is being matched by both the Province and the Municipal governments. M.P. Brown commented that a large number of municipalities had applied for the COMRIF funding and that many of the municipalities were jealous of Barrie's success on both this application and its previous Intake 2 application. He noted that Barrie's success was the result of strong technical proposals and the work of City staff. He specifically cited the efforts of both Craig Hebert and Rebecca James-Reid in the preparation of the Intake 3 submission.

M.P. Brown presented a cheque in the amount of \$8.3 million dollars as the Federal government's contribution to the reinstatement of GO transit service to Barrie. He noted that as part of the tri-party agreement, the Federal contribution is being matched by both the Province and the Municipal governments.

M.P. Brown expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to meet with members of Council regarding various intergovernmental matters. He provided an update on recent activities and legislation enacted in Ottawa relating to areas of concern expressed by Barrie residents.

Members of Council asked M.P. Brown for comments concerning the following:

- Federal assistance for transit programs in Barrie
- Health care funding and initiatives aimed at reducing wait times for patients
- Efforts to address the fiscal imbalance faced by municipalities
- Allocation of court security costs and funding for police services
- Physician shortages and doctor recruitment initiatives
- Federal government initiatives to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and increase awareness of environmental issues
- Funding initiatives related to affordable housing and addressing homelessness
- The determination of gas pricing, addressing disparities in pricing across the country and reallocation of gasoline tax revenues to address infrastructure needs at the local level

Mayor Aspden thanked M.P. Patrick Brown for his visit and update regarding intergovernmental affairs.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Alex Nuttall passed along best wishes to Mayor Aspden from Mike "Pinball" Clemons, coach of the Toronto Argonauts.

Mayor Dave Aspden noted that the Canadian Cancer Society has announced the donation of \$1 million dollars to the Royal Victoria Hospital at a flag raising held on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mayor Aspden announced that the month of March has been proclaimed as Red Cross Month. The Canadian Red Cross Society is engaged in preventing and alleviating human suffering across Canada and around the world. He urged residents to support the Canadian Red Cross Society by regularly volunteering time or financially supporting Red Cross programs across the world and across the street.

Mayor Aspden announced that March has been proclaimed as Kidney Health Month. The Kidney Foundation of Canada is the only national health charity serving the particular needs of people living with kidney disease through funding research, providing educational and emotional support programs, promoting access to high quality health care, and actively promoting awareness of and commitment to kidney health and organ donation. Mayor Aspden urged all citizens to cooperate in the Kidney Foundation of Canada's March fundraising campaign to help fight against kidney disease.

**GENERAL COMMITTEE**

**PRESENTATION – STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR THE 2007 – 2010 CITY COUNCIL**

R. James-Reid, Director of Strategic Services provided a presentation on the Strategic Priorities for 2007-2010. Ms. James-Reid noted that the Strategic Priorities drive many of the key projects that staff will focus on in the Corporate Business Plan. She commented that the Corporate Business Plan is the action plan to achieve the Strategic Priorities set out by each term of Council.

Ms. James-Reid commented that Council members met on February 17, 2007 for the purpose of establishing the Strategic Priorities for this term of Council. She noted that comments from the Mayor's Public Open Houses in January, 2007; comments from community groups, election feedback and priorities identified by each of the City's Councillors were considered in determining the Strategic Priorities.

Ms. James-Reid advised that the Council's Strategic Priority Planning Session resulted in the determination of the following 10 Strategic Priorities (in no particular order) for this term of council:

- a) Attract, Retain and Expand Business for Barrie
- b) Ensure a Balanced Approach to Growth Management
  - Boundary expansion to ensure a live/work community
  - Intensification to build a Complete Community
- c) Position Barrie at the Forefront of Environmental Issues
- d) Increase fiscal responsibility to ensure controlled spending and best value for tax dollars
- e) Initiate an Infrastructure Renewal Program to prioritize rehabilitation and repair of roads, pipes and other City assets

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**PRESENTATION – STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR THE 2007 – 2010 CITY COUNCIL (Continued)**

- f) Implement revitalization plans for the City Centre
  - Historic downtown, Allandale, Waterfront and Bradford Street
- g) Ensure Proactive Communications with the public and increased opportunities for Citizen Engagement
- h) Influence Senior Levels of Government to take responsibility for downloaded Services
  - New Deal for Cities
  - Affordable Housing
  - Health Care - Doctor Shortage
  - Social Services
- i) Enhance Public Spaces throughout the City
  - Parks, Trails, Streetscapes, Waterfront
- j) Encourage Culture as an Economic Driver

Ms. James-Reid noted that an update will be provided to Council in June 2007 with a more detailed 4 year business plan. She also commented that a promotional report will be developed to advise the community of Council's new priorities, and that posters of Council's Strategic Priorities will be created and posted throughout City Hall and City facilities.

Ms. James-Reid concluded by noting that an Annual Report will be distributed in January 2008 and each January thereafter which will communicate the city's corporate successes of the past year.

**PRESENTATION – 2007 OPERATING BUDGETS**

S. Ross, City Treasurer provided a presentation regarding the 2007 Operating Budgets. Ms. Ross noted that the municipal portion of the average Ontario family's tax bill is 8% based on an average family of two or more. She commented that the Operating Budget is facing pressures from inflation, residential growth not paying for itself, growth in health care service costs and service level increases. Ms. Ross also indicated that service partners such as Barrie Police Services, the County of Simcoe, Conservation Authorities and the Royal Victoria Hospital comprise 44% of the proposed 2007 tax expenditures. Ms. Ross presented comparison information from BMA Consulting Ltd. regarding tax rates and the net levy per person for Barrie and other similar municipalities.

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**PRESENTATION – 2007 OPERATING BUDGETS (Continued)**

Ms. Ross noted that the 2007 Operating Budget is being developed with the following objectives:

- Maintaining existing services levels including emergency services and emergency preparedness
- Increasing service levels including new transit routes, Holly Recreation Centre, MacLaren Art Centre facility, Allandale Train Station, cultural plan, Allandale Community Improvement Plan and cat by-law
- The transfer of \$3.2 M to reserves to offset future debt and the south end branch library
- Continued support for the Royal Victoria Hospital expansion project
- Attracting industry to expand, relocate and remain in Barrie by maintaining low industrial taxes in relation to similar municipalities

Ms. Ross provided details regarding budget pressures faced by the City of Barrie and its service partners. Ms. Ross noted that a 5.27% blended tax rate increase is proposed for the 2007 Operating Budget. She outlined the impact of the tax rate increase would be \$152 on a residential property with an assessed value of \$218,000. Based on the information from the City's comparator municipalities, residential taxes in Barrie would remain the second lowest.

Ms. Ross provided an overview of the water, wastewater and parking user rate based budgets.

Ms. Ross concluded by advising that the budget documents would be distributed to Council on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007 and that General Committee will begin its deliberations regarding the Operating Budgets on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

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**The following matters will be considered by City Council on March 19, 2007:**

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2007 - 2010 CITY COUNCIL**

The Committee approved a recommendation to adopt Council's Strategic Priorities for the 2007-10 Council term as outlined below:

- a) Attract, Retain and Expand Business for Barrie
- b) Ensure a Balanced Approach to Growth Management
  - Boundary expansion to ensure a live/work community
  - Intensification to build a Complete Community
- c) Position Barrie at the Forefront of Environmental Issues
- d) Increase fiscal responsibility to ensure controlled spending and best value for tax dollars
- e) Initiate an Infrastructure Renewal Program to prioritize rehabilitation and repair of roads, pipes and other City assets
- f) Implement revitalization plans for the City Centre
  - Historic downtown, Allandale, Waterfront and Bradford Street
- g) Ensure Proactive Communications with the public and increased opportunities for Citizen Engagement
- h) Influence Senior Levels of Government to take responsibility for Downloaded Services
  - New Deal for Cities
  - Affordable Housing
  - Health Care - Doctor Shortage
  - Social Services
- i) Enhance Public Spaces throughout the City
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Staff will provide an update to Council in June and in December of each year on the progress of the Corporate Business Plan, and Council will meet thereafter to review their established Strategic Priorities.

Staff will publicly communicate an update of the Strategic Priorities after Council's review, and staff will develop an Annual Report to be distributed in January 2008 and each January thereafter which will communicate and celebrate the City's corporate successes of the past year.

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**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2007 - 2010 CITY COUNCIL – ACTION PLANS**

The consideration of the list of action plans associated with each of the 10 Strategic Priorities as per Appendix "A" to Staff Report CAO002-07 was deferred until the General Committee meeting scheduled for March 26, 2007.

**SIGN BY-LAW MINOR VARIANCE - DOUGLAS FORD LINCOLN SALES LIMITED, 379 BAYFIELD STREET, BARRIE**

The Committee approved a recommendation to grant a minor variance from By-law 2005-093 to Douglas Ford Lincoln Sales Limited to permit the relocation of four (4) ground signs at 379 Bayfield Street, Barrie each at a set back of 0.0 metres from the street line, 0.0 metres from the driveway and parking spaces and requiring 0.0 metres of landscaping treatment.

**SIGN BY-LAW MINOR VARIANCE - IMPERIAL OIL LIMITED, 369 BAYFIELD STREET, BARRIE**

The Committee approved a recommendation to grant a minor variance from By-law 2005-093 to Imperial Oil Limited to permit the relocation of three (3) ground signs at 369 Bayfield Street, Barrie each at a set back of 0.0 metres from the street line, 0.0 metres from the driveway and parking spaces and requiring 0.0 metres of landscaping treatment.

**SIGN BY-LAW MINOR VARIANCE - 596619 ONTARIO LIMITED, 397 BAYFIELD STREET, BARRIE**

The Committee approved a recommendation to grant a minor variance from By-law 2005-093 to 596619 Ontario Limited to permit the relocation of 4 ground signs at 397 Bayfield Street, Barrie each at a set back of 0.0 metres from the street line, 0.0 metres from the driveway and parking spaces and requiring 0.0 metres of landscaping treatment.

596619 Ontario Limited will also be granted a minor variance from By-law 2005-093 to permit a height variance of 1.5 m for the pylon sign to be re-located at the north entrance.

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**DOWNTOWN BARRIE PARKING STRATEGY**

The Committee approved a recommendation to adopt the near-term (5 year) parking strategy, to address parking issues in Downtown Barrie and to address the forecasted parking reserve fund deficit, as follows:

- a) That the City and the Downtown Barrie Business Association develop a plan to communicate to the public downtown parking changes that includes the use of the media, brochures/pamphlets, City Page, website, and outdoor signage within the downtown and at entrance points to the downtown.
- b) That a 15 minute grace period be added to the parking expiration time.
- c) That Saturday on-street parking fees and enforcement be eliminated and that free Saturday off-street parking be introduced, and that the Traffic By-law and Fees By-law be so amended.
- d) That during the month of December on-street parking fees and enforcement be maintained and that free off-street parking be introduced, and that the Traffic By-law and Fees-By-law be so amended.
- e) That an evening parking flat fee of \$1.00 rising to \$2.00 on January 1, 2009 be introduced with no enforcement for the initial three months, from 5 pm to 10 pm from Monday to Friday for on-street parking, including enforcement, and that the Traffic By-law and Fees-By-law be so amended.
- f) That on January 1, 2009 on-street parking fees be increased to \$1.00 per hour, off-street parking fees be increased to \$0.75 per hour (max. \$5.50 per day, maximum monthly rate of \$70), and that the Traffic By-law and Fees-By-law be so amended and that staff investigate the potential for discounting monthly passes for employees in the downtown with proof of employment and report back to General Committee.
- g) That staff in the Leisure, Transit and Facilities Department investigate opportunities to provide improved transit linkages to Downtown Barrie and the Waterfront.
- h) That staff in the Engineering Department investigate alternative payment methods for parking fees and report back to General Committee.

The long-term parking strategy will be adopted to address parking issues in Downtown Barrie and the Waterfront, as follows:

- a) That the City negotiate joint venture agreements with developers in Downtown Barrie, to replace some or all of the existing parking, all subject to Council approval.
- b) That staff in the Engineering Department update the Parking Study in 2011 and report back to General Committee on the balance of the Parking Reserve Fund Account, including the identification of parking issues and recommendations to improve the financial model associated with the existing Parking Fees By-law.
- c) That the City's Legal and Real Estate Services Branch be authorized to acquire properties, as required for the implementation of future parking needs subject to adequate parking reserve fund balance, and all subject to Council approval.

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**DOWNTOWN BARRIE PARKING STRATEGY – HIRING OF ENFORCEMENT STAFF**

The Committee approved a recommendation to defer consideration of the City Clerk's Office hiring part-time Municipal law Enforcement Officers and administration support staff for the purpose of carrying out the required external enforcement and related administration duties, to the General Committee meeting scheduled for March 26, 2006.

**GRAND PRIX OF BARRIE MIDWAY**

The Committee approved a recommendation authorizing Cameron Motorsports to operate a midway at the 2007 Grand Prix of Barrie located on Lakeshore Drive between Victoria Street and the south Centennial Park parking lot; the midway to operate from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on June 22 and 23, 2007 with no amplified sound after 6:00 p.m. and from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on June 24, 2007.

Cameron Motorsports will be required to pay a performance bond of \$10,000 to operate the 2007 Grand Prix of Barrie.

**RESOLUTION – FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FISCAL IMBALANCE**

The Committee approved a recommendation supporting the Government of Ontario's position and its efforts to address the federal/provincial fiscal imbalance fairly, equitably, without increasing the federal equalization program (and including the creation of a tri-lateral national public commission on fiscal arrangements).

M.P. Patrick Brown, M.P.P. Joe Tascona, the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, the Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Jim Flaherty, Federal Minister of Finance, the Honourable John Gerretsen, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Marie Bountrogianni, Ontario Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario will be advised that Council supports Ontario's position on the fiscal imbalance.

**RESTRICTIONS ON STOPPING ON BEAR CREEK DRIVE BETWEEN SUNDEW DRIVE AND RED OAK DRIVE**

The Committee approved a recommendation requesting staff in the Engineering Department to investigate the feasibility of eliminating the current restrictions on stopping on Bear Creek Drive between Sundew Drive and Red Oak Drive between the hours of 08:00 and 09:00 hours weekdays (excluding holidays) and between 15:00 to 16:00 weekdays (excluding holidays) hours and report back to General Committee.

**RESTRICTIONS ON STOPPING ON THE NORTH SIDE OF MAPLETON AVENUE BETWEEN EMMS DRIVE AND ALLSOP CRESCENT**

The Committee approved a recommendation requesting staff in the Engineering Department to investigate the feasibility of eliminating the current restrictions on stopping on the north side of Mapleton Avenue between Emms Drive and Allsop Crescent between the hours and 08:30 to 09:30 hours weekdays (excluding holidays) and between 15:00 to 16:00 hours weekdays (excluding holidays) and report back to General Committee.

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**TRAFFIC CALMING PILOT PROJECT**

The Committee approved a recommendation requesting staff in the Engineering Department to develop an inventory of local/minor collector roadways for consideration as part of a traffic calming pilot project and report back to General Committee with two (2) recommended roadways for the pilot project.

Staff will conduct a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for the two (2) selected roadways and report back to General Committee with cost and financing to implement.

Pending the successful completion of the Municipal Class Environment Assessment, staff will implement and monitor the effectiveness of the traffic calming pilot project for a one year period and report back to General Committee.

**PRESENTATION BY BRUCE OWEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE GREATER BARRIE PERFORMING ARTS  
CENTRE BOARD**

The Committee approved a recommendation to extend an invitation to Bruce Owen, Chairman of the Greater Barrie Performing Arts Centre Board to make a presentation to General Committee regarding a future entertainment centre.

For further details, please contact:

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Deputy City Clerk,  
Phone: (705) 739-4220 ext. 4421