

Memorandum

Date: March 5, 2021
Submitted by: Finance and Technology Department – Financial Services Division
Subject: 2021 Budget Deliberations

At the January 19, 2021 Finance Committee meeting, staff introduced the 2021 Five-Year Financial Plan at an increase of \$1,998,000, estimated to be a 4.50% tax increase to maintain 2020 levels of service and introduce a few new funding requirements for 2021.

At the February 2 and February 16, 2021 Finance Committee meetings, staff gave detailed departmental presentations of the 2021 Five-Year Financial Plan.

At the March 2, 2021 Closed Finance Committee meeting, the committee approved reductions to the operating budget resulting in a total 2021 budget increase of \$1,573,000, estimated at a 3.55% tax increase.

At the March 16, 2021 Finance Committee meeting, staff will be presenting the results of the public engagement for the 2021 Financial Plan, and the Tax Policy to be included in the Financial Plan Bylaw.

The only outstanding motion from the Finance Committee pertaining to the 2021 Financial Plan is the following:

FC21/009b and 012

THAT staff report back on using funding from the digital billboard lighting bonus for one-time projects in the New Initiatives Reserve requiring one-time funding.

The New Initiatives Reserve requires \$33,050 of additional funding to be fully balanced by the end of 2025. A portion of the signing bonus could be transferred to this reserve to balance the 2021-2025 Financial Plan.

To address the outstanding motion, staff are recommending the following resolution:

THAT \$33,050 from the digital billboard lighting bonus be transferred to the New Initiatives Reserve as recommended in the memo dated March 5, 2021 from the Finance and Technology Department – Financial Services Division regarding 2021 Budget Deliberations.

Staff have concluded their submissions for the 2021 Financial Plan process. The draft 2021 Financial Plan is currently sitting at a 3.55% increase pending further Committee revisions. Should the Committee wish to engage in further deliberations, Committee members are asked to submit specific areas for discussion and analysis, or amendments.

There is one Finance Committee meeting scheduled for April 5, 2021 before the 2021 Financial Plan needs to be referred to Council (April 27, 2021 Regular Council meeting for first three readings). Should the Committee wish to conclude deliberations on the 2021-2025 Five-Year Financial Plan, staff recommend the following resolution:

THAT staff be directed to prepare the 2021-2025 Financial Plan Bylaw and 2021 Tax Rates Bylaw for Council consideration based on the 3.55% tax rate increase as discussed in the memo dated March 5, 2021 from the Finance and Technology Department – Financial Services Division regarding 2021 Budget Deliberations.

The resolutions in this memo are:

THAT \$33,050 from the digital billboard lighting bonus be transferred to the New Initiatives Reserve as recommended in the memo dated March 5, 2021 from the Finance and Technology Department – Financial Services Division regarding 2021 Budget Deliberations;

AND THAT staff be directed to prepare the 2021-2025 Financial Plan Bylaw and 2021 Tax Rates Bylaw for Council consideration based on the 3.55% tax rate increase as discussed in the memo dated March 5, 2021 from the Finance and Technology Department – Financial Services Division regarding 2021 Budget Deliberations.

Attachments:

1. Updated 2021-2025 New Initiatives Reserve Analyses.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2021 Budget Deliberations.docx
Attachments:	- Updated 2021-2025 New Initiatives Reserve Analyses.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Mar 10, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - Mar 9, 2021 - 9:19 AM

Dorothy Shermer, Corporate Officer - Mar 9, 2021 - 10:21 AM

Rosemary Lodge, Manager of Communications and Engagement - Mar 9, 2021 - 4:08 PM

Tim Savoie, City Manager - Mar 10, 2021 - 3:07 PM