



London
C A N A D A

January 19, 2016

Members of Advisory Committees

On January 11, 2016, City of London Administration presented the 2016-2019 Budget to Municipal Council for their consideration. This was the first multi-year budget for the City of London and I recommended that Council consider a number of factors when reviewing and approving this multi-year budget:

- Consider the average impact over the four years, not just the effect of one year.
- Ensure the budget is leading toward the accomplishment of Council's strategic plan, but recognize that this plan has a significantly longer time horizon.
- Stick to the effective financial principles that have been employed over the last fourteen years.

The starting point for the multi-year budget is an average annual increase of 2.6% (the recommended base budget) to maintain existing programs and services. Council was also presented with options for funding for potential new or expanded initiatives that would achieve the eleven prioritized strategic initiatives identified by Council in July 2015 (see attached Council resolution). Council will consider additional funding through a business case for each new initiative through the budget process. As new initiatives are approved, the budget will increase. If all initiatives are approved as presented, there would be an additional average annual increase of 0.5%, for a total average annual increase of 3.1%.

Municipal Council puts a priority on internal/external engagement. Council has asked that City of London Advisory Committees be proactively engaged and encouraged to provide input with respect to the draft budget and that any feedback be gathered and presented to Council for consideration during budget deliberations. To this end, we have asked the staff representative on your committee to walk through the attached worksheet to gather input on the budget that is of specific interest to your committee.

Thank you in advance for your important contribution to the budget process.

Martin P. Hayward, CPA, CGA

Managing Director, Corporate Services and City Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer



16 MULTI-YEAR BUDGET FOR THE 19 CITY OF LONDON 2016 • 2019

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

INPUT FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Name of Advisory Committee - Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

Mandate of Advisory Committee - Companion Animal and Wildlife Welfare

What areas of the 2016 – 2019 multi-year budget are most important to your committee?

- **Strengthening Communities: Caring and compassionate Services by expanding Animal Welfare Initiative Strategy-**Investing dollars into Trap Spay and Neuter, along with funding for low income families to spay and neuter their pets be an important priority within the budget and to ensure that funds be available to that end year round.
- **Strengthening Communities: Caring and compassionate services-expanded welfare Initiative Strategy-Humane Wildlife Conflict Policy-**Invest in community outreach, awareness, and education regarding urban wildlife, as well as a Coyote Investigation and Response Team to provide on sight assessment, investigation, and strategies, enforcement in accordance with city bylaws to address urban coyote issues in order to increase public awareness, address public safety concerns, urban wildlife conflict resolution, and co flourishing with wildlife.
- **Building Sustainable City Strong Healthy Environment:** Incorporate into the budget funds to address lighting and window treatments in relationship to bird strikes and deaths as has been done in Toronto in collaboration with the Fatal Light Awareness Program.

Do you have any comments about how your priorities are addressed in the base budget?

- Community Funding has been helpful and needs to be maintained. . Assisting Community rescue groups continues to be essential as they play an important role in connecting low income families and concerned public to funds for spay and neuter, animals in need.
- The provision of a city veterinarian will be invaluable, as is animal adoption program.
- Consideration be given to the city purchase of a building for the provision of Animal Services so that investment into the city's own asset will over time then increase funds and flexibility in terms of the allocation of funds for animal services initiatives.
- We are currently working on recommendations to the city regarding the development of a model that would work for our city to address urban wildlife conflict and public safety and as stated in the previous question, would wish for funds to be allocated accordingly
- It is wonderful to see the strategic plan and budget allocation to environmental initiatives to protect woodlands, wetlands, rivers, water courses, and air quality which will also benefit wildlife and city residents, enjoyment of them.



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INPUT FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES (cont'd)

Do you have any comments about how your priorities are addressed in the strategic initiatives section of the 2016-2019 multi-year budget?

Do you have any other comments from the Committee with respect to the budget?

Background supporting the proposed Bylaw to regulate Chaining or Penning of Dogs, and Outdoor conditions:

AWAC is aware that members of Civic Administration recommended to the Community and Protective Services Committee not to proceed with such a bylaw due to concerns with enforceability, and to instead rely on Humane legislation to protect dogs from suffering as chronically chained dogs, including the issue of dogs left outside during extremes of weather.

Given their initial recommendation to rely on Humane legislation we wish to comment further.

A previous case of a chained dog as reported in Hamilton, Ontario, provides a good illustration of why the Standards of Care contained in the *OSPCA Act* cannot be relied on to provide appropriate protection to outdoor dogs.

Note that since this case was reported there have been no updates to the *OSPCA Act* so the road-blocks involved in helping a dog chained outdoors remain.

In Hamilton, a short-coated Portuguese Fila dog being used as a guard dog lived chained to a dog house. Neighbours observed the dog shivering in the cold, and news reporters observed the dog's water pail was frozen solid.

The dog's situation was reported to the Hamilton/Burlington SPCA whose agent investigated and did not find a violation. Note, that this does not mean that the dog was not suffering, only that according to the *OSPCA Act* - Standards of Care the agent determined that there was no violation.

Yet, as reported in a news article we read further:

"Emo [Marion Emo, president and CEO of the Hamilton/Burlington SPCA] says that SPCA officers are bound by the standards of Ontario's SPCA act, which doesn't specifically dictate that dogs can't be kept outside in extremely cold weather. The standards apply to all breeds of dogs, whether they're adaptive to cold temperatures or not."

That means that in Ontario, the standards of shelter and care in the cold for a breed like a Husky are the same as they are for a Chihuahua.

"It's absolutely been very cold. It's understandable that people are concerned about the dogs outside — and that's a good thing," Emo said. "But we are bound by the standards in the act."

from:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/news/guard-dog-left-out-in-record-cold-returned-to-his-owner-1.2489276>

These inadequacies as pointed out by the president and CEO of the Hamilton/Burlington SPCA demonstrate why responsible municipalities are being asked to pass bylaws that clearly define the conditions that dogs can be made to live in within their boundaries.

Given that Mississauga, Oshawa, and Windsor have passed bylaws limiting the amount of time that a dog can be chained outdoors we assume that such a bylaw should also be possible in London.

Given past cases, such as the one in Hamilton, concerning dogs who did not receive help due to the inadequacies of the Standards of Care contained in the *OSPCA Act* we propose the attached recommendation regarding a proposed bylaw to better protect dogs made to live outdoors.

AWAC's Updated Recommendation:

Regarding the issue of Chaining/Tethering:

Regardless of type of dog:

- No dog shall be chained/tethered for longer than 8 hours with a minimum tether length of 3 metres.
- Penning is allowed if the pen is a minimum size of 10 x 10 and includes an insulated, waterproof shelter that provides full protection from the elements.
- No dog shall be chained/tethered or penned during a cold weather alert or extreme heat alert.
- All dogs must have constant access to potable water.

Exemptions:

Exemptions from this bylaw may be provided on the sole discretion of the City veterinarian.

The 'use' of the dog, regardless if the dog is used for guarding, hunting, sledding or any other use does not change the essential needs of the dog. All dogs require companionship, stimulation, and exercise and these essential needs are not altered by the use that the owner/guardian intends for the dog.

Any exemptions shall therefore be based on the specific needs of the dog and not on the convenience of the owner/guardian or their intended use of the dog.