

From: C. Butler
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 4:11 PM
To: SPPC <sppc@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Added Agenda - SPPC MTG - March 8 - Assessment Growth Funding Allocation

Please consider this an “ Added Agenda “ submission with respect to the SPPC meeting March 8/22 – for agenda item 2.1 – (New) Assessment Growth Funding Allocation .

Mayor Holder – SPPC / Council Members;

I ask you to consider the following recommendations going forward with respect to the current by – law governing our current Assessment Growth Allocation process to provide & improve taxpayer transparency and deliver longer term value added;

1. Line up the timing of this process and the opportunity for broader feedback with the annual public budget meeting process as is current done other Ontario cities including our neighbour St Thomas. This offers up two opportunities we are currently missing ;

- Provide Public Meeting feedback on the business cases forwarded by our CFO and the opportunity for Q / A on allocation of between \$ 8 M - \$ 11 Million annual in the (New) Assessment Growth Bucket & it’s carryover.

- Provide both Council & the Public with a much needed opportunity to review all the requested additions to our Operating Budget for the upcoming year concurrently which improves prioritization , funding sources and timing decision opportunities as this is now concurrent.

- Example – We all often see “ credits “ logged in the Service Improvements columns of the current Annual Budget , only to show up later as Business Cases for the Assessment Growth Allocation .

2. Allocation Business Case selection criteria should be more heavily weighted to rewarding those City Services that have been and currently are regular contributors to the City of London’s Service Improvements or Continuous Improvement Program . This assures all taxpayers that the selection process is rewarding those management teams that have made their best & consistent efforts to absorb the same growth challenges we ALL FACE in the Business World with a fixed budget ; are the ones that are rewarded with the allocation. Adding this selection criteria would also immediately add much needed expansion & depth to the number of teams successfully participating in our CIP / Service Improvement Programs; as all Directors & Managers would immediate connect the dots.

3. There is a strong taxpayer supported case to be build that this (New) Assessment Growth Funding should be used annually to “ top up “ the Reserve Fund that currently supports the 10 year pay back of **waived** Development Fees in the City of London’s DC Incentive Zones . This RECO applies to year # 1 of the Allocation with the carry over going back to the CFO for Allocation the next year with the current business case process. This funding or “ top up “ is current supported as a direct levy on taxpayers and is estimated at between \$ 4 - \$5 million annually. There is currently ZERO taxpayer reward for participating in the ever growing DC Incentive Program as we get hit with the bill and not rewarded with any of the (New) Assessment Growth Funding this incentive program is “ apparently “ driving this growth back to the Tax Levy Budget . This RECO assures GROWTH PAYS FOR GROWTH perpetually or these programs get reviewed for actual Tax Levy based ROI.

Thanks >. Chris Butler