



The Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie
Budget Meeting of City Council
Minutes

Monday, December 9, 2024

5:00 pm

Council Chambers and Video Conference

Present: Mayor M. Shoemaker, Councillor S. Hollingsworth, Councillor S. Spina, Councillor L. Dufour (by video), Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen, Councillor A. Caputo, Councillor R. Zagordo, Councillor M. Bruni, Councillor S. Kinach, Councillor C. Gardi, Councillor M. Scott

Officials: T. Vair, R. Tyczinski, K. Fields, S. Schell, P. Johnson, S. Hamilton Beach, B. Lamming, T. Anderson, F. Coccimiglio, M. Borowicz-Sibenik, P. Tonazzo, C. Rumiel, N. Ottolino, S. Facey, J. King, D. Perri, N. Maione, T. Vecchio, M. Zuppa, K. Coccimiglio, G. Nicholson, J. Ricard, R. Van Staveren, K. Izydorczyk, K. Pulkkinen

1. Closed Session

Moved by: Councillor R. Zagordo

Seconded by: Councillor S. Hollingsworth

Resolved that this Council move into closed session to discuss one item explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality by Canada;

Further Be It Resolved that should the said closed session be adjourned, the Council may reconvene in closed session to continue to discuss the same matter without the need for a further authorizing resolution.

Municipal Act R.S.O. 2001 – section 239 2 (h) information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board by Canada, a province or territory or a Crown agency of any of them

Carried.

2. Land Acknowledgement

3. Approve Agenda as Presented

Moved by: Councillor R. Zagordo

Seconded by: Councillor S. Spina

Resolved that the Agenda for December 9, 2024 Budget Meeting as presented be approved.

Carried.

4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

5. Sault Trailblazers Land Lease Permission Agreement – By-law 2024-180

The report of the Solicitor was received by Council.

Moved by: Councillor A. Caputo

Seconded by: Councillor S. Hollingsworth

Resolved that By-Law 2024-180 being a by-law to authorize the execution of the Agreement between the City and The Sault Ste. Marie Trailblazers Snowmobile Club Inc. for a land use agreement for the use of city properties for its trail network be passed in open Council this 9th day of December, 2024

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	For	Against	Conflict	Absent
Mayor M. Shoemaker	X			
Councillor S. Hollingsworth	X			
Councillor S. Spina	X			
Councillor L. Dufour				X
Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen	X			
Councillor A. Caputo	X			
Councillor R. Zagordo	X			
Councillor M. Bruni	X			
Councillor S. Kinach				X
Councillor C. Gardi	X			
Councillor M. Scott				X
Results	8	0	0	3
				Carried

6. Ontario Regulation 284/09

The report of the Manager of Finance was received by Council.

Moved by: Councillor R. Zagordo

Seconded by: Councillor S. Hollingsworth

Resolved that the report of the Manager of Finance, dated December 9, 2024, concerning Ontario Regulation 284/09 be approved for the budget year 2025.

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	For	Against	Conflict	Absent
Mayor M. Shoemaker	X			
Councillor S. Hollingsworth	X			
Councillor S. Spina	X			
Councillor L. Dufour				X
Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen	X			
Councillor A. Caputo	X			
Councillor R. Zagordo	X			
Councillor M. Bruni	X			
Councillor S. Kinach				X
Councillor C. Gardi	X			
Councillor M. Scott				X
Results	8	0	0	3
				Carried

7. Budget 2025 Community Engagement

Moved by: Councillor A. Caputo

Seconded by: Councillor S. Hollingsworth

Resolved that the report of the Communications Officer dated December 9, 2024 regarding Budget 2025 Community Feedback be received as information.

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	For	Against	Conflict	Absent
Mayor M. Shoemaker	X			
Councillor S. Hollingsworth	X			
Councillor S. Spina	X			
Councillor L. Dufour				X
Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen	X			
Councillor A. Caputo	X			
Councillor R. Zagordo	X			
Councillor M. Bruni	X			
Councillor S. Kinach	X			
Councillor C. Gardi	X			
Councillor M. Scott				X
Results	9	0	0	2
				Carried

8. 2025 Proposed Budget

Moved by: Councillor A. Caputo
 Seconded by: Councillor S. Spina

Resolved that City Council now proceed into the Committee of the Whole to consider the following matter referred to it for consideration – 2025 Budget Deliberations.

Carried

8.1 Operating Budget Deliberations

Moved by: Councillor R. Zagordo
 Seconded by: Councillor S. Spina

Resolved that the report of the CAO dated December 9, 2024 concerning 2025 Budget Additional Information be received.

Carried

8.1.1 Proposed Amendments Recommended by CAO

8.1.1.1 Automated Monetary Penalties Supporting Automated Speed Enforcement

Moved by: Councillor S. Hollingsworth

Seconded by: Councillor A. Caputo

Resolved that the addition of automated monetary penalties (AMPS) supporting automated speed enforcement to the 2025 budget at a cost of \$0 be approved.

	For	Against	Conflict	Absent
Mayor M. Shoemaker		X		
Councillor S. Hollingsworth	X			
Councillor S. Spina		X		
Councillor L. Dufour	X			
Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen		X		
Councillor A. Caputo	X			
Councillor R. Zagordo		X		
Councillor M. Bruni	X			
Councillor S. Kinach	X			
Councillor C. Gardi		X		
Councillor M. Scott		X		
Results	5	6	0	0

Defeated

8.1.1.2 Downtown Security

Resolved that the addition of Downtown Security to the 2025 budget at a cost of \$200,000 be approved.

Moved by: Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen

Seconded by: Councillor A. Caputo

Resolved that Council direct that the Downtown Security increase requested by staff in the sum of \$200,000 be funded at the sum of \$150,000, which is to be brought to Council in 2026 to determine if it is to remain allocated to the Downtown Security program, or be reallocated elsewhere in the operational budget.

	For	Against	Conflict	Absent
Mayor M. Shoemaker	X			
Councillor S. Hollingsworth	X			
Councillor S. Spina	X			
Councillor L. Dufour	X			
Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen	X			
Councillor A. Caputo	X			
Councillor R. Zagordo	X			
Councillor M. Bruni	X			
Councillor S. Kinach		X		
Councillor C. Gardi	X			
Councillor M. Scott	X			
Results	10	1	0	0
				Carried

8.1.1.3 Staff Complement

Moved by: Councillor A. Caputo

Seconded by: Councillor M. Bruni

Resolved that the addition of the following staff complement increases:

- Records and Elections Coordinator – \$59,776
- Application Support Analyst/Programmer – \$132,602
- Public Works maintenance employee – \$87,056
- Events Assistant – \$97,084
- Clerical Research Assistant (Legal) – \$83,983
- Cultural Industries Coordinator – \$100,591

in the amount of \$561,092 be approved, with funding from the Tax Stabilization Reserve for 2025 on a declining basis of 25% for each year thereafter;

and that staff report back to Council regarding outcomes from the review before the 2027 budget.

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	For	Against	Conflict	Absent
Mayor M. Shoemaker	X			
Councillor S. Hollingsworth	X			
Councillor S. Spina	X			
Councillor L. Dufour	X			
Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen	X			
Councillor A. Caputo	X			
Councillor R. Zagordo	X			
Councillor M. Bruni	X			
Councillor S. Kinach	X			
Councillor C. Gardi	X			
Councillor M. Scott	X			
Results	11	0	0	0
				Carried

Moved by: Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen
 Seconded by: Councillor M. Scott

Resolved that the motion be amended by removing the Events Assistant at \$97,084 and instead that the position be a contract position for 2025.

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	For	Against	Conflict	Absent
Mayor M. Shoemaker		X		
Councillor S. Hollingsworth		X		
Councillor S. Spina		X		
Councillor L. Dufour		X		
Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen	X			
Councillor A. Caputo		X		
Councillor R. Zagordo		X		
Councillor M. Bruni		X		
Councillor S. Kinach		X		
Councillor C. Gardi		X		
Councillor M. Scott	X			
Results	2	9	0	0
				Defeated

Moved by: Councillor S. Kinach
 Seconded by: Councillor R. Zagordo

Resolved that the following positions be added to the 2025 budget:

- Records and Election Coordinator – \$59,776
 - Public Works maintenance employee – \$87,056
 - Cultural Industries Coordinator – \$100,591
- at a total cost of \$247,423 be approved.

Officially Read and Not Dealt With

8.1.2 Proposed Amendments

8.1.2.1 Reduce Inflationary Increases to Capital Reserves

Moved by: Councillor S. Spina

Seconded by: Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen

Resolved that Council direct the reduction of the increase to capital reserves from \$419,170 down to \$69,170 for an operational savings of \$350,000.

	For	Against	Conflict	Absent
Mayor M. Shoemaker	X			
Councillor S. Hollingsworth		X		
Councillor S. Spina	X			
Councillor L. Dufour	X			
Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen	X			
Councillor A. Caputo	X			
Councillor R. Zagordo	X			
Councillor M. Bruni	X			
Councillor S. Kinach	X			
Councillor C. Gardi	X			
Councillor M. Scott	X			
Results	10	1	0	0
				Carried

8.1.2.2 Library Security

Moved by: Councillor L. Dufour

Seconded by: Councillor S. Kinach

Resolved that Council direct that the Library’s security and budgetary increase of \$45,000 be added to the 2025 operational budget.

	For	Against	Conflict	Absent
Mayor M. Shoemaker	X			
Councillor S. Hollingsworth		X		
Councillor S. Spina	X			
Councillor L. Dufour	X			
Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen	X			
Councillor A. Caputo	X			
Councillor R. Zagordo	X			
Councillor M. Bruni	X			
Councillor S. Kinach	X			
Councillor C. Gardi		X		
Councillor M. Scott	X			
Results	9	2	0	0
				Carried

8.1.2.3 Fund Cultural Vitality and Attractions

Moved by: Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen

Seconded by: Councillor S. Spina

Resolved that Council increase the Cultural Assistance Program funding by \$160,000 with \$90,000 of the increase allocated to an operational increase as follows:

- Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre – \$30,000
- Sault Ste. Marie Museum – \$30,000
- Art Gallery of Algoma – \$30,000

Further Be It Resolved that future annual increases requested by those three agencies be brought to and decided by the Cultural Vitality Committee.

	For	Against	Conflict	Absent
Mayor M. Shoemaker	X			
Councillor S. Hollingsworth	X			
Councillor S. Spina	X			
Councillor L. Dufour	X			
Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen	X			
Councillor A. Caputo	X			
Councillor R. Zagordo				X
Councillor M. Bruni	X			
Councillor S. Kinach	X			
Councillor C. Gardi	X			
Councillor M. Scott	X			
Results	10	0	0	1
				Carried

8.1.2.4 Annual Park Upgrades

Moved by: Councillor S. Kinach
 Seconded by: Councillor M. Bruni

Resolved that Council direct that the staff request for \$360,000 annually to be used toward park upgrades be funded in the amount of \$120,000 as an addition to the operational budget, with the balance subject to the amount available be drawn from the legislated 60% use of the park subdivider reserve.

	For	Against	Conflict	Absent
Mayor M. Shoemaker	X			
Councillor S. Hollingsworth	X			
Councillor S. Spina	X			
Councillor L. Dufour	X			
Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen	X			
Councillor A. Caputo	X			
Councillor R. Zagordo	X			
Councillor M. Bruni	X			
Councillor S. Kinach	X			
Councillor C. Gardi	X			
Councillor M. Scott	X			
Results	11	0	0	0
				Carried

8.1.2.5 Physician Recruitment

Moved by: Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen
 Seconded by: Councillor S. Spina

Resolved that Council direct the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee operational budget to support efforts to directly improve the local primary care shortage (as opposed to administration costs).

	For	Against	Conflict	Absent
Mayor M. Shoemaker	X			
Councillor S. Hollingsworth		X		
Councillor S. Spina	X			
Councillor L. Dufour	X			
Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen	X			
Councillor A. Caputo	X			
Councillor R. Zagordo	X			
Councillor M. Bruni	X			
Councillor S. Kinach	X			
Councillor C. Gardi	X			
Councillor M. Scott	X			
Results	10	1	0	0
				Carried

8.1.2.6 CDF Increase – Social Equity and Local Priorities

Moved by: Councillor M. Bruni
 Seconded by: Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen

Resolved that Council direct the sum of \$50,000 be added to the Community Development Fund for the Social Equity and Local Priorities Stream and that staff review and recommend any changes necessary to the criteria for this stream to best meet the community’s needs going forward.

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	For	Against	Conflict	Absent
Mayor M. Shoemaker	X			
Councillor S. Hollingsworth		X		
Councillor S. Spina	X			
Councillor L. Dufour	X			
Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen	X			
Councillor A. Caputo	X			
Councillor R. Zagordo	X			
Councillor M. Bruni	X			
Councillor S. Kinach	X			
Councillor C. Gardi	X			
Councillor M. Scott				X
Results	9	1	0	1
				Carried

8.1.2.7 Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Moved by: Councillor A. Caputo

Seconded by: Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen

Resolved that Council reallocate \$10,000 from the Annual Conferences and Major Special Events Funding to Sault Ste Marie’s Dolly Parton Imagination Library beginning in 2025 and going forward.

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	For	Against	Conflict	Absent
Mayor M. Shoemaker	X			
Councillor S. Hollingsworth	X			
Councillor S. Spina	X			
Councillor L. Dufour	X			
Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen	X			
Councillor A. Caputo	X			
Councillor R. Zagordo	X			
Councillor M. Bruni	X			
Councillor S. Kinach	X			
Councillor C. Gardi		X		
Councillor M. Scott	X			
Results	10	1	0	0
				Carried

8.1.3 Sault Ste. Marie Police Service Correspondence

8.2 Supplementary Items

Moved by: Councillor S. Kinach

Seconded by: Councillor M. Bruni

Resolved that funding to the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre in the amount of \$138,945 for 2025 be approved.

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	For	Against	Conflict	Absent
Mayor M. Shoemaker		X		
Councillor S. Hollingsworth		X		
Councillor S. Spina		X		
Councillor L. Dufour	X			
Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen		X		
Councillor A. Caputo		X		
Councillor R. Zagordo		X		
Councillor M. Bruni		X		
Councillor S. Kinach	X			
Councillor C. Gardi		X		
Councillor M. Scott		X		
Results	2	9	0	0
				Defeated

8.3 Capital Budget Deliberations

Moved by: Councillor M. Bruni
 Seconded by: Councillor M. Scott

Resolved that the 2025 capital budget and financing sources be approved with the following changes:

- reduction in resurfacing – (\$175,000)
- additional parks upgrades – \$180,000

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	For	Against	Conflict	Absent
Mayor M. Shoemaker				X
Councillor S. Hollingsworth	X			
Councillor S. Spina	X			
Councillor L. Dufour	X			
Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen	X			
Councillor A. Caputo	X			
Councillor R. Zagordo	X			
Councillor M. Bruni	X			
Councillor S. Kinach	X			
Councillor C. Gardi	X			
Councillor M. Scott	X			
Results	10	0	0	1
				Carried

9. Rise and Report

Moved by: Councillor R. Zagordo
 Seconded by: Councillor S. Spina

Resolved that the Committee of the Whole Council now rise and report on the matter referred to it by City Council – 2025 budget deliberations.

Carried

Moved by: Councillor A. Caputo
 Seconded by: Councillor S. Spina

Resolved that the proposed municipal budget be confirmed with the following amendments:

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- Clerks – Records and Election Coordinator \$59,776
- IT – Application Support Analyst/ Programmer \$132,602
- Public Works maintenance employee \$87,056
- CDES – Recreation and Culture Events Assistant \$97,084
- Legal – Clerical Research Assistant \$83,983
- CDES – Tourism – Cultural Industry Coordinator \$100,591
- Draw from Tax Stabilization (Phased out over 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029 (561,092)
- Library security \$45,000
- Art Gallery of Algoma \$30,000
- Sault Ste. Marie Museum \$30,000
- Bushplane Museum \$30,000
- Arts and Culture additional funding \$70,000
- Park upgrades \$120,000
- Downtown security \$150,000
- Additional Physician Recruitment allocation \$50,000
- CDF – Social Equity \$50,000
- Dolly Parton Imagination Library \$10,000 with offset coming from Conference and Event funds
- Capital Inflation (\$350,000)

and that the 2025 Capital Budget and financing sources be confirmed with the following changes:

- Reduction in resurfacing (\$175,000)
- Additional park upgrade \$180,000

and that the 2025 Sanitary Budget and financing sources be approved;

resulting in an increase in the corporate portion of the municipal levy from 2024 in the amount of 1.43%;

and that the 2025 levies and local boards resulting in an increase to the levy and local board portion of the municipal levy of 2.26% be approved;

resulting in an increase to the levy and local board portion of the municipal levy from 2024 of \$145,992,909 representing an increase of 3.68%.

	For	Against	Conflict	Absent
Mayor M. Shoemaker	X			
Councillor S. Hollingsworth	X			
Councillor S. Spina	X			
Councillor L. Dufour	X			
Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen	X			
Councillor A. Caputo	X			
Councillor R. Zagordo	X			
Councillor M. Bruni	X			
Councillor S. Kinach	X			
Councillor C. Gardi	X			
Councillor M. Scott	X			
Results	11	0	0	0
				Carried

10. Correspondence – Bill 68, the Comprehensive Ontario Police Services Act, 2019

Correspondence from Mayor Shoemaker to Premier Ford was received by Council.

11. Adjournment

Moved by: Councillor A. Caputo

Seconded by: Councillor S. Hollingsworth

Resolved that this Council shall now adjourn.

Carried

Mayor

City Clerk