



**Minutes**  
**Special budget meeting**  
**Municipality of West Grey**

**Tuesday, October 22, 2024, 9 a.m.**  
**West Grey municipal office, council chambers and virtual**

Members present: Mayor Kevin Eccles  
 Deputy Mayor Tom Hutchinson  
 Councillor Scott Foerster  
 Councillor Doug Hutchinson  
 Councillor Joyce Nuhn  
 Councillor Geoffrey Shea  
 Councillor Doug Townsend

Staff present: Michele Harris, Chief Administrative Officer  
 Jamie Eckenswiller, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk  
 Kerri Mighton, Director of Finance/Treasurer  
 Karl Schipprack, Director of Community and Development Services/CBO  
 Geoff Aitken, Director of Infrastructure and Public Works  
 Rob Martin, West Grey Chief of Police  
 Phil Schwartz, West Grey Fire Chief  
 Ashley Noble, Communications Coordinator  
 Krista House Langdon, Legislative Services Coordinator

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**1. Call to order**

Mayor Eccles called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**2. Moment of reflection**

Mayor Eccles called for a moment of reflection.

Staff reviewed instructions for members of the public to participate via Zoom or telephone, and how to contact staff for assistance if disconnected. It was noted that this meeting will be livestreamed to the West Grey YouTube channel.

### 3. Declaration of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof

Councillor Shea declared a conflict on item 4.2 (community garden expansion), as he is a user of the community garden service.

### 4. Staff reports

#### 4.1 Report from the Director of Finance/Treasurer Re: 2025 Preliminary Operating Budget Year-Over-Year Changes

The Director of Finance/Treasurer provided an overview of the report.

S-241022-001

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Townsend

**"THAT in consideration of staff report '2025 Preliminary Operating Budget Year-Over Year-Changes', council receives the report for information purposes."**

Carried

#### 4.2 Report from the CAO Re: 2025 - Additional Items for Budget Consideration

The Chief Administrative Officer provided an overview of the report. CAO Harris reviewed the additional items proposed for budget consideration, noting that these items had been identified either specifically through the strategic plan, discussed during the past year by Council, and/or that staff have identified as something to be brought forward for Council consideration.

Council discussed additional considerations arising from the strategic plan at this time.

S-241022-002

Moved by Councillor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Nuhn

**"THAT in consideration of staff report '2025 – Additional Items for Budget Consideration', Council directs staff to include \$25,000 from the economic development reserve for entry and gateway signage in the 2025 draft budget."**

Carried

S-241022-003

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Townsend

**"THAT in consideration of staff report '2025 – Additional Items for Budget Consideration', Council foregoes including funds for electronic customer feedback kiosks in the 2025 draft budget."**

Carried

S-241022-004

Moved by Councillor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Townsend

**"THAT in consideration of staff report '2025 – Additional Items for Budget Consideration', Council directs staff to include a business case for an economic development officer in the 2025 draft budget."**

Prior to a vote on the motion, Deputy Mayor Hutchinson requested a recorded vote:

	<b>In Favor</b>	<b>Opposed</b>
Councillor Foerster	X	
Mayor Eccles		X
Deputy Mayor Hutchinson		X
Councillor Nuhn	X	
Councillor Hutchinson	X	
Councillor Shea	X	
Councillor Townsend	X	
<b>Results</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>

Carried

S-241022-005

Moved by Councillor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Nuhn

**"THAT in consideration of staff report '2025 – Additional Items for Budget Consideration', Council foregoes including funds for culinary trail development in the 2025 draft budget."**

Carried

S-241022-006

Moved by Councillor Nuhn

Seconded by Councillor Townsend

**"THAT in consideration of staff report '2025 – Additional Items for Budget Consideration', Council foregoes including funds for downtown wi-fi in the 2025 draft budget."**

Carried

Council recessed at 10:27 a.m. and reconvened at 10:38 a.m.

Council discussed additional budget items identified by staff at this time.

S-241022-007

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Foerster

**"THAT in consideration of staff report '2025 – Additional Items for Budget Consideration', Council directs staff to include a business case for a human resources/joint health and safety coordinator in the 2025 draft budget."**

Carried

S-241022-008

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson

**"THAT in consideration of staff report '2025 – Additional Items for Budget Consideration', Council directs staff to include \$10,250 for an escribe video encoder in the 2025 draft budget."**

Carried

S-241022-009

Moved by Councillor Nuhn

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

**"THAT in consideration of staff report '2025 – Additional Items for Budget Consideration', Council foregoes including funds for a community flagpole in the 2025 draft budget."**

Carried

Councillor Shea declared a conflict on the community garden expansion prior to the discussion of that item, as he is a user of the community garden service. Councillor Shea disconnected from the meeting at this time.

S-241022-010

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Nuhn

**"THAT in consideration of staff report '2025 – Additional Items for Budget Consideration', Council directs staff to bring forward a business case for the expansion of community gardens throughout West Grey."**

Carried

Councillor Shea reconnected to the meeting at this time.

S-241022-011

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Townsend

**"THAT in consideration of staff report '2025 – Additional Items for Budget Consideration', Council directs staff to include \$80,000 for a new comprehensive Official Plan in the 2025 draft budget."**

Carried

S-241022-012

Moved by Councillor Shea

Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson

**"THAT in consideration of staff report '2025 – Additional Items for Budget Consideration', Council directs staff to include \$30,000 for a storm water master plan in the 2025 draft budget."**

Carried

Council discussed West Grey Library budget items for consideration at this time.

Councillor Hutchinson left the Council Chambers at this time.

S-241022-013

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Shea

**"THAT in consideration of staff report '2025 – Additional Items for Budget Consideration', Council directs staff to bring forward a business case for a part-time library assistant (programming), library website refresh, and phone system update in the 2025 draft budget."**

Carried

Councillor Hutchinson returned to the Council Chambers.

Council discussed West Grey Police Services budget items for consideration at this time.

S-241022-014

Moved by Deputy Mayor Hutchinson

Seconded by Councillor Townsend

**"THAT in consideration of staff report '2025 – Additional Items for Budget Consideration', Council directs staff to include \$118,959 for two additional police constables as outlined in the report in the 2025 draft budget."**

Carried

## 5. Bylaws

### 5.1 Bylaw No. 2024-086 Confirming the Proceedings of Council

S-241022-015

Moved by Councillor Foerster

Seconded by Councillor Nuhn

**"THAT Bylaw No. 2024-086 be passed and enacted."**

Carried

**6. Adjournment**

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Mayor Eccles adjourned the meeting at 12:34 p.m.

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Mayor Kevin Eccles

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Clerk Jamie M. Eckenswiler