Present:  Mayor F. Eisenberger
        Councillors  C. Collins, S. Merulla, D. Mitchell, M. McCarthy

Also Present:  Councillors T. Jackson, R. Pasuta

G. Peace, City Manager
J. Rinaldo, General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services
S. Stewart, General Manager, Public Works
T. McCabe, General Manager, Planning and Economic Development
J. Priel, General Manager, Community Services
J. Kay, General Manager, HES/Fire Chief
Dr. E. Richardson, Medical Officer of Health
T. Tollis, J. Spiler, C. Elliott, Corporate Services
G. Davis, Public Works
M. Gallagher, Co-ordinator

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

   (Collins/McCarthy)
   That the agenda be adopted as circulated.  CARRIED.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

   None
5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Budget Steering Committee Mandate and Committee Documentation Process

Tony Tollis provided an overview of the document.

(Collins/McCarthy)
That the Budget Steering Committee Mandate and Committee Documentation Process be approved as outlined in the memorandum. CARRIED.

5.2 2008 Draft Tax Capital Budget Presentation

Staff provided an overview of the Draft Tax Capital Budget Presentation. Included in the presentation was a review of the Appendix summary, the 2008 capital budget outlook and suggested staff recommendations.

Individual detailed sheets on the capital projects will be available later in the week.

Staff presented the following recommendations for consideration:

1. That Capital Funding Strategies re: Cap Levy Increase equal 1% of total tax levy (6 million) ($330m in additional projects for 10 years)(optional use of Future Funds)

2. That Federal Gas Tax subsidy ($15m – 08, $31m – 09) be used exclusively for Tax Capital

3. That a provision of $500k be included for operating costs of new capital (only if 1%)

4. Recommended Blocks – refer Appendix 1

5. Council's strategic capital projects (Funds available ($2.5m Brownfields, $3 m from 2007 capital budget)

6. Additional Hydro dividends of $10m would fund
   - $7.5m roads
   - $1m each for corporate and community facilities
   - Balance for council's strategic capital initiatives
Following deliberations on the presentation, the noted actions below were approved:

(Collins/McCarthy)

(a) That the presentation with suggested recommendations by staff be received;

(b) That staff be directed to report back on the following:

(i) Explore further alternatives for the $10m of hydro dividends (utilize current strategic planning process/priorities set by council, staff to come back with a list for council’s consideration – including options for discretionary funding which could be allocated towards economic development, waterfront

(ii) Progress Update for the strategic planning initiatives listed in Appendix 6.

(iii) Additional information on the larger capital programs

(iv) Reserve levels for the city

(v) A priority list of city projects which require provincial and federal funding including affects/impacts of new legislation

(vi) Options for .5% for Capital Funding Strategies

The Mayor advised that he will be proceeding to the Economic Development and Planning Committee to further discuss identifying $1.5 million towards Economic Development. Staff were directed to develop a plan which would further explore options for the $1.5 million and the benefits to the city over future years.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor F. Eisenberger

M. Gallagher, Co-ordinator
Council, Committee of the Whole, Budgets