



NOTICE OF MOTION

TO: Council **MEETING DATE:** March 5, 2025
FROM: Councillor Rowe
SUBJECT: Notice of Motion – Establishing a Clear Process for Significant Budget Reductions
FILE NO: 0550

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council require that any significant reductions to the operating budget, including service level changes, be presented to and debated by Council no later than July 1st of each year, to ensure adequate time for consideration in the following year's budget process; and

THAT any such proposals must clearly specify the services or areas identified for reduction, rather than placing the burden on staff to determine potential cuts; and

FURTHER THAT service levels remain the policy decision of Council, with staff providing only factual analysis on potential impacts rather than making recommendations on which services to reduce.

RATIONALE:

Service level decisions are a fundamental responsibility of Council and should not be delegated to staff for recommendation, especially when it comes to proposed reductions in service. Requiring specific, early proposals ensures that budget discussions are transparent, well-informed, and aligned with Council's strategic priorities. By establishing a deadline of July 1st, sufficient time is available for analysis and public engagement while preventing last-minute upheaval in the budget process. This requirement maintains responsible financial planning while ensuring stability for staff and understandable processes and lead times for the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Brenda Rowe