

Budget Engagement: Ward Meetings

Summary - October 2023

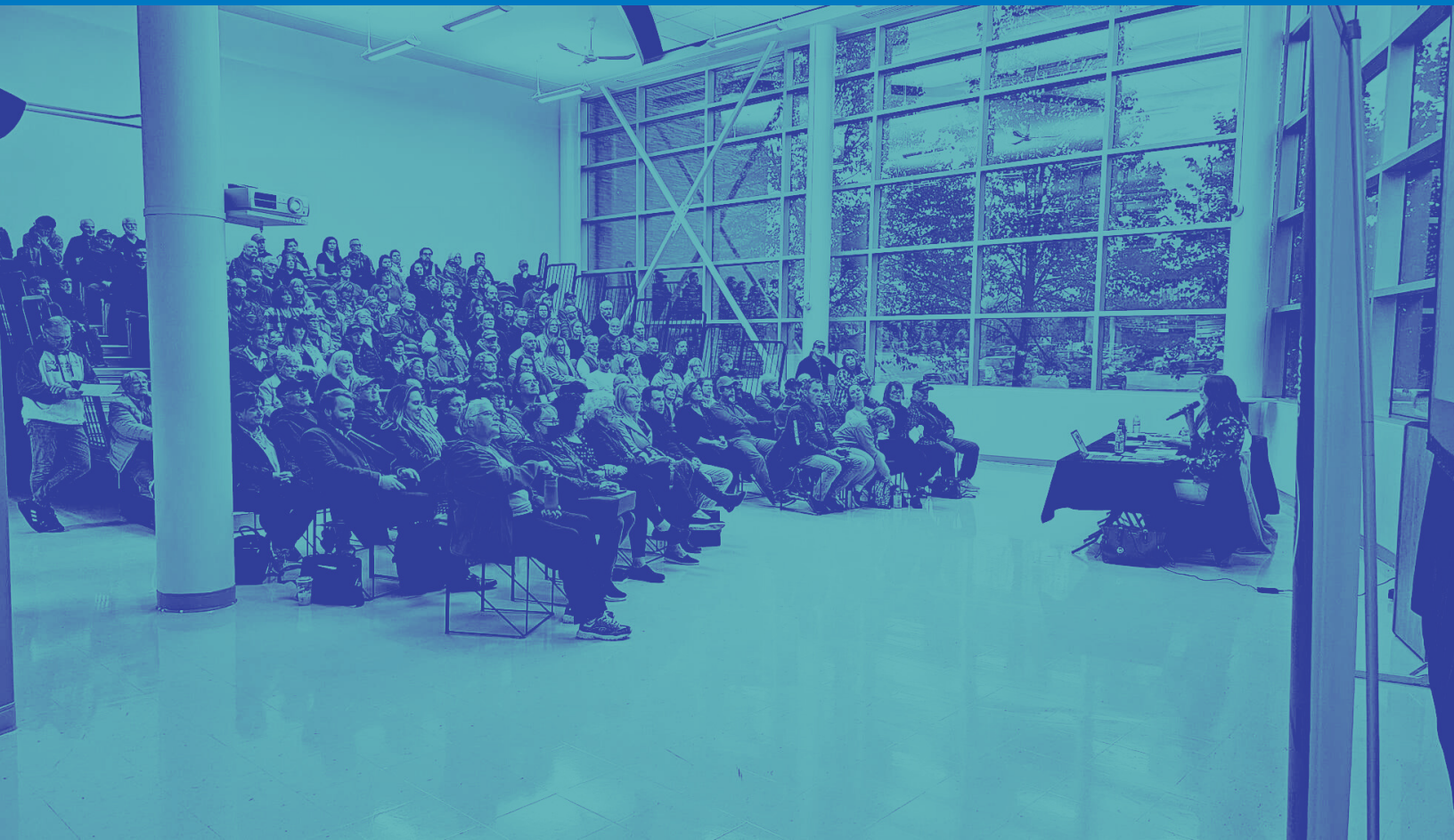




Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Goals	2
Agenda	2
What We Heard	3
Roads and Infrastructure	3
Recreation - Parks and Facilities	3
Public Transportation	4
Housing and Property Standards	4
Public Works and Maintenance	5
Safety and Law Enforcement	5
Waste Management and Environmental Services	6
Customer Service and Council Priorities	6
Social Concerns	7



Thank you

Dear Community Members,

City Council has made a commitment to improve public engagement and stakeholder insight in critical functions like budget planning. In developing our City Council term priorities, we directed administration to develop a plan to include resident feedback as part of the 2024 budget process.

We wanted to speak directly to residents in each ward, specific to the needs and opportunities of the neighbourhood where they live, work, and play. By meeting face-to-face, we hoped to foster a safe space for dialogue, where your members of City Council were accountable for the actions carried out on behalf of residents and business owners within the City of Timmins.

347 people participated in our ward meetings. We saw the most participation in Wards 4 and 5. Discussions on roads and infrastructure, and the cost of living were among the top concerns brought forward across all wards.

We heard from residents concerned about emergency shelter operations, the permanency of Safe Health Site Timmins (SHST), and the recent conditional land donation to Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS). We have provided

answers that clarify City Council's action and/or authority in each instance.

When it comes to the social concerns plaguing our city, there are no fast and easy answers. It may feel like we are repeating ourselves, or over-explaining strategies that are already in place. We are working proactively with organizations and partner agencies to make improvements in the areas that are necessary for public safety and well-being.

I want to thank everyone who came to their ward meeting prepared to offer a comment or suggestion. We have summarized all five meetings into one document that captures what we heard and what ideas will be used to help inform decision-making during the budget process. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

Mayor Michelle Boileau



Goals

The Ward Meetings had four (4) goals:

1. Encourage dialogue - help residents understand the latest on the projects, plans, and initiatives for the city and each ward.
2. Hear suggestions and solutions from residents that are specific to the needs and opportunities of each ward.
3. Help align the goals of City Council and the municipality with the priorities of residents and business owners in each ward.
4. Improve public trust by being transparent, accountable, and willing to respond to the concerns of residents and business owners in each ward.

Agenda

The ward meetings began with a presentation that gave residents an overview of Council's term priorities, and the larger capital projects, like Connecting Link rehabilitation, that will impact the city and wards moving forward.

The idea was to help residents better understand some of the decisions that Council makes around spending and investing our municipal dollars - between meeting current demands and planning for the city's future.

The summary combines feedback from all five ward meetings and organizes it according to the common concerns identified by participants.

Suggestions made for the 2024 Municipal Budget will be included as part of Council's Budget Package for consideration.





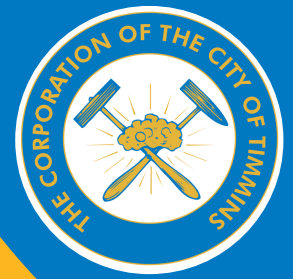
What we heard

Roads and Infrastructure

- Hwy 101 E. between Government Rd. and Kamiskotia Rd. needs a dedicated passing lane.
- The following roads need grading or repair:
 - Norman St. (plus add sidewalks)
 - Caron Rd.
 - Jaguar Rd.
 - Hydro Bay Rd.
 - Kamiskotia Rd.
 - Shirley St. N.
 - Lafleur Dr. (plus add bike lanes)
 - Legion Dr.
 - Frederick House Lake Rd.
- Add No Passing signs at the Government Rd. and Kamiskotia Rd. intersections on Hwy 101 E.
- Add a 4-way stop at Vimy Ave. and Theriault Blvd.
- Turn the Connecting Link into a toll road for heavy commercial vehicles.
- Add roundabouts to Hwy. 655 at Ross Ave. and Hwy 101 E. | Kamiskotia Rd. at Hwy 101 E.
- Q: Is the asphalt used in Connecting Link repair being tested? **A: Yes, asphalt is tested prior to placement and samples are taken during placement.**
- Carrigan Rd. - needs repair from the increase in dump trucks and haul trucks. Needs dust suppressant applied more than once a season.
- Municipal Rd. (Hwy. 67) - needs significant rehabilitation. **A: Council continues to advocate for provincial assistance to repair Hwy. 67.**
- Timmins needs a by-pass road for heavy commercial vehicles. **A: Discussions have resumed with our mining partners and Timmins MPP, George Pirie, to fund by-pass segments and connectors to reduce truck traffic.**
- Connect McBride St. S. to sewer infrastructure before adding new subdivisions in Mountjoy.

Recreation - Parks and Facilities

- Encourage waterfront development along the Mattagami River. Add docks and sidewalks near the Mountjoy Farmer's Market.
- Encourage waterfront development along Porcupine Lake.
- Norman St. walking trail needs maintenance. **A: This is a trail maintained by the MRCA.**
- Where is the original aquatic centre plan? Why are we paying for a new plan? **A: This not a new plan. It's an update to the original plan that takes into account the changing needs of the community over the last 10 years.**
- Lack of commitment from the City for recreation at Melview Park. Basketball courts need to be replaced.
- Hockey rink across from Duke St. and Falcon St. in Porcupine - add a cement slab base and lights.
- Bannerman Park needs maintenance - paint the light stands, tables, and benches.
- What is the future of the Mountjoy Arena?



What we heard

Public Transportation

- Timmins Transit Rt. 16 - peak times are at capacity and customers are left waiting for the next bus. Need to increase number of buses at peak times.
- Can the City explore working with Northern College to provide separate bus service for students?
- Decrease wait times.
- Add bus shelter in Gold Centre.
- Re-add bus stop that was removed when the new bus shelter was installed on Father Costello Dr.
- Add more bus stops for rural Schumacher.
- City should be prioritizing public transportation as a means to meet environmental GHG reductions.

Housing and Property Standards

- Explore options for tiny homes.
- Increase the number of dwellings allowed on one property and “cut the red tape” to encourage development.
- Q: What type of housing development is the City supporting? **A: City Council will support the creation of a full-range of housing, including single-family and multi-family dwellings.**
- Make sure that property owners / properties are in compliance with property standards by-law.
- Review building in Schumacher owned by CDSSAB for property standards compliance [address not provided].
- Q: Who is responsible for maintaining vacant buildings/lots? **A: It is the property owners responsibility to maintain the vacant lot. City staff have been directed to develop a vacant building by-law (October 24, 2023).**
- Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) Conditional land donation - concern over reduction of parkland. **A: Parkland requirements were designated in the original City Plan (1991). The Plan will be updated to reflect the housing shortage, development, and growth.**
- Concern with lack of public consultation before OAHS conditional land donation. **A: This is a conditional land donation to allow OAHS to begin the funding and planning process. Full details of the plan and request for zoning and by-law amendments will require public consultation. This is expected to begin in early 2024.**
- Concern over land valuation used in the OAHS conditional land donation: **A: City Council has the authority to set land valuation as per the Municipal Act. The land value is based on an un-serviced lot that is undeveloped.**
- Concern that the City will be funding or participating in operation of OAHS housing. **A: The City is not funding and will not be involved in the operation of OAHS housing. This would be a private development.**
- Q: Will City Council organize a specific public meeting to address concerns about the OAHS conditional land donation? **A: Public consultation, including public meetings, are mandated and will happen.**
- Put a cap on short-term rentals (like Air-BNB and VRBO). **A: Staff have been directed to look at by-law and permit policies.**
- Use vacant buildings as housing solutions for low-income earners and ODSP clients.



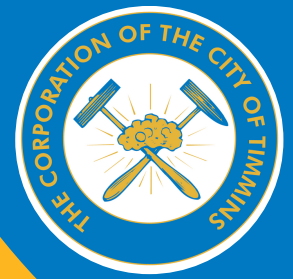
What we heard

Public Works and Maintenance

- Q: Why does snow removal begin on the highways and not in the downtown areas where parking and bus routes are congested? **A: The province's Minimum Maintenance Standards determine which roads have to be cleared first and the frequency of maintenance.**
- Please ensure that Main St. in South Porcupine is a priority for snow removal.
- Snow removal for Connaught Hill needs to be improved.
- Perception that snow removal service has been reduced.
- Need improved garbage pickup on streets and laneways (South Porcupine and Schumacher).
- Be consistent with snow removal in school zones and on public transportation routes.

Safety and Law Enforcement

- More Timmins Police Service in South Porcupine is needed to address speeding and ATV riders - South Porcupine needs regular patrols
- Q: What happened to the TPS office space in South Porcupine? **A: TPS began using space at the Northern College Whitney Station. They are currently working on an I.T. modernization plan that will allow officers to complete reporting from their vehicles. This will minimize the amount of time required in office.**
- Speeding on the following roads needs to be addressed and speed limits need to be enforced:
 - Legion Dr.
 - Sixth Ave.
 - Quirion Rd.
- Need for bail reform. Perception of “catch and release” system that does nothing to deter crime - limited consequences.
- Q: What are bail beds? **A: Temporary residence for individuals who have been arrested, released from custody, and are awaiting trial.**
- Current crime rates are impacting recruitment for police and paramedic services.
- Invest in red light cameras at busy intersections (e.g. Norman / Riverside).
- Who pays for emergency service response at Living Space? **A: No municipal dollars are used to recover costs. On-site medical service programs are being explored to reduce resource use.**
- Sixth / Pine St. area has experienced multiple recent shootings believed to be the result of gang-related gun violence.
 - Need increased TPS presence
 - Increase funding for TPS to identify and address high-risk areas
- Young children and adults are driving motorbikes, ATV's, and snowmobiles on Kamiskotia, Mahoney, and Caron Rd. Residents concerned someone will get hurt. Need enforcement.
- Q: Bail reform - what is the City and Timmins Police Service doing to encourage bail reform? **A: City Council continues to advocate for bail reform at the federal level, but the municipality is removed from the process in terms of implementing change.**
- Resident who lives near Fifth Ave. and Pine St. noted feeling unsafe and feels like she, “is living in danger every day,” because of people congregating in the commercial stairwell near her home (St. Mary's Garden alcove). **A: Council has been meeting with property owners to come up with a permanent solution. Council is also looking into possible safety grants for residential properties.**



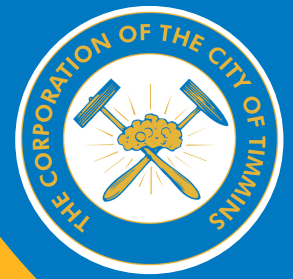
What we heard

Waste Management and Environmental Services

- Need enforcement on illegal dumping. We need stricter deterrents to stop people from illegally dumping in the bush and around nature trails.
- Springer Rd. trail common place for dumping. Can the City monitor this area more closely?
- Can Enforcement Services address illegal dumping? Comment that previous attempts to engage Enforcement Services has been unsuccessful.
- Concern with co-digestion feasibility study. Resident worried that Timmins will become a regional hub for waste , with more trucks on the road hauling waste from neighbouring communities and risking Timmins' water source. **A: Co-digestion is a solution for organic waste - not toxic waste.**
- Issue with waste and recycling services on Urquhart Rd. - services are not being consistently provided to residents. City trucks are getting stuck on the road.
- Timmins needs an Air Quality Monitoring Station.
- Thornloe Township Waste Disposal Facility (Hydro Bay) is getting full. What is the lifespan of the facility?
 - There should be an option for recycling
 - It's being broken into and used by residents who do not live in the area. Needs new lock and keys
- Why has garbage pickup on Mahoney Rd. and Caron Rd. been contracted out? The pickup is now irregular and inefficient.
- Can the City stop overflow going into Porcupine Lake? How will the City solve wastewater management?
- What are the City's plans for the Bob Lake lagoon?

Customer Service and Council Priorities

- No weekend hours for Service Timmins - no way to reach someone from the City with a question over the weekend.
- Physician recruitment needs to be a priority:
 - More physicians needed in South Porcupine and Porcupine
 - Incentivize recruitment of professionals (including physicians)
- Identify Porcupine's downtown in the City's Official Plan.
- City staff are being paid too much. There are too many City staff on the Sunshine List.
- Cost of living is too high in Timmins.
- Please stop increasing the property taxes every year.
- No more consultations - poor use of money.
- No more high cost capital projects (like arenas) until roads, infrastructure, and "pressing issues" are resolved.
- Service Timmins:
 - No follow-up when a ticket is submitted by phone
 - Process to report potholes isn't clear
 - Frustrating to report a problem related to roads and infrastructure
- Communication:
 - Promote how to report an encampment
 - Promote Department Heads / staff responsible for work



What we heard

Social Concerns

- Safe Health Site Timmins:
 - Funding should be cut - not wanted in Timmins
 - Should not be located in close proximity to Service Timmins and long-term care
- What is being done to stop and prevent vagrancy and vagrants in the City?
- Q: Is City Council connecting with other City's who have similar concerns to share ideas and solutions? **A: Yes, City Council is connecting with other municipalities and service agency partners**
- Have City Council considered implementing some of the changes being made in Alberta (e.g. adding treatment centres)?
- Parents of children and young adults under 18 should be able to place their kids in treatment.
- There has been no follow-up after the Town Hall meeting (McIntyre Arena).
- Q: What is the status of the Living Space standards review? **A: CDSSAB received allegations of non-conformity standards at Living Space - a review is underway.**
- The people who need the most help are not having their needs met. Timmins needs a safer emergency shelter. Timmins needs treatment centres. How is Council addressing this?
- Q: Is City Council supporting another emergency shelter (as seen on social media)? **A: No.**
- The City's Security Patrol Pilot Project is not visible in downtown Timmins.
- Funding needs to be in place to add hygiene stations downtown Timmins.

