

COUNCIL REPORT

M&C No.	2020-320
Report Date	November 25, 2020
Meeting Date	December 02, 2020
Service Area	Corporate Services

His Worship Mayor Don Darling and Members of Common Council

SUBJECT: Business Improvement Area 2020 Budget

OPEN OR CLOSED SESSION

This matter is to be discussed in open session of Common Council.

AUTHORIZATION

Primary Author	Commissioner/Dept. Head	City Manager
<i>Jonathan Taylor</i>		<i>John Collin</i>

RECOMMENDATION

That the 2020 Association Budget for the Business Improvement Area be received for information and that advertising be authorized for setting January 14, 2019 as the date for Council to consider approving the budget.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2020 budget for the Business Improvement Area (“BIA”) has been submitted to Council by Uptown Saint John Inc. The proposed BIA levy for 2020 remains the same as previous years at 16 cents for each one hundred dollars of assessed value on non-residential property within the BIA. In order to proceed with the 2020 BIA levy, legislation requires that Council approve of the 2020 budget and amend to the BIA by-law for 2020.

REPORT

The City of Saint John has a Business Improvement Area (“BIA”) in the uptown region which imposes a 16 cent levy for each \$100 of assessed value on non-residential property. The City’s BIA by-law describes the specific boundaries of the BIA and the rate paid by the businesses located within the area.

Uptown Saint John Inc. is responsible for administering the funds from the BIA levy, which it uses towards beautification initiatives in the area, promotion, and other development activities aimed at stimulating local business in the BIA.

The annual budget for the BIA requires approval by Uptown Saint John Inc.’s Board of Directors and subsequently by Common Council. Subsequent to

Council's approval of the budget an amendment to the Business Improvement Area by-law is required.

Uptown Saint John Inc. has submitted the 2020 budget, which was approved in the amount of \$519,680.00 by the Board of Director's at the Annual Budget Meeting held on October 1st, 2019.

The BIA Act requires the City to give notice (published at least once weekly for two weeks) in a newspaper of the following:

- Its intention to approve the budget
- The extent of the levy needed to implement the budget
- The period during which objections may be made

Objections to the budget may be submitted to the Common Clerk by non-residential users not later than fifteen days after the last publication notice.

It is recommended that Council authorize the clerk to prepare a newspaper advertisement which sets January 13, 2020 as the date for Council to consider approving the BIA budget and amending the by-law.

INPUT FROM OTHER SERVICE AREAS AND STAKEHOLDERS

The City's Finance Department and Uptown SJ Inc. were consulted

ATTACHMENTS

- Letter to Council from Uptown SJ Inc.
- 2020 Business Improvement Area Association Budget
- Business Improvement Area By-law