

# Information Report

**Title:** 2026 Budget Process and Timelines

**Report Number:** Financial Services-2025-17

**Director:** Corporate Services

**Manager:**

**Meeting Date:**

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

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## Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to establish the process and timelines for the 2026 Budget following the legislation granted by the Province through the Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act, 2022.

An overview of the new legislation was provided to Council at the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting through report Financial Services-2025-16, and this report provides added information on dates and timelines after further discussions with Mayor Craig.

## Context and Background Information:

As set out in Section 284.16 of the Act, the powers and duties of the Municipality with respect to proposing and adopting a budget are assigned to the Mayor. Through Mayoral Direction MDI-2025-01, Mayor Craig has directed that the draft budget be presented to him by November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, for distribution by the Mayor to Council prior to the end of day November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025. A budget timetable was developed to allow for an adoption date of no later than December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

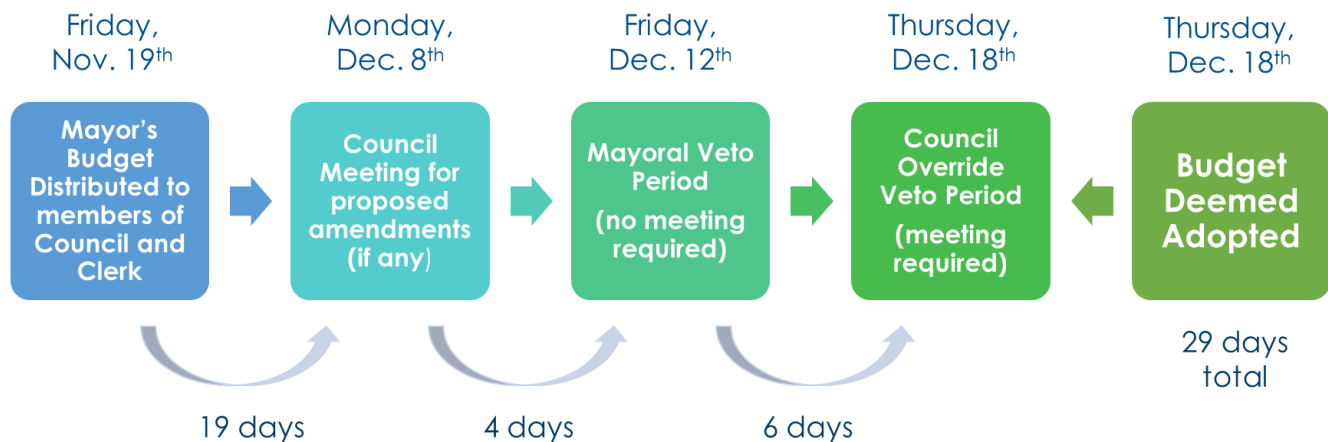
In consultation with the Mayor, the following budget timetable is proposed:

## 2026 Budget Timetable (Recommended Timelines):

Date	Event
November 17, 2025	Staff to present the Draft 2026 Budget to the Mayor
November 19, 2025	Distribution of 2026 Budget from Mayor to Council;
December 8, 2025, 9:00 am	Budget Amendment Meeting – Council to vote on any proposed amendments. If no amendments, budget is deemed adopted.

Date	Event
December 12, 2025	Mayoral veto period (4 days)
December 18, 2025, 9:00 am	Council Veto Override Period – Council meeting (if required)
December 18, 2025	Budget Deemed Adopted

The budget timeline schedule is illustrated in the flowchart below:



In consideration of allowing additional time for Council members to review the draft budget and propose amendments, the Mayor has shortened the timeline for his distribution of the budget to Council from November 21<sup>st</sup> to November 19<sup>th</sup>.

For comparison purposes, the following table illustrates the budget process timelines that would unfold if the legislated timelines were followed:

#### 2026 Budget Timetable (Legislated Timelines):

Date	Event
November 17, 2025	Staff to present the Draft 2026 Budget to the Mayor
November 19, 2025	Distribution of 2026 Budget from Mayor to Council; Start of 30-day clock
December 19, 2025	Budget Amendment period – Council to vote on any proposed amendments.  If no amendments brought forward, budget is deemed adopted on December 19 <sup>th</sup> .
January 5, 2026	Deadline for Mayor to veto any Council amendments, in a written veto document. A Council meeting is not required.

Date	Event
	<p>If Mayor vetos, the resolution shall be deemed not to have been passed by Council.</p> <p>If Mayor does not veto a resolution, the budget is deemed adopted on January 5, 2026.</p>
January 20, 2026	<p>Council may override the Mayor's veto with 2/3 majority vote. A Council meeting is required. The Mayor can vote.</p> <p>If Council overrides the veto, the budget is deemed adopted on January 20, 2026.</p>
<b>Total days = 62</b>	<b>Budget process concludes</b>

*Note: The municipal office is closed between December 24<sup>th</sup> at noon and reopening on January 5, 2026.*

#### **Proposed Mayor & Council 2026 Budget Timelines:**

Period	Legislated Timeline	Shortened Timeline	Date(s)
Council Amendment Period	30 days	19 days	November 19 - December 8, 2025
Mayoral Veto Period	10 days	4 days	December 8 - 12, 2025
Council Veto Override Period	15 days	6 days	December 12 – 18, 2025
<b>Total days*</b>	<b>55 days</b>	<b>29 days</b>	

*Note: legislated timelines are adjusted based on holiday and office closure schedules, and therefore the actual timeline is extended to 62 days.*

#### **Council and Public Engagement Process:**

Staff will assist the Mayor in setting up individual meetings between himself and each Council member throughout the months of July and August. These meetings will be for the purpose of soliciting input into the budget, including any proposed projects, service levels, reductions, etc. that Councillors request the Mayor to consider when developing his budget.

Consideration of financial requests from external organizations will no longer be considered during a Special Budget Meeting of Council. The Mayor may give direction to staff on what funding to include in the budget for external organizations (if any).

The Mayor will conduct citizen engagement sessions throughout the months of July and August to solicit public input into the 2026 budget. These sessions will be promoted on the Municipality's social media pages and website to hopefully garner significant interest from members of the public. The Municipality will also create a Budget FAQ website page that aims to provide clarity to the public over the budget process as well as to inform of the changes to the budget process resulting from Strong Mayor Powers. A budget survey will also be launched this summer. Staff will be working with the Mayor to develop a Communication Strategy with respect to the budget.

**Consultation Overview:**

The CAO and Treasurer have consulted with Mayor Craig which has informed the content of this report.

**Origin:** Ontario Regulation 530/22: Part VI.1 of the Act

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**Attachments:**

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**Submitted by:** Roxana Baumann, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer