



Corporation of the Township of Brock

Staff Report to the Members of Council

From: Trena DeBruijn
Position: Director of Finance
Title / Subject: 2026 Strong Mayor Budget
Date of Meeting: September 8, 2025
Report No: 2025-FI-028

1.0 Issue / Origin

On April 9, 2025, the Government of Ontario announced that changes were being made to 530/22 under the Municipal Act, 20021, to expand the list of municipalities where the Head of Council has strong mayor powers and duties, to include certain single-tier and lower-tier municipalities with a council composition size of six members or more, to help these municipalities move forward on shared provincial-municipal priorities.

The changes became effective in the Township of Brock on May 1, 2025.

This report is to provide additional information on the strong Mayor powers and inform Council of the revised budget process and timetable.

2.0 Background

In the fall of 2022, the Heads of Council of the City of Toronto and the City of Ottawa were the first to receive strong mayor powers.

Since then, the strong mayor framework has been expanded to 216 municipalities (including Toronto and Ottawa).

- 44 of these municipalities received strong mayor powers in 2023; and
- 170 of these municipalities received strong mayor powers in the Spring of 2025.

Under Part VI.1 of the Municipal Act, 2001, the Mayor has special powers and duties, which include:

- Appoint and dismiss the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO);
- Hire and dismiss various division heads (excluding the prescribed list);

- Determine the organizational structure of the Township;
- Create Committees of Council, assign their functions, and appoint their Chairs and Vice-Chairs;
- Propose the Township's annual budget, subject to Council amendments, a Mayoral veto and a Council override process;
- Submit matters for Council's consideration, or veto by-laws, if the Mayor believes it will advance a prescribed Provincial Priority; and
- Direct Township staff in writing to do certain things related to their additional powers and duties.

This report focuses on the powers for budgeting.

3.0 Analysis

Budget Process

Under strong mayor legislation, proposing and adopting the Township's annual budget (subject to Council amendments, a Mayoral veto and a Council override process), lies with the Mayor.

The Mayor cannot delegate the duty to prepare the budget. The budget must be provided by the Mayor prior to February 1 of each year. Failing that, Council is responsible for preparing and adopting a budget (the traditional budget process).

All of Council retains the powers to pass the user fees by-law and Council is still required under Park VIII to pass the tax ration and levy by-laws.

After receiving the proposed budget from the Mayor, Council may, within 30 calendar days, pass a resolution making an amendment to the proposed budget. The Mayor may vote on the amendment(s) as a member of Council.

If Council makes an amendment, the Mayor may veto the resolution within 10 days of the end of the 30-day period. The mayor is required to provide the veto to each member of Council and to the Clerk, including the reasons for the veto.

Council may override the Mayor's veto, with a two-thirds majority vote, within 15 days of the expiry of the veto period. The Mayor may vote on the override.

The Mayor or Council MAY shorten the time periods noted above.

After the expiry of the time period for Council to override the Mayor's veto, the proposed budget is deemed to be adopted by the municipality and does not require a vote of Council.

As mentioned above, it is the Mayor’s duty to prepare and adopt the budget (this substitutes Council’s duty to prepare and adopt the budget in Part VII of the Act), however staff understand that:

- The Mayor can issue direction to have staff prepare the budget (and this is staff’s recommendation to do so) and to bring to the public and Council **before** it is formally proposed as the Mayor’s Budget.
- If the Mayor chooses not to propose a budget, a Mayoral Direction is required to direct staff to bring forward the budget for consideration, after February 1.

On August 11, 2025 the Mayor directed the Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Finance to present the Municipality’s proposed 2026 budget. A copy of this directive is found on the Township’s website under the Strong Mayor’s Act.

Proposed 2026 Budget Schedule

2026 Township of Brock Strong Mayor Budget Schedule

August 1, 2025	Submission of Departmental Draft Operating and Capital Budgets (and business cases) to the Finance Department no later than Friday August 1, 2025
October 27, 2025	2026 Budget Framework Report
November 17, 2025 (not a meeting date)	Distribution of the 2026 Draft Budget to Council for advance review only and posting to Township website in advance of budget presentation
November 24, 2025	Presentation of Draft Budget to Council and Budget Open House At the end of the meeting, the Mayor Adopts the Staff Presented Budget as the proposed Mayoral Budget for 2026 Beginning of Council 30 Amendment Period to Make Changes (Council can shorten this time period with a resolution)
November 26 th Special Meeting	Department Budget Presentations and Council Suggested Changes
November 28 th Special Meeting	Department Budget Presentations and Council Suggested Changes

November 28 th	<p>Council to consider waiving remainder of 30 day Amendment Period by resolution</p> <p>If Council and Mayor are in agreement at end of presentations on the 2026 Budget, Council can waive, by resolution, all subsequent amendment periods per the Strong Mayors Act and the budget could be deemed to be adopted on November 27th</p> <p>Otherwise (if not waived), the Mayor has until December 5th to Veto any Council Amendments and the Strong Mayor Budget Process Continues</p>
December 5 th	Mayor Veto Period Ends
December 8 th	Budget Comes Back to Council with any Mayoral Approved Amendments and Council considers waiving 15 day veto period
December 15 th	Budget Approval

If the amendment periods are not waived, as outlined above, the budget approval process will be extended into January or February 2026.

In Year Budget Amendments – Requiring an Additional Tax Levy

For the purpose of raising an additional levy (general local municipal levy or a special local municipal levy), the Mayor may prepare an in-year budget amendment, by providing the proposed budget amendment to the Members of Council, the Clerk and the public.

Within 21 days after receiving the proposed budget amendment, Council may pass a resolution to amend the proposed budget amendment. In the absence of a resolution, the budget amendment is deemed adopted after 21 days, Council may also pass a resolution to shorten the 21-day period, which would result in the budget being deemed to have been adopted at that time.

If Council amends the budget within the 21-day period, the Mayor may veto the amendment made by Council within 5 days by providing each member of Council and the Clerk with the written veto document and the reasons for the veto. The mayor may also shorten this five-day limit. If the Mayor does not veto the amendment, it is deemed to be adopted by the municipality.

If the Mayor vetoes the amendment, Council may override the Mayor’s veto by a vote of two-thirds of the Members of Council, within ten days after the five-day time period for the Mayor to veto the amendment. Council may shorten this time limit. The Mayor may vote on the Council override of the veto and may also shorten the 10-day time limit.

After the expiry of the time period for Council to override the Mayor's veto, the proposed budget amendment is deemed to be adopted by the Township.

Public Budget Survey

The Township has prepared and released a Budget Survey for 2026. The results of this survey will be presented to Council as part of the 2026 Budget Framework Report on October 27, 2025.

4.0 Related Policies / Procedures

N/A

5.0 Financial / Budget Assessment

There are no financial or budget impacts as a result of this report.

5.1 Asset Management

The 2026 Budget will continue to give consideration to Asset Management and Dedicated Infrastructure Management Funding.

6.0 Climate Change Impacts

N/A

7.0 Communications

The 2026 Budget Survey has been released and the 2026 Budget Timetable Report will be posted on our website.

8.0 Conclusion

This report outlines the 2026 Budget Process and Recommended Budget Timetable.

9.0 Recommendation

Be It Resolved That report 2025-FI-028 titled "2026 Strong Mayor Budget Schedule", be received.