



EMERGENCY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT 16-012

1:30 pm

Monday, December 12, 2016

Council Chambers

Hamilton City Hall

71 Main Street West, Hamilton

Present: Councillors M. Green (Chair), A. Johnson (Vice Chair) J. Farr,
S. Merulla, T. Jackson, D. Skelly, T. Whitehead,
J. Partridge

THE EMERGENCY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 16-012 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. Housing and Homelessness Action Plan Update (CES15033(a)) (Item 5.1)

That Report CES15033(a) respecting the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan Update, be received.

2. Wentworth Lodge – Long Term Care – Resident Quality Inspection (RQI) (CES16062) (Ward 13) (Item 5.2)

That Report CES16062 respecting the Wentworth Lodge – Long Term Care – Resident Quality Inspection (RQI), be received.

3. Community Bed Bug Strategy (CES16065) (Item 5.3)

That Report CES16065 respecting the Community Bed Bug Strategy, be received.

4. 2017 Budget Submission – Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee (CES16066) (City Wide) (Item 5.4)

That the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee 2017 base budget submission attached as Appendix “A” to E&CS Report 16-012 in the amount of \$1,000 be approved and referred to the 2017 budget process for consideration.

Council – December 14, 2016

**5. City of Hamilton Veterans Committee 2017 Budget Submission (PED16245)
(City Wide) (Item 5.5)**

That the Hamilton Veterans Committee 2017 base budget submission, attached as Appendix “B” to E&CS Report 16-012, in the amount of \$30,000, be approved and referred to the 2017 Budget process for consideration.

6. Housing Stability Benefit Pressures (Added Item 6.5)

WHEREAS, the Housing Stability Benefit (HSB) is funded through the Provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI);

WHEREAS, Hamilton received a nominal increase to the CHPI budget of 1% for the 2017/2018 fiscal year, which equates to approximately \$190,000;

WHEREAS, this increase is insufficient to meet the overall demands of the programs funded through CHPI;

WHEREAS, the HSB is an extremely important support to the vulnerable citizens of Hamilton in maintaining housing;

WHEREAS, the HSB mitigation strategies implemented on November 28, 2016 will cause hardships in the community;

WHEREAS, it is estimated approximately 600 people will be impacted by the HSB mitigation plan within the first 3 months of 2017;

WHEREAS, investment in safe and secure housing for children and families is critical to address basic needs and offer a foundation for lifelong health, learning, and achievement to break the cycle of poverty;

WHEREAS, being behind on rent is associated with negative health outcomes (food insecurity for parents and children, energy insecurity, poor school performance, health trade-offs);

WHEREAS, increase in costs and scarcity in the local rental market has resulted in greater costs and requests for last month’s rent;

WHEREAS, the main drivers contributing to the pressure in HSB include Utility Arrears, Last Month’s Rent, Mattresses for ODSP recipients, and Rent Arrears;

WHEREAS, there is limited to no other funding in the community where people can go to for help with these types of benefits;

WHEREAS, the Community and Emergency Services department is forecasting a positive variance of \$945,000;

WHEREAS, an additional \$500,000 would allow Community and Emergency Services to continue to offer the HSB with no mitigation measures;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton has provided transition funding in the past to offset one time deficit while lobbying the Provincial government for additional funding (e.g. one time funding provided for the initial transition of Community Start Up to HSB to funding; one time funding while ending Trusteeship programs, etc);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Community and Emergency Services 2016 department forecasted positive variance be utilized to offset the cost of the HSB shortfall; and should those funds not be sufficient, that the Community and Emergency Services 2016 departmental year end variance be funded from the Tax Stabilization reserve or the Mayor's Poverty Reduction Fund.

7. Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly City (CES14053(b)) (City Wide) (Item 7.2)

- (a) That the 2015-2016 Age-Friendly Hamilton Progress Report, attached as Appendix "C" to E&CS Report 16-012, be received for information;
- (b) That the City of Hamilton apply for recertification in 2017 as a member of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities; and,
- (c) That one time funding in the amount of \$30,000 to be provided to the Council on Aging to assist with the implementation of the Age-Friendly Hamilton Plan be referred for consideration as part of the 2017 budget process.

8. Ontario Works Caseload Contingency Plan (CS09021(g)) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)

That the Ontario Works Caseload Contingency Plan staffing levels of up to 26 temporary FTE to December 31, 2017 be funded in the amount \$2,268,670 gross / \$1,134,330 net from the Ontario Works Stabilization Reserve #110044.

9. Electronic Ambulance Call Reporting System for Paramedic Service Standardization/Agreement Approval (CES16057) (City Wide) (Item 8.2)

- (a) That the Interdev Technologies Inc. (Interdev) "iMEDIC" Electronic Ambulance Call Reporting System program (iMEDIC) be designated a standardized product pursuant to City Procurement Policy, Section 4.14, Policy # 14 Standardization, with this designation to be reviewed in 2021;

- (b) That the iMEDIC program and its associated products including new modules if any, as well as support and professional services be procured on a single-source basis from Interdev for a five (5) year time period extending through to December 31, 2021; and,
- (c) That the Chief of the Hamilton Paramedic Service (HPS), or his designate, be authorized and directed to enter into and sign, on behalf of the City of Hamilton, all negotiated agreements and all necessary associated documents with Interdev, with content acceptable to the General Manager of Community and Emergency Services, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor for the iMEDIC program and its associated products including new modules if any, as well as support and professional services, subject to Procurement Policy, Section 4.2, Policy # 2 Approval Authority.

10. Social Housing – End of Federal Operating Agreements Impact and Analysis (CES16064) (City Wide) (Item 8.3)

That Report CES16064 respecting Social Housing – End of Federal Operating Agreements Impact and Analysis, be received.

11. Goods Transported by Rail and Notification Procedures (CES16067) (City Wide) (Item 8.4)

That Report CES16067 respecting Goods Transported by Rail and Notification Procedures, be received.

12. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair for 2017 (Item 11.1)

- (a) That Councillor A. Johnson be appointed as Chair of the Emergency & Community Services Committee for 2017; and,
- (b) That Councillor Merulla be appointed as Vice Chair of the Emergency & Community Services Committee for 2017.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Committee Clerk advised of the following changes to the Agenda:

1. ADDED DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 4)

- 4.1 Brendan Jowett, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic, respecting the Housing Stability Benefit (for today's meeting)

- 4.2 Dave Cherkewski respecting the Housing Stability Benefit (for today's meeting)
- 4.3 Natasha Findlay-Clairmont respecting the Housing Stability Benefit (for today's meeting)
- 4.4 Sarah Jama respecting the Housing Stability Benefit (for today's meeting)

2. ITEMS TO BE WITHDRAWN

- 6.1 Delegation from Angela Pugliese respecting a lack of support services for teens with Autism (delegate requested the item be deferred to the January 23, 2017 meeting)
- 8.5 Housing Stability Benefit Update (CES16068) (City Wide) (item deferred to a February 2017 meeting to allow for the collection of further information for the report)

The Agenda for the December 12, 2016 meeting of the Emergency & Community Services Committee was approved, as amended.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

None declared.

(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Item 3)

(i) November 21, 2016 (Item 3.1)

The Minutes of the November 21, 2016 Emergency & Community Services Committee meeting were approved, as presented.

(d) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 4)

The four Delegation Requests respecting the Housing Stability Benefit from Brendan Jowett, Dave Cherkewski, Natasha Findlay-Clairmont and Sara Jama were added to the agenda for the December 12, 2016 meeting of the Emergency & Community Services Committee.

(e) CONSENT ITEMS (Item 5)

(i) Hamilton Veterans Committee Minutes – October 25, 2016 (Item 5.6)

The Hamilton Veterans Committee Minutes – October 25, 2016, were received.

(ii) Seniors Advisory Committee Minutes – November 4, 2016 (Item 5.7)

The Seniors Advisory Committee Minutes – November 4, 2016, were received.

(f) PUBLIC HEARINGS / DELEGATIONS (Item 6)

(i) Brendan Jowett, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic, respecting the Housing Stability Benefit (Added Item 6.2)

Brendan Jowett, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic, addressed the Committee regarding the Housing Stability Benefit (HSB). The comments included, but were not limited to, the following:

- He is duty counsel at the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic
- The HSB provides \$800-1500, depending on family size, to pay arrears
- The HSB helps to prevent evictions; the Landlord Tenant Board will delay evictions if they know assistance from HSB is coming
- Many residents need access to this fund, to keep them housed and out of shelters, hospitals
- Appreciative of Councillor Merulla's motion coming to this meeting

The delegation from Brendan Jowett respecting the Housing Stability Benefit, was received.

(ii) Dave Cherkewski respecting the Housing Stability Benefit (Added Item 6.3)

Dave Cherkewski addressed the Committee regarding the Housing Stability Benefit. The comments included, but were not limited to, the following:

- Dave is representing the Hamilton Roundtable for Reduction of Poverty, who met on Friday to discuss how the HSB helps out lots of people, not only those on Ontario Works or ODSP
- 4 years ago the Province pulled funding and Hamilton City Council stepped up and created the HSB for all low income people who would otherwise be caught in the poverty trap
- Found housing through HSB
- Appreciative of Councillor Merulla's motion

The delegation from Dave Cherkewski respecting the Housing Stability Benefit, was received.

(iii) Natasha Findlay-Clairmont respecting the Housing Stability Benefit (Added Item 6.4)

Natasha Findlay-Clairmont addressed the Committee regarding the Housing Stability Benefit. The comments included, but were not limited to, the following:

- She is one story of many across Hamilton
- Full-time student at Mohawk and single mother, with family members who rely on her
- April 2016 she was struck by a car with no insurance, and she can't afford the proper care needed to recover, which has impacted her abilities as a student, mother and employee
- Her current income is from (Ontario Student Assistance Program) OSAP which gives her \$748 a month to survive on
- She is aboriginal and was denied aboriginal funding
- Received an eviction notice so her landlord could move their family into the unit
- The unit has not been maintained properly, for instance, they have had no heat for the past two winters and use space heaters
- At a November 15 court hearing she got the case adjourned due to assistance from a representative from the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic
- She finally received homeless status, but the benefit was cut
- HSB helps many families with bare minimum needs
- Without the HSB, she and many others are at risk of being homeless
- Without the HSB, there will be families without hydro or comfortable beds to sleep on – do you know what that fear and feeling is like?
- As low income people with housing emergencies, we need the HSB

The delegation from Natasha Findlay-Clairmont respecting the Housing Stability Benefit, was received.

(iv) Sarah Jama respecting the Housing Stability Benefit (Added Item 6.5)

Sarah Jama addressed the Committee regarding the Housing Stability Benefit. The comments included, but were not limited to, the following:

- Co-President of the McMaster Womanists, Youth Leader of the New Generation Youth Centre, and Ontario Director of National Education Association of Disabled Students (Canada Wide)
- Sits on many committees for McMaster and the City
- The HSB helped get her family back on their feet after leaving a domestic violence situation

- City Council needs to invest in future leadership and recognize these benefits are not enough
- City Council has to figure it out where the money will come from and how to do it
- City Council are our advocates when the Province cuts funding, not us
- City Council needs to do more to prevent an epidemic of poverty
- 42% of newcomers living below poverty line
- She and her mother will be getting their undergrad degrees in April and she is scared she'll graduate and not have place to live
- There are many flaws in the system; trying to get above the poverty line, but it's a struggle and we need Council to see the bigger picture

The delegation from Sarah Jama respecting the Housing Stability Benefit, was received.

Councillor Merulla introduced a Motion respecting Housing Stability Benefit Pressures. The Motion was CARRIED on the following Standing Recorded Vote:

| | |
|---------|---|
| Yeas: | Green, A. Johnson, Farr, Merulla, Jackson, Skelly, Whitehead, Partridge |
| Total: | 8 |
| Nays: | None |
| Total: | 0 |
| Absent: | None |
| Total: | 0 |

For disposition of this matter, please see Item 6.

(g) PRESENTATIONS (Item 7)

(i) Hamilton Veterans Committee – Annual Presentation (Item 7.1)

Robert Fyfe, Chair of the Hamilton Veterans Committee, addressed the Committee respecting the Hamilton Veterans Committee – Annual Presentation, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation. A copy of the presentation has been retained for the official record. The presentation included, but was not limited to, the following:

- Committee Membership 2014-2018
- Mandate approved May 14, 2014
- Remembrance Day and Memorial Services
- Previous and Ongoing Projects
- Future Goals

The Hamilton Veterans Committee – Annual Presentation, was received.

(ii) Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly City (Item 7.2)

Lisa Maychuk, Project Manager, and Margaret Denton, Vice President of the Hamilton Council on Aging, addressed the Committee respecting Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly City. A copy of the presentation has been retained for the official record. The presentation included, but was not limited to, the following:

- Where did it begin?
- Response to an aging population
- What is happening in Ontario today?
- Four Steps to an Age Friendly Hamilton
 - Planning
 - Implementation
 - Evaluation
 - Continual Improvement
- Age Friendly Hamilton: Vision and Facts
- Goals and Principles
- Significant Achievements
- Some Other Achievements
- Where We Are Going

The presentation respecting Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly City, was received.

For disposition of this matter, please see Item 7.

(h) GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS (Item 11)

(i) Removal of Outstanding Business List items (Item 11.2)

The following amendments to the Emergency & Community Services Committee Outstanding Business List, were approved:

(a) Items to be removed:

- (1) Item "B" – Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly City (addressed as Item 7.2)
- (2) Item "Z" – Goods by Rail (addressed as Item 8.4)

(b) Proposed New Due Dates:

- (1) Item "G" - Co-ordinated Access System for Social Housing
Current Due Date: December 12, 2016
Proposed New Due Date: January 23, 2017
- (2) Item "O" - Rolston Neighbourhood Action Plan
Current Due Date: December 12, 2016
Proposed New Due Date: January 23, 2017
- (3) Item "Y" - Endorsement of Report "The Right to an Adequate Standard of Living" to the UN
Current Due Date: December 12, 2016
Proposed New Due Date: June 12, 2017
- (4) Item "GG" – Housing Stability Benefit Shortfall
Current Due Date: December 12, 2016
Proposed New Due Date: February 2017

(i) ADJOURNMENT (Item 13)

That, there being no further business, the Emergency & Community Services Committee was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor M. Green
Chair, Emergency & Community
Services Committee

Lisa Chamberlain
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk