



City of Hamilton

GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE POST-MEETING

Meeting #: 21-002(j)
Date: February 25, 2021
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: Due to the COVID-19 and the Closure of City Hall

All electronic meetings can be viewed at:

City's Website:

<https://www.hamilton.ca/council-committee/council-committee-meetings/meetings-and-agendas>

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<https://www.youtube.com/user/InsideCityofHamilton> or Cable 14

Stephanie Paparella, Legislative Coordinator (905) 546-2424 ext. 3993

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**GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
(2021 OPERATING BUDGET)
MINUTES 21-002(i)**

9:30 a.m.

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Due to COVID-19 and the closure of City Hall, this meeting was held virtually.

Present: Mayor F. Eisenberger, Deputy Mayor M. Wilson (Chair)
Councillors J. Farr, N. Nann, S. Merulla, C. Collins,
T. Jackson, E. Pauls, J.P. Danko, B. Clark, M. Pearson,
B. Johnson, L. Ferguson, A. VanderBeek, J. Partridge

Absent: Councillor T. Whitehead – Personal

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. Sidewalk Clearing Program (Item 6.1)

(Eisenberger/Partridge)

That the matter respecting the Sidewalk Snow Clearing Program Options, be referred to the Public Works Committee for further discussion.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 11 to 1, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Ninder Nann
Absent	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Absent	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
No	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson
Absent	-	Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge

2. Food Advisory Committee 2021 Budget Request (BOH20024) (City Wide) (Item 7.1)

(Eisenberger/Nann)

- (a) That the Food Advisory Committee 2021 Budget Submission, attached as Appendix "A" to Report BOH20024, in the amount of \$1,500, be approved; and,
- (b) That the unspent 2020 approved funding for education, training and events, in the amount of \$1,000, be transferred to the Food Advisory Committee's 2021 reserve.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 11 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Absent	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Absent	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Absent	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead
Absent	-	Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge

3. 2021 Budget Submission - Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee (HSC20059) (City Wide) (Item 7.2)

(Pearson/Nann)

That the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee 2021 base budget submission, attached as Appendix "A" to Report HSC20059, in the amount of \$1,000, be approved.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 11 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Absent	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Absent	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins

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Yes	-	Ward 6	Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7	Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8	Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9	Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10	Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11	Councillor Brenda Johnson
Yes	-	Ward 12	Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13	Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14	Councillor Terry Whitehead
Absent	-	Ward 15	Councillor Judi Partridge

4. 2021 Budget Submission - Seniors Advisory Commission (HUR20011) (City Wide) (Item 7.3)

(Jackson/Nann)

That the Seniors Advisory Committee 2021 base budget submission in the amount of \$2500, be approved.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 13 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Absent	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead
Absent	-	Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge

5. City of Hamilton Veterans' Committee 2021 Budget Submission (PED20216) (City Wide) (Item 7.4)

(Eisenberger/Johnson)

That the Hamilton Veterans Committee (Veterans Committee) 2021 base budget submission, attached as Appendix "A" to Report PED20216, in the amount of \$43,000, be approved.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 13 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Absent	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead
Absent	-	Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge

6. 2021 Budget Submissions Volunteer Advisory Committee (HUR20012) (City Wide) (Item 7.5)

(Eisenberger/Johnson)

That the following Volunteer Advisory Committee 2021 budget base submissions, be approved:

- (a) Advisory Committee on Immigrant & Refugees, in the amount of \$3,500, attached as Appendix "A" to Report HUR20012;
- (b) Aboriginal Advisory Committee, in the amount of \$3,552, attached as Appendix "B" to Report HUR20012;
- (c) Hamilton Mundialization Committee, in the amount of \$5,890, attached as Appendix "C" to Report HUR20012; and,
- (d) Hamilton Status of Women Committee, in the amount of \$3,500, attached as Appendix "D" to Report HUR20012.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 13 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Absent	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls

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Yes	-	Ward 8	Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9	Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10	Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11	Councillor Brenda Johnson
Yes	-	Ward 12	Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13	Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14	Councillor Terry Whitehead
Absent	-	Ward 15	Councillor Judi Partridge

7. Hamilton Cycling Committee Budget 2021 (PED20212) (City Wide) (Item 7.6)

(Eisenberger/Johnson)

- (a) That the Hamilton Cycling Committee 2021 base budget submission, in the amount of \$10,000, as described in Appendix "A" attached to Report PED20212, be approved; and,
- (b) That, in addition to the base funding, a one-time budget allocation for 2021 of \$4,000, to be used to initiate a community grant program to support community events and initiatives that meet the mandate of the Committee, to be funded by the Hamilton Cycling Committee reserve, be approved.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 13 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Absent	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead
Absent	-	Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge

8. 2021 Budgets Submissions Volunteer Advisory Committee (CM20013) (City Wide) (Item 7.7)

(Eisenberger/Johnson)

That the following Volunteer Advisory Committee 2021 budget base submissions, be approved:

- (a) LGBTQ Advisory Committee, in the amount of \$3,960, attached as Appendix “A” to Report CM20013; and,
- (b) Committee Against Racism, in the amount of \$8,900, attached as Appendix “B” to Report CM20013.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 13 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Absent	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead
Absent	-	Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge

9. Arts Advisory Commission 2021 Base Budget Submission (PED20219) (City Wide) (Item 7.8)

(Eisenberger/Johnson)

That the Arts Advisory Commission 2021 base budget submission, attached as Appendix “A” to Report PED20219, in the amount of \$9,000, be approved.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 13 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Absent	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson

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Yes	-	Ward 11	Councillor Brenda Johnson
Yes	-	Ward 12	Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13	Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14	Councillor Terry Whitehead
Absent	-	Ward 15	Councillor Judi Partridge

10. 2021 Budget Submission - Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities (HUR20010) (City Wide) (Item 7.9)

(Eisenberger/Johnson)

That the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities (ACPD) 2021 base budget submission, attached as Appendix "A" to Report HUR20010, in the amount of \$6,100, be approved.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 13 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Absent	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead
Absent	-	Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge

11. 2021 Volunteer Committee Budget - Keep Hamilton Clean and Green Committee (PW21003) (City Wide) (Item 7.10)

(Eisenberger/Johnson)

That the Keep Hamilton Clean and Green Committee's 2021 base budget submission, attached as Appendix "A" to Report PW21003, in the amount of \$18,250, representing a zero-net levy impact from the previous year budget, be approved.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 13 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr

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Yes	-	Ward 3	Councillor Nrinder Nann
Absent	-	Ward 4	Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5	Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6	Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7	Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8	Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9	Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10	Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11	Councillor Brenda Johnson
Yes	-	Ward 12	Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13	Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14	Councillor Terry Whitehead
Absent	-	Ward 15	Councillor Judi Partridge

12. Women's Shelter and Support Investment Options (HCS20061) (City Wide) (Item 7.11)

(Collins/Nann)

- (a) That annual funding up to \$950,000 from the Net Levy to support the operating costs of the Good Shepherd Centre's Emergency Shelter proposal and increase the investment in the Municipally-funded Portable Housing Benefit Program for women, trans-feminine, trans-masculine and non-binary adults from Hamilton's By-Name List, be approved; and,
- (b) That, in the event the proposed Good Shepherd Emergency Shelter project does not proceed, annual funding of up to \$950,000 from the Net Levy to support the operating costs of Mission Services' Emergency Shelter proposal and increase the investment in the Municipally-funded Portable Housing Benefit Program for women, trans-feminine, trans-masculine and non-binary adults from Hamilton's By-Name List, be approved.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 1, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson
No	-	Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek

Absent - Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead
Absent - Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge

13. Neighbour to Neighbour Funding Update (FCS21006) (City Wide) (Item 7.12)

(Eisenberger/Ferguson)

That Report FCS21006, respecting the Neighbour to Neighbour Funding Update, be received.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 14 to 0, as follows:

Yes - Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes - Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes - Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes - Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Absent - Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes - Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes - Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes - Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes - Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes - Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes - Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes - Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson
Yes - Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes - Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent - Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead
Yes - Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge

14. Increased Municipal Law and Parking Enforcement in Waterfalls Areas Across the City - Pilot Program (PED18011(b)) (City Wide) (Item 7.13)

(VanderBeek/Clark)

- (a) That, subject to approval of the funding source in recommendation (b), staff be directed to assign additional Municipal Law Enforcement (MLE) and Parking Enforcement staff to Waterfall areas where challenges have been identified including, but not limited to, weekends from March 15, 2021 through to November 15, 2021, by approving additional temporary FTEs as follows:
- (i) by adding 2 Temporary FT Municipal Law Enforcement Officers; and,
 - (ii) by adding 5 Temporary PT Parking Enforcement Officers;
- (b) That funding for the enhanced Municipal Law and Parking enforcement in Waterfall areas, including staffing and vehicle costs, estimated at a total

incremental net cost of up to \$354,000 be funded from the City's Tax Stabilization Reserve 110046, be approved; and,

- (c) That staff be directed to report back to the Planning Committee in January 2022 after the conclusion of the recommended pilot with an overall evaluation, including measurable results such as fines issued for various offences, revenues generated, etc., with recommendations as to whether the enhanced enforcement should be continued in 2022.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 14 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Absent	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge

FOR INFORMATION:

(a) APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 1)

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

4. COMMUNICATIONS

- 4.1. Correspondence from Haley Reap respecting the Hamilton Police Budget Surplus
- 4.2. Correspondence from Stephanie Brash respecting Just Recovery Hamilton
- 4.3. Correspondence from Tori Tizzard respecting the Hamilton Police Service Budget

- 4.4. Correspondence from Sasha Katz respecting the Hamilton Police Service Budget
- 4.5. Correspondence from Laura Katz respecting the Hamilton Police Service Budget
- 4.6. Correspondence from Heather South respecting the Hamilton Police Service Budget

6. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

- 6.1. Council Referred and Business Cases

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 7.11. Women's Shelter and Support Investment Options (HCS20061) (City Wide)
- 7.12. Neighbour to Neighbour Funding Update (FCS21006) (City Wide)
- 7.13. Increased Municipal Law and Parking Enforcement in Waterfalls Areas Across the City - Pilot Program (PED18011(b)) (City Wide)

(Pauls/Nann)

That the agenda for the February 11, 2021 General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting be approved, as amended.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 13 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Absent	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson
Absent	-	Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

- (i) Councillor E. Pauls declared an interest to Item 4.1, respecting correspondence from Haley Reap respecting the Hamilton Police Budget Surplus, as her son works for the Hamilton Police Service.
- (ii) Councillor E. Pauls declared an interest to Item 4.3, respecting correspondence from Tori Tizzard respecting the Hamilton Police Service Budget, as her son works for the Hamilton Police Service.
- (iii) Councillor E. Pauls declared an interest to Item 4.4, respecting correspondence from Sasha Katz respecting the Hamilton Police Service Budget, as her son works for the Hamilton Police Service.
- (iv) Councillor E. Pauls declared an interest to Item 4.5, respecting correspondence from Laura Katz respecting the Hamilton Police Service Budget, as her son works for the Hamilton Police Service.
- (v) Councillor E. Pauls declared an interest to Item 4.6, respecting correspondence from Heather South respecting the Hamilton Police Service Budget, as her son works for the Hamilton Police Service.
- (vi) Councillor E. Pauls declared an interest to Item 6.1, the matter relating to the Hamilton Police Service Board 2021 Operating Budget Submission, as her son works with the Hamilton Police Service.
- (vii) Councillor C. Collins declared an interest to Item 6.1, the matter relating to the Hamilton Police Service Board 2021 Operating Budget Submission, as his sister works with the Hamilton Police Service.

(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 3)

(i) February 8, 2021 (Item 3.1)

(Pearson/Clark)

That the Minutes of the February 8, 2021 General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting be approved, as presented.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 14 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson

Yes	-	Ward 7	Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8	Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9	Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10	Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11	Councillor Brenda Johnson
Absent	-	Ward 12	Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13	Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14	Councillor Terry Whitehead
Yes	-	Ward 15	Councillor Judi Partridge

(d) COMMUNICATIONS (Item 4)

(Merulla/Johnson)

That the following Communication Items, 4.1 to 4.6, respecting 2021 Operating Budget matters, be received:

- (i) Correspondence from Haley Reap respecting the Hamilton Police Budget Surplus (Item 4.1)
- (ii) Correspondence from Stephanie Brash respecting Just Recovery Hamilton (Item 4.2)
- (iii) Correspondence from Tori Tizzard respecting the Hamilton Police Service Budget (Item 4.3)
- (iv) Correspondence from Sasha Katz respecting the Hamilton Police Service Budget (Item 4.4)
- (v) Correspondence from Laura Katz respecting the Hamilton Police Service Budget (Item 4.5)
- (vi) Correspondence from Heather South respecting the Hamilton Police Service Budget (Item 4.6)

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 13 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Conflict	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson

Yes	-	Ward 11	Councillor Brenda Johnson
Absent	-	Ward 12	Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13	Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14	Councillor Terry Whitehead
Yes	-	Ward 15	Councillor Judi Partridge

(e) PRESENTATIONS (Item 6)

(i) Council Referred and Business Cases (Item 6.1)

Mike Zegarac, General Manager of Finance & Corporate Services, provided a PowerPoint presentation respecting Council Referred and Business Cases.

(Pearson/VanderBeek)

That the presentation, respecting the Council Referred and Business Cases, be received.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 14 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson
Absent	-	Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge

(Collins/Nann)

That the following amendments to the 2021 Operating Budget, be approved:

(a) Planning and Economic Development

Building division - Permit Intake Coordinator financial impact offset by Building permits revenues with no impact on levy.

(b) Healthy and Safe Communities

CSND funding adjustment for Children's Services (\$990,000).

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 14 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson
Absent	-	Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge

(Eisenberger/Jackson)

That the following amendment to the 2021 Operating Budget, be approved:

- (a) Hamilton Police Service 2021 Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,271,247 to align to Board approvals.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 10 to 2, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
No	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
No	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Conflict	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Conflict	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson
Absent	-	Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge

(Eisenberger/Jackson)

That the following amendment to the 2021 Operating Budget, be approved:

- (a) An additional \$2,636 for the Other Boards and Agencies to align to Board approvals.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 14 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson
Absent	-	Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge

(Eisenberger/Pearson)

That the following amendment to the 2021 Operating Budget, be approved:

- (a) 1 FTE in the Records and Freedom of Information Section of the Office of the City Clerk (Corporate Services), required to continue to support and educate staff in our legislated requirements to protect personal and confidential information, at an annual cost of \$109,000.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 14 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson

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Absent	-	Ward 12	Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13	Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14	Councillor Terry Whitehead
Yes	-	Ward 15	Councillor Judi Partridge

(Eisenberger/Jackson)

That the following amendment to the 2021 Operating Budget, be approved:

- (a) Security Patrol Program, to address the increase in vandalism and theft in City-owned public spaces, at a cost of \$96,200.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 11 to 2, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
No	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Absent	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Absent	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson
No	-	Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge

(Farr/Eisenberger)

That the following amendment to the 2021 Operating Budget, be approved:

- (a) One-time funding in the amount of \$30,000 to be funded from the Economic Development Investment Reserve (Account No.112221) or the COVID-19 Emergency Reserve (110053), to be to be utilized to promote the market during the ongoing pandemic.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 1, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Absent	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins

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Yes	-	Ward 6	Councillor Tom Jackson
Absent	-	Ward 7	Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8	Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9	Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10	Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11	Councillor Brenda Johnson
No	-	Ward 12	Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13	Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14	Councillor Terry Whitehead
Yes	-	Ward 15	Councillor Judi Partridge

(Nann/Jackson)

That the following amendment to the 2021 Operating Budget, be approved:

- (a) 1 FTE, Communications Associate HIPC, to be 100% Federally funded, within the Planning and Economic Development Department.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Absent	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Absent	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead
Absent	-	Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge

(Eisenberger/Pearson)

That the following amendment to the 2021 Operating Budget, be approved:

- (a) The Hamilton Paramedic Service 2021-2024 Enhancement (Ambulance) and 10 FTEs, at a cost of \$1,045,600.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 11 to 1, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor

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Yes	-	Ward 2	Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3	Councillor Nrinder Nann
Absent	-	Ward 4	Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5	Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6	Councillor Tom Jackson
Absent	-	Ward 7	Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8	Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9	Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10	Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11	Councillor Brenda Johnson
No	-	Ward 12	Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13	Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14	Councillor Terry Whitehead
Absent	-	Ward 15	Councillor Judi Partridge

(Clark/Danko)

That the following amendment to the 2021 Operating Budget, be approved:

- (a) An additional 2 FTEs for Information Technology, at a cost of 182,300 annually.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 1, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Absent	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Absent	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson
No	-	Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge

(f) MOTIONS (Item 8)

(i) Neighbour to Neighbour Community Food Centre Funding (Item 8.1)

(Partridge/Ferguson)

That the following Motion be DEFERRED to the February 25, 2021 Budget meeting, pending a discussion between Mountain Councillors:

WHEREAS, City Council supported the establishment and ongoing operation of Neighbour to Neighbour Community Food Centre since 2015;

WHEREAS, the Neighbour to Neighbour Food Centre has become a community hub providing programs and support to the area residents;

WHEREAS the Neighbour to Neighbour Community Food Centre focussed programs and supports on hunger and food insecurity which connected to poverty, inequality, racism, health, the environment, and social relationships;

WHEREAS, the Neighbour to Neighbour Community Food Centre aligns with and contributes to the goals and objectives of the City of Hamilton's Food Strategy;

WHEREAS, Council has provided financial support to Neighbour to Neighbour for the Community Food Centre operation in the amount of \$200,000 per year for the past five years, expiring December 31, 2020;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the N2N Community Food Centre be supported for 2021 at a cost of \$200,000 to be provided through the 2021 budget Tax Stabilization Reserve; and,
- (b) That the annual operating \$200,000 funding request from N2N for the remaining four years from 2022 through 2025 be referred to Emergency and Community Services Committee for a report back on multi-year sustainable funding options.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 10 to 4, as follows:

No	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
No	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
No	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Absent	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls

No	-	Ward 8	Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9	Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10	Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11	Councillor Brenda Johnson
Yes	-	Ward 12	Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13	Councillor Arlene VanderBeeck
Absent	-	Ward 14	Councillor Terry Whitehead
Yes	-	Ward 15	Councillor Judi Partridge

(ii) Reallocating Hamilton Police Service Surpluses and Investing in Community Resilience (Item 8.2)

(Nann/Wilson)

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Police Service (HPS) has stated a focus on providing excellence in the core business of policing defined as: property crime, violent crime, illegal drug control and enforcement, guns and gangs, traffic safety and enforcement;

WHEREAS, it is well documented that many residents, including Indigenous, Black and racialized people, feel unsafe and under-supported in the presence of uniformed and armed officers attending a non-violent crisis call;

WHEREAS, in a 2015 report, the John Howard Society highlighted alarming rates of people experiencing crises end up being criminalized for treatable health needs instead of receiving the care and treatment they deserve in order to participate in society;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton is home to the most people living with disabilities, including mental health challenges, per capita;

WHEREAS, the City estimates over 150 residents have been living in tents and informal structures since April 2020 and recognizes there are compounding factors that lead to homelessness;

WHEREAS, the Women Housing Planning Collaborative has stated that in the past year over 400 women accessed emergency low-barrier drop-in supports without permanent housing options available to them;

WHEREAS, in 2018 there were 123 opioid related deaths in Hamilton, one of the highest rates in Ontario, and Hamilton City Council has declared an opioid overdose emergency;

WHEREAS, it is imperative to provide services using a trauma-informed approach where an individual's safety, choice and control are a priority;

WHEREAS, best practices in social services across Canada point to the importance of de-prioritizing policing as the primary response to residents

facing crises in mental health, homelessness, substance use and sex work and point to investing in community-led, trauma-informed, harm reduction and safety supports and services in these areas;

WHEREAS, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities notes that the unsustainable increases in policing costs to municipalities are “crowding out” investments in early intervention and prevention;

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Police Services annual variance reports continue to show surpluses;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton has no governing policy on the reallocation of surpluses from Hamilton Police Services; and,

WHEREAS, investing in community-led services and infrastructure supersedes policing in effectiveness of building a sense of safety and belonging among residents who face systemic barriers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- (a) That staff be directed to set out a policy to ensure that any year-end surpluses for Hamilton Police Service comes before the General Issues Committee for disposition, prior to the appropriation by the Hamilton Police Services Board;
- (b) That staff be directed to create a new City of Hamilton Community Resilience Reserve Account expressly to invest in housing and community-led supports and services to address homelessness, mental health, addictions and substance use that center prevention and intervention; and,
- (c) That, subject to the City having a year-end surplus, the above referenced policy is to set out that any Hamilton Police Service year-end surplus, be transferred to the Community Resilience Reserve Account.

Result: Motion was DEFEATED by a vote of 2 to 11, as follows:

No	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
No	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
No	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
No	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
No	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Absent	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
No	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark

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No	-	Ward 10	Councillor Maria Pearson
No	-	Ward 11	Councillor Brenda Johnson
No	-	Ward 12	Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
No	-	Ward 13	Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14	Councillor Terry Whitehead
No	-	Ward 15	Councillor Judi Partridge

(g) ADJOURNMENT (Item 10)

(Ferguson/Pearson)

That, there being no further business, the General Issues Committee (Budget), be adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 1, as follows:

No	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Absent	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge

Respectfully submitted,

Deputy Mayor Maureen Wilson
Chair, General Issues Committee

Stephanie Paparella
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk

-----Original Message-----

From: Rebecca Steckle <

Sent: February 10, 2021 7:35 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>

Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Vote for Reallocation of Surplus HPS Budget to Housing and Community Supports

Dear Mayor Eisenberger,

My name is Rebecca, I live in Hamilton and I am a resident in Ward 2. I am calling on you to vote against the proposed 2.98% increase to the HPS budget, and instead vote for the proposed return of the HPS budget surplus to the City, and its re-allocation into housing and community-led, harm reduction supports for facing housing, mental health, addiction crises.

As your constituent, you represent me. Failure to act upon these proposed demands is a failure to represent a concerned community of your constituents - a community evidenced through these calls. I am not comfortable continuing to fund policing in my community at the expense of essential services like housing, community health centres, etc.

Investing in our communities better addresses the root cause of most criminalized acts, which are often need-based and consequences of poverty. What we really need are robust services that can effectively respond, such as mental health outreach workers, community and housing centres, and accessible educational/prevention programs.

We need to: reallocate the budget to existing community-led organizations that are offering the services to vulnerable communities, and create effective alternative services such as crisis intervention, mental health centres, and housing. If you are unable to offer immediate, meaningful action in response to the demands outlined above, then I ask that you resign and make way for leadership that is able to do so.

Sincerely,
Rebecca
Ward 2

From: Meaghan Horn <
Sent: February 10, 2021 9:20 PM
To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>;
clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: City Council meeting - Feb 11

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Councillor Pauls,

My name is Meaghan Horn and my family and I are constituents of ward 7. As Councillor Pauls is my representative. but has registered a conflict of interest on Police matters, I am sending my email to both of you in order to ensure that I am properly represented at City Hall.

I am calling on you both to vote against the proposed 2.98% increase to the Police Services budget to support Councillor Nan's motion to return the Police budget surplus to the city and reallocate it to housing and community-led harm-reduction supports for those facing housing, mental health, and addiction crisis. It is incumbent upon City Council to ensure our city's most vulnerable are cared for.

As a homeowner, I understand that property taxes need to be increased to benefit our community, but I am strongly opposed to an increase in the police budget. We need to invest in community-led organizations that are offering services to vulnerable communities and create effective alternative services such as crisis intervention, mental health centers and housing.

With municipal elections coming up next year, the people of the City of Hamilton will be looking closely at the actions of City Council. Myself and many others will be voting for more effective leadership if you are unable to offer immediate and meaningful actions as outlined above.

Sincerely,
Meaghan Horn

From: Tess Maclsaac < >
Sent: February 10, 2021 10:13 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Urgent Request for February 11th Meeting

Hello Office of the City Clerk,

My name is Tess and I live in Hamilton, Ontario (Ward 3) - my partner and I own a house beside the beautiful Gage Park, we plan on raising our future children here.

I am writing to you because I want to express my disapproval regarding the extraordinarily high budget for Hamilton Police Services of a whopping \$171.5 million, with a surplus of \$567,000. This is well beyond the allocated funding for any other social service in the city. I can attest to this as a psychotherapist and registered social worker who works closely with the Hamilton community - people are struggling right now in really devastating ways. Many folks are struggling to access immediate needs such as housing/ safe shelter, food, etc. - this is of course intensified by the housing crisis as well as the financial strain that's resulted from the pandemic.

The Hamilton community urgently needs money right now - and the good thing is that this is something that *can* happen since the HPS budget surplus exists! Money that would otherwise be going toward HPS (which does not house or feed people) can be re-directed toward the community! Please, vote in favour of us - your community! A vote in favour of us is an act of communal love. **I am urging you to please vote against the proposed 2.98% increase to the Hamilton Police Services budget. I am urging that you please vote in support of the proposed return of the HPS budget surplus to the City, and its re-allocation into housing and community-led, harm reduction supports for those facing the housing crisis, the opioid crisis, as well as the overall mental health crisis.** As your constituent, you represent me. Therefore, it is my expectation and hope that you will act upon these proposed demands - otherwise, you will not be representing the concern of your constituents (I know that I do not stand alone in these concerns). I cannot in good faith continue to fund HPS at the expense of the community that I work with every day - my clients need essential services like housing, community health centres, and they also need Councillors such as yourself who they can trust will demonstrate care and love for the community.

Black and Indigenous communities are not safe or protected by HPS. In fact, HPS overtly discriminates against Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour through tactics such as racial profiling, implicit bias, algorithmic bias, and so forth.

In addition to its exhibited anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism, policing is also an ableist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, and a classist institution that necessitates these varied oppressions to function. As a queer woman living in Hamilton, I believe that more resources ought to be allocated to support gender and sexually diverse communities as well. Why is it that the 2021 operating budget analysis states that the sexual assault detective constable will be paid \$108,657, and yet Hamilton women's shelters are at capacity, and organizations such as SACHA who do the on-the-ground work to support survivors are so shamefully underfunded? This is particularly concerning given that many studies (*I'm happy to follow-up on this if you'd like a link to these studies*) indicate that intimate partner and family violence has actually *increased* during the pandemic. I can attest to this stark reality as I bear witness to it in my work.

The HPS has reported a 14.5% increase in 911 calls involving a person in crisis. People in crisis should have more resources at their disposal for support and should not have police called on them, HPS funds should be reallocated towards safe/non-lethal mental health support in the Hamilton community. This is important because studies have indicated that the majority of people killed by police in Canada since 2000 had mental health or substance use related issues.

Police reform will not protect community members experiencing mental health distress, address a culture of dismissing sexual assault and missing person inquiries, nor prevent the criminalization of certain identities and need-based acts. Reform is a failed tactic. Reform tactics such as body cameras have had little to no tangible effect on reducing police brutality.

Crime rates in Hamilton, Ontario - and more broadly, in Canada - have been declining for the last two decades, with *all* categories of crime rates in Hamilton dropping during COVID-19. Yet, police budgets continue to inflate. In the operating budget analysis, the Hamilton Police Services will see a 78.3% increase to ammunition expenditures if this budget is approved. The City continues to overfund violence while underfunding sectors and organizations crucial to building healthy and supported communities.

Angela Davis says that we ought to address what's at the root of what afflicts our communities. Investing in our communities better addresses the root cause of most criminalized acts, which are often need-based and consequences of poverty. What we really need is a wide-range of robust services that can effectively respond to mental health crises (e.g. mental health outreach workers), community and housing centres, and accessible educational/prevention programs. We need to: reallocate the HPS budget to support existing (but underfunded) community-led organizations that are offering services to vulnerable communities, and create effective alternative services such as crisis intervention, mental health centres, and housing for all.

It is my sincere hope that you are able to offer meaningful action in response to the demands outlined above.

Sincerely,
Tess Maclsaac
Ward 3

From: MADISON BROCKBANK <brockbam@mcmaster.ca>

Sent: February 11, 2021 9:00 AM

To: Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Whitehead, Terry <Terry.Whitehead@hamilton.ca>; Collins, Chad <Chad.Collins@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; johnpaul.danko@hamilton.ca; Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; Pearson, Maria <Maria.Pearson@hamilton.ca>; Johnson, Brenda <Brenda.Johnson@hamilton.ca>; Ferguson, Lloyd <Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca>; VanderBeek, Arlene <Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca>; Partridge, Judi <Judi.Partridge@hamilton.ca>

Cc: info@defundhps.com; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: 100+ Academics & Researchers in Support of Defunding HPS

Good morning:

I hope this email finds you well! My name is Maddie Brockbank and I am a resident of Ward 11 and a PhD student at McMaster University. I am emailing you to voice my dissent against the proposed 2.98% increase to the Hamilton Police Services budget and to urge you to vote against it today. Instead, this surplus and the proposed increase should be returned to the City and reallocated to housing and community-led, harm reduction, trauma-informed supports for those experiencing housing, mental health, and addiction crises.

Furthermore, I am sharing an [open letter](#) that has been signed by over 120 academics and researchers in the Greater Hamilton Area supporting these calls to divest from policing and invest in our communities. See the link above or the PDF version attached.

As public representatives, you represent me. Continued investment in policing fails to represent a significant community of constituents expressing real concerns. I, and many others, are not comfortable continuing to fund police at the expense of essential services, like housing and community health centres. As a social worker, I have seen how underfunded many social services are and how this adversely impacts service users. Investing in these services and our communities is a much better use of these funds and sets out to address the root causes of many of these social issues we're discussing, including many criminalized acts that are often symptomatic of unmet needs (e.g. poverty). What we really need are robust services that are equipped to respond, such as mental health outreach workers, community and housing centres, and accessible education and prevention programs.

We need to reallocate the budget to existing community-led organizations that are offering services to vulnerable persons and create alternative services, such as crisis intervention, mental health services, and housing supports, that are non-carceral and not tied to policing. If you are unable to offer immediate, meaningful action in response to these demands, then I ask that you resign and make way for leadership that is able to do so.

Best,

--

Maddie Brockbank [she/her]
BSW, MSW, PhD (student)

From: Laurel Carter
Sent: February 22, 2021 7:58 AM
To: Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Re: Written Comments for the General Issues Committee - 2021 Operating Budget

Hamilton Council,

My name is Laurel and I'm a new resident of Hamilton, in Ward 3. My spouse and I purchased our home and are thrilled about creating our new life here in Hamilton. But I have been devastatingly disappointed thus far in our city's leadership in the case of advocating for the community here in Ward 3 and beyond.

I'm calling on you to vote against the proposed increase of 2.98% to Hamilton Police Services. This ask makes me genuinely sick to my stomach when people are in need of support for basic survival. You represent the people of Hamilton and your neighbours here. Those funds need to be funnelled into community support, harm reduction, housing and addiction support. Crime rates are declining in Hamilton and yet we keep being asked to support more and more funding to those who allegedly fight crime.

The Hamilton Police Services budget, which there is a call to expand, is ludicrously high at \$171.5M dollars. At a time when homelessness, food insecurity and instability are rampant in Hamilton and beyond - this is beyond exorbitant and offensive. The safest neighbourhoods are not those with the highest police presence, but those with the most resources. Money desperately needs to be invested into the community and into housing and support for our neighbours in need. Our neighbours are being turned away from shelters and then their outdoor housing is being torn up. The solution that we need to work towards is not increasing the policing of our citizens, but increasing the supports available to our community.

Increased police do not keep us safe. They do not make me feel safe, as someone whose spouse is Black and is therefore at a higher risk of being harmed for those called on to 'serve and protect' our citizens. I feel afraid when I see increased police presence. I feel afraid when my partner goes out on errands at night. Our neighbours and citizens should not feel afraid of police brutality or crack-downs, and they should be able to access the supports that keep their humanity, dignity and safety top of mind. We need investments in community support and not failed efforts at police reform like body cameras and more and more advanced militarized equipment for a police force that is not fighting any new threats against it. We do not need more tanks or more sophisticated weapons. We need to invest in forms of community response that put the interests and needs of our community first. We need trained groups who are empowered to respond to mental health crisis calls, to calls about houseless citizens, for those in sex work. For many in our community, most prominently our Black and community members of colour, the presence of police in itself is an escalation of a situation, and one that represents fear, mistrust and threat. In order to de-escalate situations humanely and respectfully, we need to train and empower non-police community response units that do not threaten our community.

Finally, I want to express my personal disappointment in our mayor and our city's decision to not meet with those who were calling for an open discussion around police brutality and racism in Hamilton, alongside activist Desmond Cole. This decision was deeply harmful and it will not be forgotten. Not only were they not met with, after **days** of peaceful demonstration and community building outside city hall, but they were finally actively arrested while practicing their right to peaceful protest. One officer was heard asking another "what're the odds that I kill someone tonight?" How am I supposed to feel safe when this was the response of HPS to a peaceful protest calling for humanity and dignity? And how can our council stand by it?

Laurel
Ward 3

Item 6.1



Hamilton

**2021 TAX OPERATING BUDGET
BUDGET UPDATE**

GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

February 25, 2021

2021 BUDGET AMENDMENT ITEMS

			Residential Impact
Preliminary Residential Tax Increase - Budget Book		\$ 34,793,910	2.9%
APPROVED AMENDMENTS:			
Public Works	PW Committee Dec 7/2020 - Motion 11.1: Park Improvements (W3)	11,800	
Healthy and Safe Communities	Roxborough CIPA adjustment Dec 16/2020	(1,047,000)	
Capital Financing	Elimination of discretionary block funding Dec 18/2020	(4,500,000)	
Corporate Financials	Operating Impacts of Capital	3,357,600	
Non-Program Revenues	POA – SRA funding for forgone revenue	(1,043,500)	
Public Works	Blue Box Municipal Funding Allocation	(1,389,950)	
Public Works	Ferguson Avenues North Beautification	32,450	
Public Works	Dundas Driving Park (Parkside Hill)	2,500	
Planning and Economic Dev	Building division - Permit Intake Coordinator	0	
Healthy and Safe Communities	CSND funding adjustment for Children's Services	(990,000)	
B&A	To align to Board Approvals	1,273,881	
PED	Increased Municipal Law and Parking Enforcement in Waterfall Areas	0	
Volunteer Committees	To align to Volunteer Committee budget requests	(108)	
		\$ 30,501,583	(0.5)%

2021 BUDGET AMENDMENT ITEMS

APPROVED AMENDMENTS CONTINUED:			Residential Impact
<i>Council Referred:</i>			
Healthy and Safe Communities	Portable Housing Benefit Program	950,000	
Corporate Services	Protection of Privacy Policy	109,000	
Public Works	Parks Security Patrol Program	0	
Boards & Agencies	Hamilton Farmers Market Marketing Program	0	
		1,059,000	0.1%
<i>Business Cases:</i>			
Planning and Economic Dev	HIPC – Communications Associate	0	
Healthy and Safe Communities	Hamilton Paramedic Service – 2021 Ambulance Enhancement	522,790	
Corporate Services	Information Technology Additional FTEs	182,250	
		705,040	0.1%
AVG. RESIDENTIAL MUNICIPAL TAX IMPACT		\$32,265,623	2.6%

2021 RESIDENTIAL TAX IMPACT

		Residential Impact
Preliminary Residential Tax Increase - Budget Book	\$ 34,793,910	2.9%
TOTAL APPROVED AMENDMENTS from previous slide	(2,528,287)	(0.3%)
	\$32,265,623	2.6%
Updated Assessment Growth Impact (from 1.0% to 1.2%)		(0.2%)
Education Impact		(0.3%)
Impact of Levy Restrictions		0.1%
AVG. RESIDENTIAL MUNICIPAL TAX IMPACT		2.2%

2021 POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS

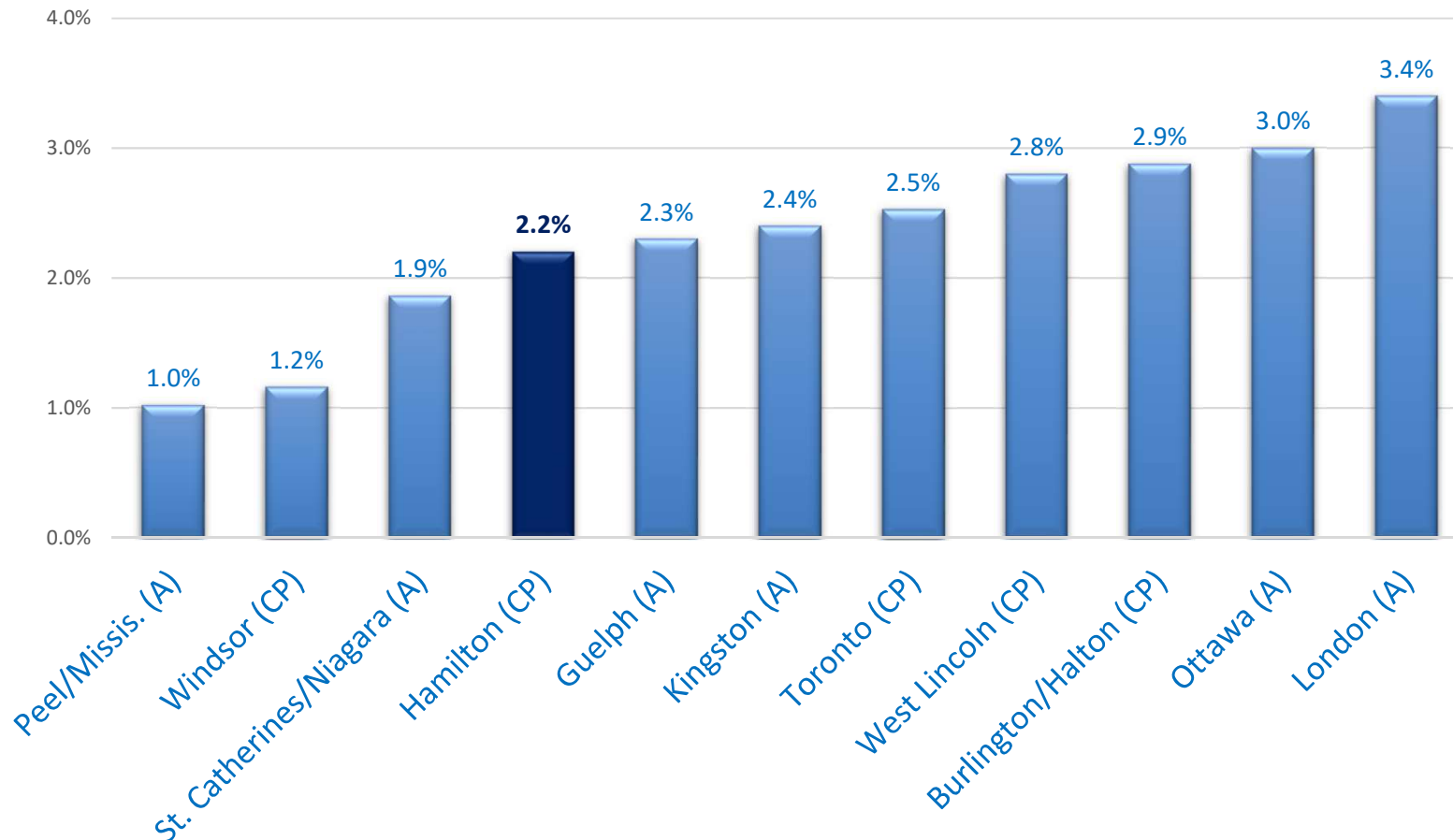
		Residential Impact
Current Position – Ave. Residential Tax Impact	\$ 32,265,623	2.2%
POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS		
Area Rated Parkland Purchases	(605,240)	(0.0%)
REVISED AVE. RESIDENTIAL MUNICIPAL TAX IMPACT	\$31,660,383	2.2%

2021 DEFERRED ITEMS

- Neighbour to Neighbour Community Food Centre funding

T = Targeted
CP = Current Position
A = Approved

2021 Residential Tax Impact Comparators



NEXT STEPS

ITEM	DATE
GIC – Budget Deliberations	March 1 st & 3 rd
Council Budget Approval	March 31 st



THANK YOU





INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	February 25, 2021
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	2020 Assessment Growth (FCS21016) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Gloria Rojas (905) 546-2424 Ext. 6247
SUBMITTED BY:	Mike Zegarac General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services Corporate Services Department
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

N/A

INFORMATION

Net Assessment Growth

Assessment growth is the change in the assessment base due to new properties, deleted rolls, as well as, changes in the assessment of existing properties. Positive net assessment growth from 2020 has a positive impact on 2021 taxation by generating additional property tax revenue.

The final 2020 net assessment growth used for 2021 taxation purposes is 1.2%, which is equivalent to approximately \$11.2 M in new tax revenue as shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1
2020 ASSESSMENT GROWTH – Gross and Net

	(Gross/Net)	
Increases	\$ 20,799,000	2.3%
Decreases	-\$ 9,572,000	-1.0%
Total	\$ 11,227,000	1.2%

Anomalies due to rounding

SUBJECT: 2020 Assessment Growth (FCS21016) (City Wide) – Page 2 of 7

This result includes approximately 70 properties that were purchased by Metrolinx with a total assessment of \$19 M and an estimated tax revenue of \$360 K. Those properties have been reclassified as properties that receive payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) so although there is a reduction in tax revenue, the City will still receive the municipal portion of the taxes and therefore, there will be no lost revenue due to this reclassification.

Table 2 provides a historical look at the City's recent assessment growth.

**TABLE 2
NET ASSESSMENT GROWTH 2016 - 2020**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	0.7%	1.4%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%
Residential	0.6%	1.3%	0.9%	1.1%	1.2%
Non-Residential	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.0%

It is important to note that the 1.2% growth is a net figure which considers both new construction / supplementary taxes (increase in assessment), as well as, write-offs / successful appeals, etc. (decrease in assessment). An existing property's assessment can change for many reasons, some of which include: a change as a result of a Request for Reconsideration (RfR) or Assessment Review Board decision; a change to the actual property (i.e. new structure, addition, removal of old structure); or a change in classification (i.e. property class change). In addition, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) conducts regular reviews of properties, both individually and at the sector level, analyzing changing market conditions and economic trends to determine any potential changes in valuation in order to ensure that assessments are up to date and are reflective of the properties' current state.

Year-over-year increases in assessment that are related to the four-year, phase-in reassessment cycle do not count as assessment growth and, therefore, do not result in additional tax revenue for the City. The reassessment planned for the 2021 tax year did not take place due to COVID-19.

Since each property class has its own specific tax ratio, some assessment changes have a larger impact on the net assessment growth than others. An assessment change on an industrial property (with a 2020 tax ratio of 3.3156) has a far greater impact on the net assessment growth than a similar assessment change on a residential property (with a tax ratio of 1.0000). As such, assessment reductions on a few properties (particularly in the industrial, large industrial and commercial property classes) can lessen the total net assessment growth.

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SUBJECT: 2020 Assessment Growth (FCS21016) (City Wide) – Page 3 of 7

Impact of COVID-19 on Assessment Growth

While the 2020 net assessment growth is in line with the growth observed in previous years, the ongoing lockdowns during 2020 as a result of COVID-19 might have had implications such as:

- The potential for fewer changes being processed due to logistical and / or capacity issues at MPAC due to work disruptions, etc.
- Reduced information flow within local municipalities and between local municipalities and MPAC (building permits and other trigger documents being closed, submitted, etc.).
- Possible slow-down of construction projects and fewer than anticipated completions.

Staff currently have no information verifying or disproving the above referenced potential implications, staff will be reviewing and assessing information leading to 2021 assessment reporting.

In the short term, staff will be reviewing current development activity and related assessment impacts for factors related to the pandemic, which may result in the following impacts:

- Fewer construction starts, particularly in the commercial sector.
- Backlogs in historic changes being processed could result in some additions timing out (omitted rolls not being added within three years).
- Sustainability / viability of existing businesses.

Assessment Growth by Property Class

Table 3 breaks down the 2020 assessment growth into major property classes.

**TABLE 3
2020 TOTAL ASSESSMENT GROWTH
BY CLASS**

	Change in Unweighted Assessment	Change in Municipal Taxes	% Class Change	% of Total Change
Residential	\$ 1,153,196,600	\$ 10,777,600	1.7%	1.2%
Multi-Residential	\$ 2,930,500	\$ (340,700)	-0.5%	0.0%
Commercial	\$ 58,937,400	\$ 1,012,600	0.6%	0.1%
Industrial	\$ (4,595,400)	\$ (257,200)	-0.6%	0.0%
Other	\$ 12,746,500	\$ 34,800	0.4%	0.0%
Total	\$ 1,223,215,600	\$ 11,227,000	1.2%	1.2%

Anomalies due to rounding

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SUBJECT: 2020 Assessment Growth (FCS21016) (City Wide) – Page 4 of 7

The change in unweighted assessment is the net change in the assessment base for each property class. The change in municipal taxes is the increase or decrease in the tax revenue for the City resulting from the change in unweighted assessment.

The percentage of class change column is the change in municipal taxes from the previous year for the class, while the percentage of total change column represents the contribution of each class to the total assessment growth increase.

The change in unweighted assessment recorded in 2020 of \$1.2 B is in line with the strong construction activity in the City. For the ninth consecutive year and tenth time in the past eleven years, construction activity within the City of Hamilton exceeded \$1 B. In 2020, the City of Hamilton reached the \$1.4 B mark, of which \$968 M are residential permits, the third highest in the City of Hamilton's history. The value of building permits includes the construction value of Government / Institutional properties which are tax exempt and, therefore, will not result in additional revenue for the City.

Residential Property Class

The residential property class continues to have a strong building activity and remains the main driver of the assessment growth in the City with an increase of 1.7% from last year, which represents additional tax revenue of \$10.8 M. Virtually all the assessment growth for this year, comes from the residential property class.

Ward 9 continues to be the area of the City with the largest year-over-year assessment growth (6.2%) with a large number of residential developments including single homes, townhouses and condos. Wards 12 and 15 also continue to have significant residential assessment growth.

Additional details of the residential property class assessment growth by ward can be found in Appendix "A" to Report FCS21016 "2020 Assessment Growth".

Multi-Residential and New Multi-Residential Property Classes

Assessment changes in the multi-residential property class (combined) resulted in a net decline in municipal property taxes for the second consecutive year. For 2020, tax revenue decreased by \$341 K or -0.5% from the previous year (-\$167 K and -0.2% in 2019), even though the net assessment increased by \$2.9 M. This is mostly the result of multi-residential properties being converted to condominiums. The negative effect of these conversions is partially mitigated by The Pinnacle, a new multi-residential high rise on Garth Street and Rymal Road West.

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SUBJECT: 2020 Assessment Growth (FCS21016) (City Wide) – Page 5 of 7

Conversions affect the tax revenue for the City since the property tax classification changes from multi-residential which has a tax ratio of 2.4876 to residential which has a tax ratio of 1.0000. In addition, although the newly converted condominiums are assessed at a higher value than the multi-residential units, the valuation is generally lower than comparable properties in the market.

The tax revenue from the multi-residential property class has also been affected negatively since 2017 when restrictions were imposed on the multi-residential property class preventing municipalities from increasing taxes beyond the 2016 level, effectively reducing the valuation and tax rate for the multi-residential property class. Therefore, any increases in the multi-residential property class are taxed at a lower rate than in previous years.

Commercial Property Class

During 2020, the commercial property class had an increase of 0.6% which represents \$1.0 M in additional tax revenue to the City, contributing 0.1% to the overall assessment growth.

Some of assessment increases recorded in 2020 in the commercial property class include:

- Commercial lands for future commercial development in Waterdown
- Gateway Ice Centre (reclassification)
- Westinghouse HQ Commercial / Industrial building
- Improvements to Columbia International College
- Stoney Creek Airport

It also includes the continued expansion of several commercial plazas across the City including:

- Winona Crossing
- Heritage Highlands (Stone Church and Upper Red Hill Valley)
- Commercial lands along Wilson Street West in Ancaster
- Smart Centres in Stoney Creek (Centennial Parkway North)

It is important to note that these developments are spread across the City reflecting commercial trends and community needs.

Appeals and RfR's that are being settled with significantly lower assessments continue to be a significant cause of the decrease in the commercial assessment. Many of these appeals are the result of adjustments to the properties' income due to a revision of market rates and / or in the gross leasable area. Some examples include:

SUBJECT: 2020 Assessment Growth (FCS21016) (City Wide) – Page 6 of 7

- Commercial condos on 150 Main Street West
- City-owned properties along King Street West (100-120 King Street West)
- Smart Centres on Hamilton Mountain (Upper James and Fennel)
- South Hamilton Square (Upper James and Rymal)
- Other commercial plazas across the City

Industrial Property Class

The industrial property class had an overall assessment reduction of \$4.6 M which resulted in a revenue loss of -\$257 K (-0.6% from 2019).

The decrease in the assessment value is, in part, due to the reclassification of industrial lands to residential or commercial. The most notable reduction in the class is the property formerly occupied by The Spectator, which is now exempt as it was purchased by McMaster. The industrial property class has also seen a number of appeals that have decreased the assessment value. Some examples include Nelson Steel Co., Nova Steel and Taylor Steel.

The following are some examples of properties in the industrial property class that experienced growth either through expansions, renovations or new developments:

- Stelco
- New Copley facility
- Industrial lands on Arvin Avenue (development in progress)
- Gay Lea Dairy (Innovation Centre)
- New Industrial building in the Ancaster Business Park

Details of the most notable appeals in the commercial and industrial classes settled within the last year will be brought forward for Council's consideration in the "Annual Assessment Appeals as of December 31, 2020" report, scheduled for the spring of 2021.

Other Classes

The other classes (farmland awaiting development, pipelines, landfills, farm and managed forest) had a minimal increase of \$34 K in tax revenue. Due to low tax ratio of these classes, assessment increases do not result in significant tax revenue. Changes in these classes are also due to RfR and reclassifications from farmland awaiting development to residential, multi-residential or commercial. Overall, the changes in the other classes are not substantial and do not have a significant impact on the City's assessment growth.

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SUBJECT: 2020 Assessment Growth (FCS21016) (City Wide) – Page 7 of 7

Assessment Growth by Ward

Table 4 shows the assessment growth by ward.

TABLE 4
2020 TOTAL ASSESSMENT GROWTH
BY WARD

	Change in Unweighted Assessment	Change in Municipal Taxes	% Ward Change	% of Total Change
Ward 1	\$ 35,351,300	\$ 57,000	0.1%	0.0%
Ward 2	\$ 8,593,200	\$ 69,700	0.1%	0.0%
Ward 3	\$ 46,162,200	\$ 495,900	1.0%	0.1%
Ward 4	\$ 10,369,100	\$ 79,600	0.1%	0.0%
Ward 5	\$ 73,196,100	\$ 647,500	1.0%	0.1%
Ward 6	\$ 9,441,800	\$ 184,500	0.3%	0.0%
Ward 7	\$ 9,044,300	\$ 45,100	0.1%	0.0%
Ward 8	\$ 7,900,800	\$ (148,000)	-0.3%	0.0%
Ward 9	\$ 317,407,700	\$ 3,094,900	6.2%	0.3%
Ward 10	\$ 107,918,000	\$ 1,173,700	1.5%	0.1%
Ward 11	\$ 45,118,000	\$ 437,500	1.0%	0.0%
Ward 12	\$ 202,544,900	\$ 1,993,400	2.1%	0.2%
Ward 13	\$ 35,133,300	\$ 266,400	0.4%	0.0%
Ward 14	\$ 42,046,500	\$ 360,000	0.8%	0.0%
Ward 15	\$ 272,988,300	\$ 2,469,900	3.9%	0.3%
Total	\$ 1,223,215,500	\$ 11,227,000	1.2%	1.2%

Anomalies due to rounding

Additional assessment growth tables by tax class and ward are available in Appendix "A" to Report FCS21016 "2020 Assessment Growth".

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" to Report FCS21016 – 2020 Assessment Growth by Ward and Class

GR/dt

2020 RESIDENTIAL ASSESSMENT GROWTH BY WARD

	Change in Unweighted Assessment	Change in Municipal Taxes	% Ward Change ¹	% of Total Change
Ward 1	\$ 67,223,200	\$ 696,200	1.7%	0.1%
Ward 2	\$ 17,429,500	\$ 180,500	0.8%	0.0%
Ward 3	\$ 45,552,400	\$ 471,700	1.6%	0.1%
Ward 4	\$ 14,880,400	\$ 154,100	0.5%	0.0%
Ward 5	\$ 54,300,000	\$ 561,100	1.6%	0.1%
Ward 6	\$ 693,700	\$ 7,200	0.0%	0.0%
Ward 7	\$ 13,694,200	\$ 141,800	0.3%	0.0%
Ward 8	\$ 28,796,800	\$ 298,200	0.7%	0.0%
Ward 9	\$ 303,029,700	\$ 2,840,800	7.0%	0.4%
Ward 10	\$ 83,222,300	\$ 735,000	1.4%	0.1%
Ward 11	\$ 42,156,300	\$ 352,900	1.0%	0.1%
Ward 12	\$ 190,051,600	\$ 1,756,800	2.2%	0.3%
Ward 13	\$ 21,206,400	\$ 192,400	0.4%	0.0%
Ward 14	\$ 10,625,800	\$ 108,000	0.3%	0.0%
Ward 15	\$ 260,334,200	\$ 2,280,900	4.6%	0.4%
Total	\$ 1,153,196,500	\$ 10,777,500	1.7%	1.7%

¹ % change in respective property class

Anomalies and differences against data in Report FCS21016 are due to rounding

2020 MULTI-RESIDENTIAL ASSESSMENT GROWTH BY WARD

	Change in Unweighted Assessment	Change in Municipal Taxes	% Ward Change ¹	% of Total Change
Ward 1	\$ (36,307,000)	\$ (510,200)	-5.4%	-0.7%
Ward 2	\$ (466,100)	\$ (27,300)	-0.1%	0.0%
Ward 3	\$ (3,538,000)	\$ (91,100)	-1.5%	-0.1%
Ward 4	\$ (470,000)	\$ (12,100)	-0.3%	0.0%
Ward 5	\$ 14,304,000	\$ 108,900	0.9%	0.1%
Ward 6	\$ (230,000)	\$ (5,900)	-0.2%	0.0%
Ward 7	\$ (217,000)	\$ (5,600)	-0.1%	0.0%
Ward 8	\$ (3,371,000)	\$ (86,800)	-2.7%	-0.1%
Ward 9	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	0.0%
Ward 10	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	0.0%
Ward 11	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	0.0%
Ward 12	\$ 697,600	\$ 16,400	12.2%	0.0%
Ward 13	\$ (571,000)	\$ (13,300)	-0.4%	0.0%
Ward 14	\$ 33,099,000	\$ 286,400	9.7%	0.4%
Ward 15	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	0.0%
Total	\$ 2,930,600	\$ (340,600)	-0.5%	-0.8%

¹ % change in respective property class

Anomalies and differences against data in Report FCS21016 are due to rounding

2020 COMMERCIAL ASSESSMENT GROWTH BY WARD

	Change in Unweighted Assessment	Change in Municipal Taxes	% Ward Change ¹	% of Total Change
Ward 1	\$ 15,569,100	\$ 319,200	4.0%	0.2%
Ward 2	\$ (14,747,100)	\$ (302,400)	-1.7%	-0.2%
Ward 3	\$ 3,219,200	\$ 66,000	0.7%	0.0%
Ward 4	\$ (5,521,000)	\$ (113,200)	-0.9%	-0.1%
Ward 5	\$ 5,242,100	\$ 105,700	0.6%	0.1%
Ward 6	\$ 9,093,700	\$ 186,500	1.8%	0.1%
Ward 7	\$ (4,551,000)	\$ (93,300)	-0.6%	-0.1%
Ward 8	\$ (17,525,000)	\$ (359,400)	-3.4%	-0.2%
Ward 9	\$ 12,794,900	\$ 233,200	2.9%	0.1%
Ward 10	\$ 23,385,300	\$ 417,900	2.8%	0.3%
Ward 11	\$ 7,202,700	\$ 121,500	4.0%	0.1%
Ward 12	\$ 12,008,200	\$ 218,700	1.6%	0.1%
Ward 13	\$ 2,995,400	\$ 58,000	1.0%	0.0%
Ward 14	\$ (1,678,300)	\$ (34,400)	-1.3%	0.0%
Ward 15	\$ 11,449,100	\$ 188,600	2.3%	0.1%
Total	\$ 58,937,100	\$ 1,012,500	0.6%	0.6%

¹ % change in respective property class


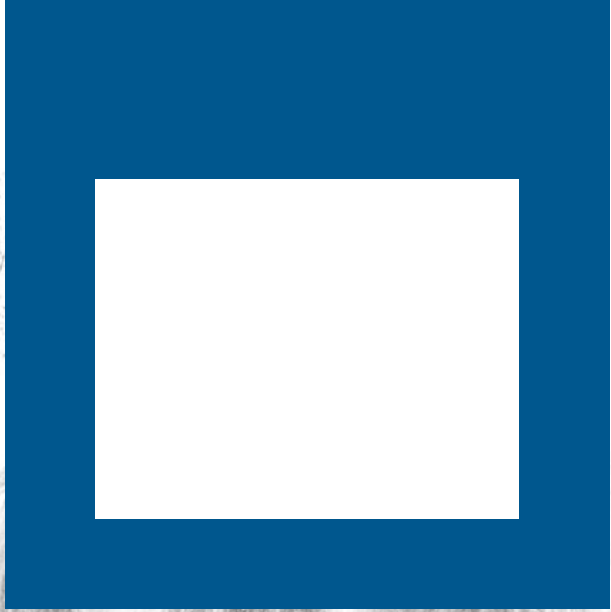
Anomalies and differences against data in Report FCS21016 are due to rounding

2020 INDUSTRIAL ASSESSMENT GROWTH BY WARD

	Change in Unweighted Assessment	Change in Municipal Taxes	% Ward Change ¹	% of Total Change
Ward 1	\$ (11,134,000)	\$ (448,300)	-40.6%	-1.0%
Ward 2	\$ 6,376,900	\$ 218,900	33.9%	0.5%
Ward 3	\$ 928,600	\$ 49,300	1.0%	0.1%
Ward 4	\$ 1,479,700	\$ 50,800	0.5%	0.1%
Ward 5	\$ (3,674,000)	\$ (133,200)	-5.1%	-0.3%
Ward 6	\$ (93,600)	\$ (3,200)	-0.2%	0.0%
Ward 7	\$ -	\$ -	#DIV/0!	0.0%
Ward 8	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	0.0%
Ward 9	\$ 397,800	\$ 10,700	2.8%	0.0%
Ward 10	\$ 1,915,200	\$ 25,400	0.3%	0.1%
Ward 11	\$ (1,213,400)	\$ (34,200)	-0.7%	-0.1%
Ward 12	\$ 16,400	\$ (3,200)	-0.1%	0.0%
Ward 13	\$ 388,200	\$ 12,400	0.9%	0.0%
Ward 14	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	0.0%
Ward 15	\$ 16,800	\$ (2,700)	-0.2%	0.0%
Total	\$ (4,595,400)	\$ (257,500)	-0.6%	-0.6%

¹ % change in respective property class

Anomalies and differences against data in Report FCS21016 are due to rounding



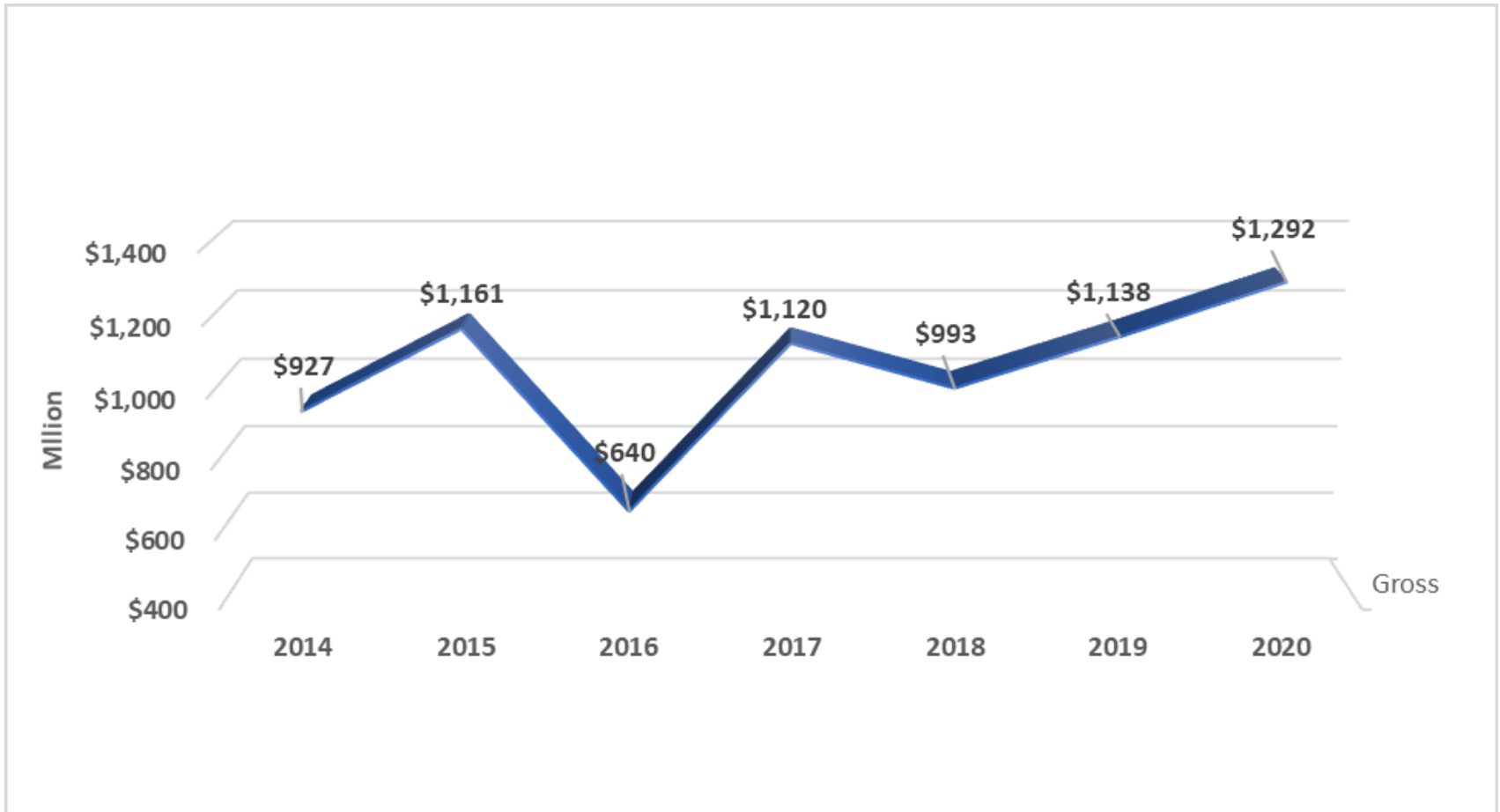
**2020 ASSESSMENT GROWTH
FCS21016**

GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

February 25, 2021

Assessment Growth Activity

Net 2014-2020

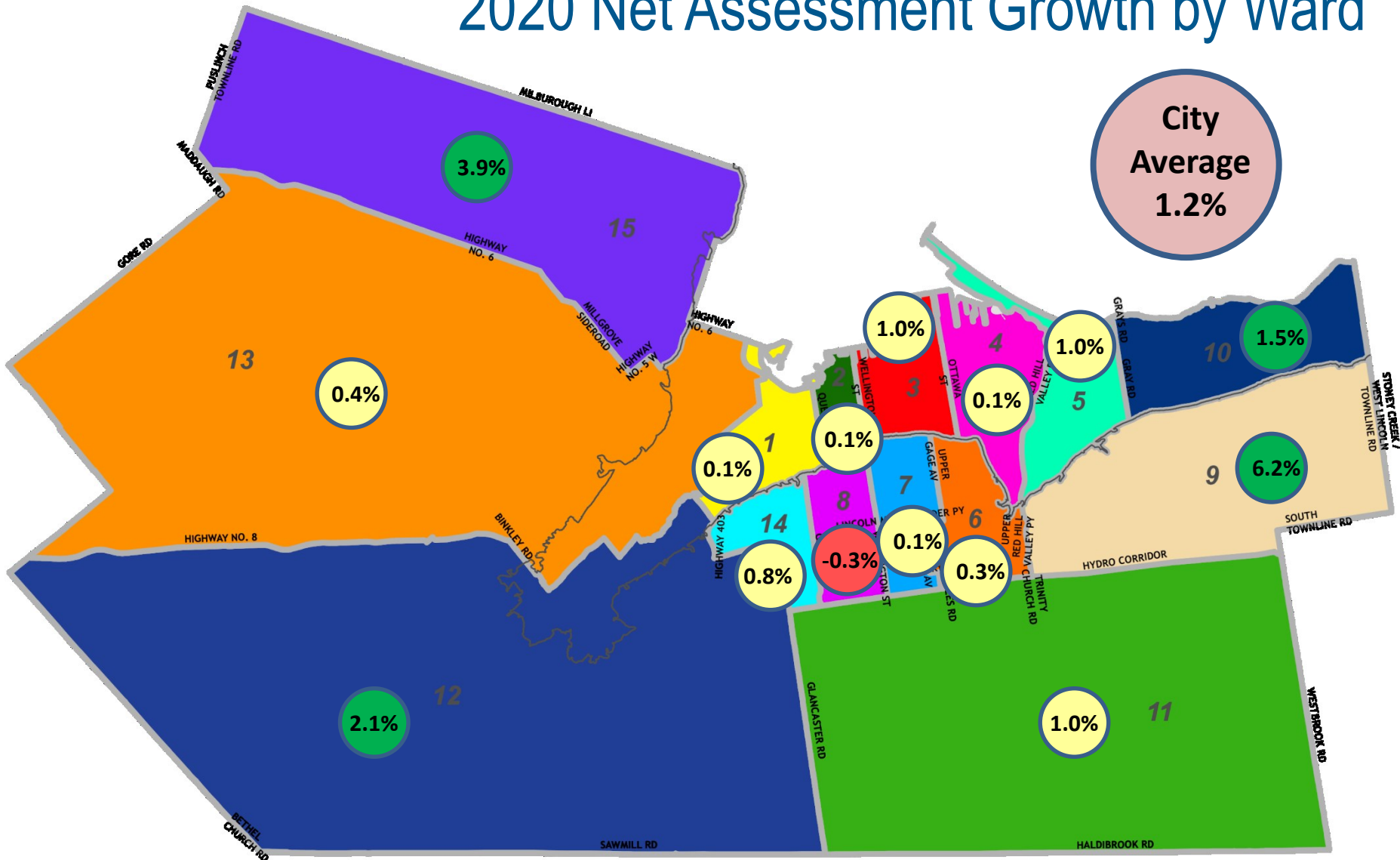


Residential vs. Non-Residential Growth

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	0.7%	1.4%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%
Residential	0.6%	1.3%	0.9%	1.1%	1.2%
Non-Residential	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.0%

- Continued reliance on the residential property class
- Assessment changes in non-residential properties have a larger impact on tax revenue
- Appeals in the commercial and industrial property classes are eroding the assessment base

2020 Net Assessment Growth by Ward



2020 Assessment Growth

- Gross assessment growth of 2.3% or \$1.9B assessed value
- Net assessment growth of 1.2% or \$1.2B assessed value and \$11.2M in municipal tax revenue

(Gross/Net)		
Increases	\$ 20,799,000	2.3%
Decreases	\$ (9,572,000)	-1.0%
Total	\$ 11,227,000	1.2%

Anomalies due to rounding

- Includes new assessment, changes in assessment due to Request for Reconsiderations (RfR) and Appeals, as well as MPAC's proactive and ongoing reviews of key property sectors

Residential vs. Non-Residential Growth

It's all about the tax ratio...

	2020 RATIOS
RESIDENTIAL	1.0000
COMMERCIAL	1.9800
INDUSTRIAL	3.3153

- \$1 million increase in residential assessment results in \$10,400 in additional taxes
- \$1 million increase in commercial assessment results in \$20,500 in additional taxes
- \$1 million increase in industrial assessment results in \$34,300 in additional taxes

2020 Net Assessment Growth by Class

	Change in Unweighted Assessment	Change in Municipal Taxes	% Class Change	% of Total Change
Residential	\$ 1,153,196,600	\$ 10,777,600	1.7%	1.2%
Multi-Residential	\$ 2,930,500	\$ (340,700)	-0.5%	0.0%
Commercial	\$ 58,937,400	\$ 1,012,600	0.6%	0.1%
Industrial	\$ (4,595,400)	\$ (257,200)	-0.6%	0.0%
Other	\$ 12,746,500	\$ 34,800	0.4%	0.0%
Total	\$ 1,223,215,600	\$ 11,227,000	1.2%	1.2%

- \$1.2B net assessment growth
- Residential main driver

Multi-Residential Property Class

- For the second consecutive year assessment changes in the multi-residential property class (combined) resulted in a net decline in municipal property taxes
- For 2020, tax revenue decreased by \$341k or -0.5% from the previous year (-\$167k and -0.2% in 2019), even though the net assessment increased by \$2.9 M

Multi-Residential Property Class

- The increase in assessment does not translate into higher revenue is as a result of the conversion of multi-residential properties to residential condos
- Conversions affect the tax revenue for the City since the property tax classification changes from Multi-Residential, which has a tax ratio of 2.4876 to Residential, which has a tax ratio of 1.0000

Multi-Residential Property Class

Existing condo conversion:

Original

Classified as Multi-Residential
Municipal Property Taxes \$129,000

Post Conversion

Classified as Residential
Municipal Property Taxes \$91,000

property tax reduction: about 30%



Multi-Residential Property Class

New Development

Tax ratio equal to residential

Current

Classified as New Multi-Residential
Municipal Property Taxes \$381,000

Pre-2001

Classified as Multi-Residential
Municipal Property Taxes \$947,000
(estimate)



Multi-Residential Property Class

- Provincial policy also restricts tax increases beyond the 2016 level resulting in increases in the Multi-Residential property class being taxed at a lower rate than in previous years
- No indication from the provincial government as to whether the policy will change in the upcoming years

Commercial Property Class

- During 2020 the Commercial property class had a net increase of 0.6% which represents \$1.0 M in additional tax revenue
- Net assessment growth for 2020 was \$58.9 M. However, this class continues to be negatively affected by a significant number of appeals and request for reconsiderations

Commercial Property Class

- Some of assessment increases recorded in 2020 in the commercial property class include:
 - Commercial lands for future commercial development in Waterdown
 - Westinghouse HQ Commercial/Industrial building
 - Storage warehouses on Pritchard Rd.
 - Improvements to Columbia International College
 - Stoney Creek Airport

Commercial Property Class

- It also includes the continued expansion of several commercial plazas across the City including:
 - Winona Crossing
 - Heritage Highlands (Stone Church & Upper Red Hill Valley)
 - Commercial lands along Wilson St. W in Ancaster
 - Smart Centres in Stoney Creek (Centennial Parkway North)

Commercial Property Class

- Assessment appeals are causing a significant erosion of the assessment base. Some examples include:
 - Smart Centres on Hamilton Mountain (Upper James & Fennel)
 - City owned properties along King St. West (100-120 King St. W.)
 - Commercial condos on 150 Main St. West
 - South Hamilton Square (Upper James & Rymal)
 - Other commercial plazas across the City

Industrial Property Class

- The Industrial property class had a net assessment reduction of -0.6% resulting in a municipal property tax revenue loss of \$257k
- Most decreases are mostly due to reclassification from the industrial property class to the commercial/residential property class and due to appeals
- Some notable appeals that have resulted in decreased assessment value include Nelson Steel Co., Nova Steel and Taylor Steel.

Industrial Property Class



Original

Classified as Large Industrial

Municipal Property Taxes \$488,000

Current

Classified as Exempt

Municipal Property Taxes \$0

Industrial Property Class

- Some examples of increased assessment include:
 - Stelco
 - New Industrial building in the Ancaster Business Park
 - New Copley facility
 - Industrial lands on Arvin Av. (development in progress)
 - Gay Lea Dairy (Innovation Centre)

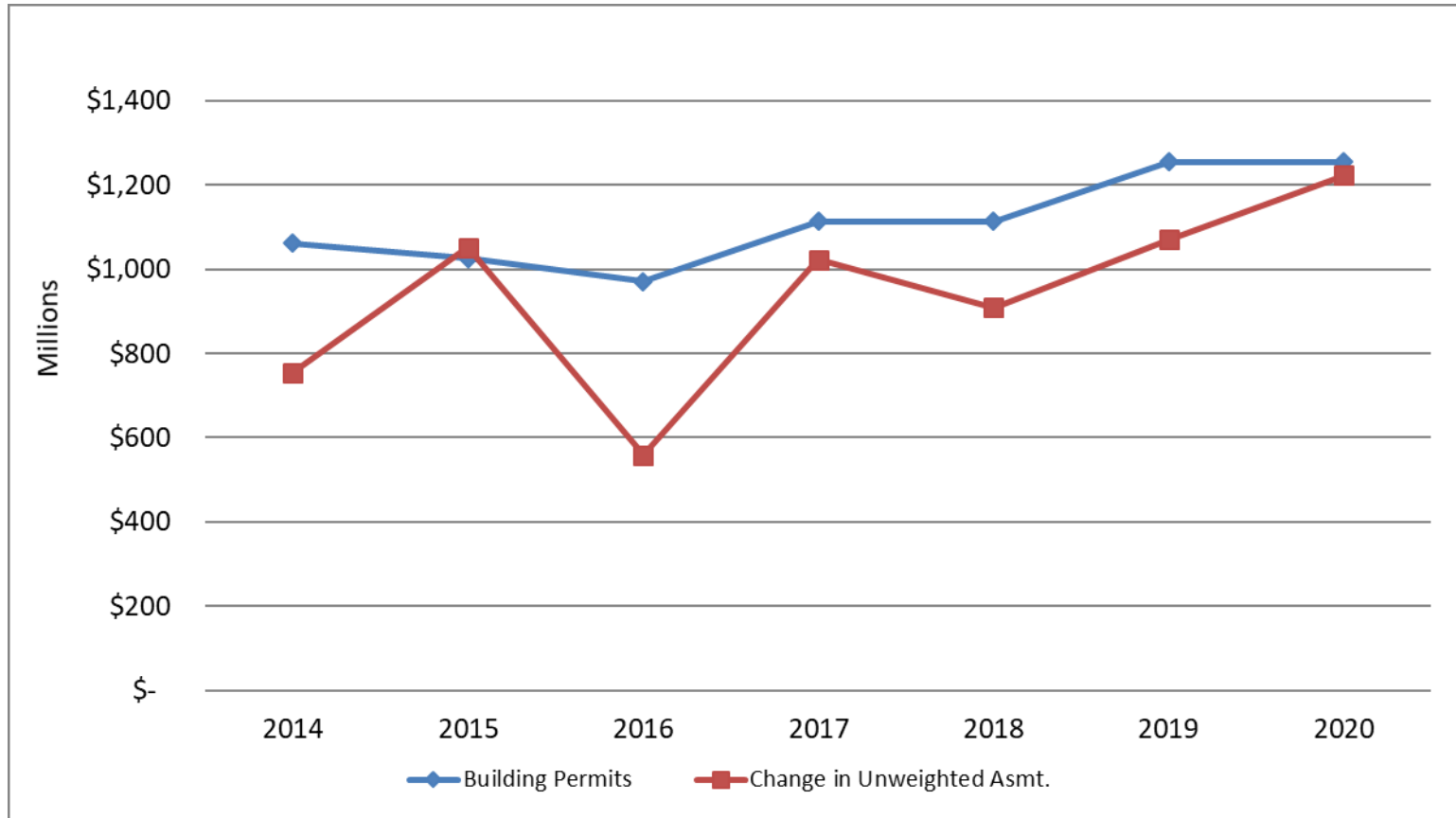


VALUE OF BUILDING PERMITS VS. ASSESSMENT GROWTH

Assessment Growth vs. Building Permits

- There are three main reasons for the difference between assessment growth and building permits:
 1. Time lag
 2. Difference in valuation
 3. Property Type

Assessment Growth vs. Value of Building Permits (*)



(*) Building permits are net of Government/Institutional construction value as they do not result in taxable assessment for the City.

Assessment Growth vs. Value of Building Permits (Cont'd)

Property Type	Building Permit Value	Increase in Assessment	Assessment to Building Permit Ratio
Typical Subdivision House (Ancaster)	\$250,000	\$224,000	90%
Custom Built House (Ancaster)	\$3,070,000	\$2,190,000	71%
Apartment Building (Downtown)	\$7,936,110	\$10,164,000	128%
Hotel (Downtown)	\$6,983,000	\$10,531,000	151%
Industrial Building (Ancaster)	\$7,175,000	\$12,198,000	170%
Industrial Building (Waterdown)	\$12,256,750	\$11,662,000	95%
Industrial Building (Glanbrook)	\$26,601,700	\$20,095,500	76%
Hotel (Downtown)	\$30,215,000	\$14,347,500	47%
Institutional/Industrial Building (Hamilton)	\$55,000,000	\$15,366,000	28%
Industrial Building (Glanbrook)	\$85,531,933	\$34,406,000	40%

Assessment Growth vs. Value of Building Permits (Cont'd)

Property Type	Building Permit Year	MPAC Assessment	Assessment Effective Date	Taxes Received	Time Lag (Years)
Typical Subdivision House (Ancaster)	2013	2015	2015	2016	3
Custom Built House (Ancaster)	2012	2016	2015	2016	4
Apartment Building (Downtown)	2014	2015	2015	2016	2
Hotel (Downtown)	2011	2013	2012	2014	3
Industrial Building (Ancaster)	2012	2015	2014	2015	3
Industrial Building (Waterdown)	2017	2019	2019	2019	2
Industrial Building (Glanbrook)	2010	2012	2011	2012	2
Hotel (Downtown)	2012	2014	2014	2015	3
Institutional/Industrial Building (Hamilton)	2009	2016	2014	2014	5
Industrial Building (Glanbrook)	2012	2014	2014	2015	3

2021 Average Res. Assessment

	2021 Average Residential Assessment	Assmt. as % of City's average
Ward 1	\$ 407,300	107%
Ward 2	\$ 281,100	74%
Ward 3	\$ 225,400	59%
Ward 4	\$ 233,800	61%
Ward 5	\$ 311,600	82%
Ward 6	\$ 332,700	87%
Ward 7	\$ 337,300	89%
Ward 8	\$ 368,100	97%
Ward 9	\$ 407,600	107%
Ward 10	\$ 411,500	108%
Ward 11	\$ 401,000	105%
Ward 12	\$ 543,000	143%
Ward 13	\$ 486,500	128%
Ward 14	\$ 406,500	107%
Ward 15	\$ 523,200	137%

2021 Average City-wide Residential Assessment = \$381,000

2020 Average City-wide Residential Assessment = \$380,300



THANK YOU



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	February 25, 2021
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Considerations to Implement a Vacant Home Tax in Hamilton (FCS21017) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Gloria Rojas (905) 546-2424 Ext. 6247
SUBMITTED BY:	Brian McMullen Director, Financial Planning, Administration and Policy Corporate Services Department
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

Council at its meeting of December 11, 2019 approved GIC Report 19-026 from its meeting on December 9, 2019 and the following motion:

Feasibility of the Municipality Imposing a Tax Fee or Charge to the Owners of Vacant Properties (Item 12.1)

“Staff was directed to review the feasibility of the municipality imposing a tax, fee or charge to the owners of vacant residential properties to encourage occupation of those properties, and report back to the General Issues Committee during the 2021 Capital Budget process”.

INFORMATION

Report FCS21017 presents information on the implications of imposing a vacant home tax in the City of Hamilton. It addresses legal considerations of a tax or user fee or charge, the purpose of the Vacant Home Tax, potential financial impacts, considerations to define and identify vacant homes and the process taken by the cities of Toronto and Vancouver to impose a Vacant Home Tax (“VHT”).

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**SUBJECT: Considerations to Implement a Vacant Home Tax in Hamilton
(FCS21017) (City Wide) – Page 2 of 6**

Legal Considerations

Part IX.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* contains provisions permitting municipalities to impose a tax for vacant units that are classified in the residential property class and that are taxable under that Act for municipal purposes. To be able to impose such tax, a municipality must be designated by regulation.

Currently, the only municipality in Ontario that has the power to impose the tax is the City of Toronto, through the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*. In November 2020, City of Toronto staff presented a report recommending the implementation of a Vacant Home Tax (“VHT”) commencing in the 2022 taxation year. The only other municipality in Canada currently charging a similar tax is the City of Vancouver which implemented the Empty Homes Tax (“EHT”) in 2017.

Both Toronto and Vancouver have conducted extensive consultation with property owners and renters and have engaged subject matter experts in real estate, technology and legal matters in order to define their approach to the VHT and EHT, respectively.

The *Municipal Act, 2001* does not authorize designated municipalities to impose a fee or charge in respect of vacant residential units. A municipality’s authority to impose a fee or charge is found in Section 391 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* which permits a fee or charge only in the following circumstances:

- a) for services or activities provided or done by or on behalf of it;
- b) for costs payable by it for services or activities provided or done by or on behalf of any other municipality or any local board; and
- c) for the use of its property including property under its control.

If the Council of the City of Hamilton would like to impose a VHT, the first step would be to submit a request to the Minister of Finance that the City be designated under Part IX.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*. Other provisions needed to impose the tax include a by-law passed in the year to which it relates stating the tax rate, definition of a vacant home, exemptions, rebates, as well as, audit and inspections powers.

It is worth noting that the effect of a VHT will not be immediate and significant lead time is required to effectively implement it since all the features of the VHT will need to be clearly defined – the administrative, IT and audit functions will have to be developed and the public will have to be informed and educated on the tax.

**SUBJECT: Considerations to Implement a Vacant Home Tax in Hamilton
(FCS21017) (City Wide) – Page 3 of 6**

Purpose of the Tax

Under *Ontario's Fair Housing Plan* of 2017, the Province announced a series of measures to address a number of housing issues including permitting designated municipalities to impose a tax on vacant homes in order to “encourage property owners to sell unoccupied units or rent them out, to address concerns about residential units potentially being left vacant by speculators”.

A tax on vacant houses is, therefore, designed primarily as a housing tool rather than a revenue tool. The main objective of implementing a VHT is to encourage owners to rent out empty properties in order to increase the supply and affordability of housing.

In practice, whether a VHT could achieve the objective of increasing the availability and affordability of housing is still unclear. In Vancouver, data suggests that many of the taxed vacant houses were properties which assessment was higher than the average and could not be classified as affordable housing units. An important design feature of a VHT is, therefore, the monitoring and measuring of the number and type of properties that transition from unoccupied to the rental or affordable market.

Regarding the availability of housing in Hamilton, according to the Rental Market Report released on December 2020 by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), the overall vacancy rate in the Hamilton Census Metropolitan Area is 3.9% and the average monthly rent is \$1,133. The report concludes that:

“Greater competition from new student housing and more condominium rentals, as well as a greater number of renters transitioning into homeownership, led to a higher vacancy rate. The average rent increase in apartment structures surveyed in both 2018 and 2019 was 5.3%. Despite a higher number of vacancies this year, options were limited enough for asking rents on vacant units to be significantly higher than rents on occupied units.”

The 3.9% vacancy rate is for both the primary and secondary markets. The primary rental market only includes rental units in privately-initiated apartment structures containing at least three rental units. The secondary rental market covers rental dwellings that were not originally purpose-built for the rental market, including rental condominiums.

A secondary outcome of the VHT would be additional revenue for the municipality. In furthering the alignment of the VHT with the goals of increased housing supply and affordability, both Toronto and Vancouver are proposing to use the net revenue from this tax to fund affordable housing initiatives.

**SUBJECT: Considerations to Implement a Vacant Home Tax in Hamilton
(FCS21017) (City Wide) – Page 4 of 6**

Potential Financial Impact

The financial impact would depend on the number of properties subject to the VHT and, in fact, identifying vacant units is the biggest challenge for the implementation of the tax.

According to the study “A Review of Issues to be Considered for the Taxation of Vacant Homes in Toronto”, prepared by KPMG for the City of Toronto in March 2020 and updated in November 2020, the number of vacant homes in Toronto is unknown, at this time, but assuming that 1% of the housing stock is vacant and assuming a 1% tax, the gross revenue could be between \$55 M and \$66 M. Toronto also estimates that implementation costs could be between \$10 M to \$13 M over a two-year period. Some of the implementation costs relate to the development of a payment and reporting system, public awareness campaigns, business support, technical and professional services and hardware and software costs.

As part of the ongoing operations, Toronto will also need to hire staff to take care of the tax administration, review and compliance, appeals and dispute resolutions, communications, IT support and maintenance, a call centre and maintenance.

According to the same study, Vancouver raised \$38 M in 2017 and \$39.8 M in 2018. Implementation costs were \$7.4 M and annual administration costs are \$2.9 M.

Given the differences in size and housing market availability and affordability between the City of Hamilton and Toronto and Vancouver staff expect that the VHT would yield significantly different financial impacts. The City would face the same issue of difficulty in identifying vacant units.

Applying the same method used by the City of Toronto for a high-level estimate, Hamilton would have approximately 1,765 vacant units (1% of the total 176,500 residential units). Based on an average assessment of \$381,000 and a 1.0% tax rate, Hamilton could receive revenues of approximately \$6.7 M. Based on a 3.0% tax rate, the revenue could reach up to \$20.2 M. Implementation and operating costs will have to be carefully examined in order to determine if the implementation of the tax is financially sound.

While the desired outcome of the VHT is to increase the availability of housing, if the VHT is effectively moving vacant homes into occupied homes, this will result in a decreasing revenue from this source over time.

**SUBJECT: Considerations to Implement a Vacant Home Tax in Hamilton
(FCS21017) (City Wide) – Page 5 of 6**

Defining and Identifying “Vacant Home”

According to Ontario’s legislation, the VHT can only be imposed to properties in the residential property class, which includes condominium units. Rental apartment units and vacant land would not be subject to the tax.

Vancouver’s definition of “vacant” is a property that has been unoccupied for more than six months during the previous calendar year. The six months of vacancy do not need to be continuous nor does the occupant need to be the same occupant over the six-month period. Occupancy must occur in periods of at least 30 consecutive days or more and it is not enough that the property was simply available for occupation (i.e. listed as a short-term rental).

Toronto is considering a similar definition as this period of time acknowledges circumstances for which an individual may spend an extended period of time outside of their home such as work or study obligations or spending time at seasonal properties (cottage, warmer climates). Also, as a reference point, Ontario residents may be temporarily outside of the country for no more than 212 days in a 12-month period in order to maintain Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) coverage.

Acknowledging that there may be some special circumstances for a home to be vacant for an extended period of time, Toronto is considering exemptions to the VHT. Some possible exemptions are:

- Vacancy due to renovations
- Vacancy due to court order
- Vacancy due to strata rental restrictions
- Owner is deceased
- Owner or resident is undergoing supportive care
- Ownership changed during the calendar year

Identifying vacant units is the most challenging piece for the implementation of the VHT. Data from hydro or meter readings cannot be used due to privacy restrictions.

Statistics Canada provides a count of total dwellings and private dwellings occupied by usual residents. However, the definition of private dwelling includes rental apartments which are not covered under the legislation. The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation report previously referred also includes apartment rentals and, therefore, these two sets of data overstate the number of units that could be subject to the VHT.

**SUBJECT: Considerations to Implement a Vacant Home Tax in Hamilton
(FCS21017) (City Wide) – Page 6 of 6**

Vancouver has opted for a mandatory self-declaration where all residential property owners are required to make a declaration on the status of the property on the preceding year. If no declaration is made, the property is deemed vacant. Substantial penalties have been put in place to deter property owners to make false declarations. Toronto is considering either the “Universal Declaration” approach, where all residential property owners are required to make a declaration or the “Self-identification” approach, where only residential property owners with vacant properties are required to make a declaration.

While the Universal Declaration approach would likely result in a relatively low evasion rate, it requires a significant administrative effort in terms of day-to-day operations, as well as, audit and compliance and it also requires an extensive public education and awareness campaign. The Self-identification approach requires a lower administrative effort but has a higher risk of avoidance and also requires more education / public awareness and a higher level of enforcement.

Other Tax Design Features

Ontario’s legislation requires that a designated municipality prepare an annual by-law stating the definition of vacant home, exemptions, the tax rate, rebates, as well as, audit and inspections’ powers. Appendix “A” to Report FCS21017 summarizes Toronto’s and Vancouver’s approach to the design of the VHT / EHT.

Measuring Effectiveness

In order to measure the effectiveness of the VHT, annual reporting and monitoring of the annual declarations must be built into the design of the tax while keeping the goals of the tax in mind. For example, the VHT would not be considered successful if the revenue is collected but the number of vacant homes does not decrease. Additional analysis on how the vacancy rates trend over time and how market rates are changing will aid in measuring the success of the tax.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Report FCS21017 – Vacant Home Tax Features – Jurisdictional Assessment

GR/dt

Vacant Home Tax Features – Jurisdictional Assessment

Features	Toronto (*)	Vancouver
Tax	Vacant Home Tax (“VHT”)	Empty Homes Tax (“EHT”)
Implementation Date	Jan. 1, 2022	Jan. 1, 2017
Implementation Process	<p>2017-2020: Consultation process, analysis, independent study (KPMG); HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan is adopted</p> <p>Nov. 2020: Recommendation to Council to begin implementation of the VHT</p> <p>2021: Tax design, by-law, regulations, prepare administrative functions</p> <p>2022: First reference year, public awareness campaign, refine administrative functions</p> <p>2023: First homeowner declarations, first billing, collection, audit, etc. Second reference year; continued public awareness.</p>	<p>July 2016: Consultation process, analysis</p> <p>Fall 2016: Endorsement in principle / further consultation</p> <p>November 2016: Approval</p> <p>2017: First vacancy reference period</p> <p>2018: First homeowner declarations, first billing, collection, etc.</p>

Features	Toronto (*)	Vancouver
Implementation Costs	\$10 M - \$13 M over a two-year period. Includes new/adjustments to the tax management and collection systems, setting a public interface for VHT related issues (declarations, payments, appeals, etc.); developing audit and compliance capability as well as a dispute resolution system.	\$7.4 M (initial estimate was \$4.7 M).
Definition of Home	Properties in the residential property class according to provincial legislation. Apartments and vacant land are not included.	The EHT applies to all Class 1 Residential properties within the City of Vancouver that were not used as a principal residence or rented for at least six months of the year.
Revenue Generation	Estimated between \$55 M and \$66 M.	2017: \$38 M 2018: \$39.8 M
Definition of Vacant	Unoccupied for more than six months during the preceding calendar year. Final definition to be refined.	Unoccupied for more than six months during the preceding calendar year. The six months of vacancy do not need to be continuous nor the occupant needs to be the same.

Features	Toronto (*)	Vancouver
Exemptions	To be defined.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change in ownership - Major renovations - Occupied by the owner for work purpose - The property occupier was undergoing medical care - Death of registered owner - Rental restrictions - The property is under a court order - A property is limited in use
Tax Rate	1.0% of CVA.	<p>Due to the relatively high number of property owners that opted to pay the tax, rather than renting out their property, the City of Vancouver has increased the EHT rate as follows:</p> <p>2017-2019: 1.0% 2020: 1.25% 2021: 3.0%</p>
Identification of Properties	To be determined: Mandatory Universal Declaration or Self Declaration of Vacant Properties.	Mandatory Universal Declaration of property status.
Administration & Administration Costs	As part of the ongoing operations, staff will need to be employed for tax administration, review and compliance, appeals and dispute resolutions, communications, IT support and maintenance, call centre and maintenance.	\$2.9 M annually

Features	Toronto (*)	Vancouver
Audit	To be determined. Requested documentation to support status of the property must comply with the requirements of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.	Random checks; Audit selected based on risk assessment.
Dispute Resolution	To be defined.	Property owners should file a Notice of Complaint requesting that the Vacancy Tax Review Officer review the declaration and any evidence or information submitted in support of it. The Review Officer is an independent party who is not involved in the original audit determination.
Penalties & Enforcement	Under the City of Toronto Act, the City has a system of fines allowing fines from \$500 - \$10,000 as well as escalating fines for subsequent convictions for the same offense and special fines to be applied in addition to the other fines imposed for the offense.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fine between \$250 - \$10,000 for false declaration - Late penalty of 5%



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	February 25, 2021
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Savings Generated from Funded Projects (FCS21007) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Kayla Petrovsky Fleming (905) 546-2424 Ext. 1310 Tran Trang (905) 546-2424 Ext. 6151
SUBMITTED BY:	Brian McMullen Director, Financial Planning, Administration and Policy Corporate Services Department
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

Council has requested information with regard to savings for the City on approved funded projects.

INFORMATION

Report FCS21007 updates Council on the savings generated from approved projects with the expectation that these savings be used to pay back the funds invested and, subsequently, direct the savings to increase the reserves or to reduce the operating budget tax levy or operating budget water, wastewater/ storm rates. These projects are funded from a combination of City reserves, the capital budget and various incentive programs.

Report FCS21007 identifies 36 projects approved since 2011 that required investment and had an expected return. In total, the group of projects listed in Appendix "A" to Report FCS21007 "Savings Generated from Funded Projects" have a repayment requirement of \$19.6 M, returning anticipated annual savings of \$5.2 M (\$4.4 M in operating savings and \$770 K in reserve contributions) when completed.

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**SUBJECT: Savings Generated from Funded Projects (FCS21007) (City Wide) –
Page 2 of 3**

Projects completed as of December 31, 2020 have generated annual savings of approximately \$3.8 M, of which \$3.0 M has been used to reduce the Tax Operating Budget levy, \$400 K has been used to offset expenditures in the Rate Budget and \$401 K has been reinvested in the energy reserve.

In addition to the financial savings generated, these projects help to advance Council's strategic initiatives. Many of these projects, embodied in the Corporate Energy Program and the Climate Change Action Plan, result in reduced energy usage and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, moving the City towards the goal of net-zero before 2050 as identified in the 2016-2025 Strategic Plan.

Appendix "A" to Report FCS21007 "Savings Generated from Funded Projects" lists the details of 36 efficiency projects that are currently being tracked. The approximate investment in all these projects is \$31.2 M. After incentives and rebates, the repayment required is \$19.6 M, of which \$14.6 M has already been paid back. The balance will be paid within the next 12 years (2021 to 2033).

Table 1 identifies the 13 projects that have been completed to date. These projects have completed their repayments and generate \$3.8 M in annual savings – \$3.0 M in operating savings, \$400 K in rate budget savings and \$401 K reinvested in reserves.

TABLE 1 – Section 1 Budget Savings

Department	Project	Repayment Required	Savings after Repayment (annual)	Year Savings Begin
Savings to Tax Operating Budget				
Public Works	Energy Retrofit Pilot Program	\$2,637,500	(\$297,040)	2011
CMO/ Corporate Services	Appointment of Managers for former HECFI Facilities	\$2,400,000	(\$1,065,000)	2014
Public Works	Traffic Signal LED* Replacement - System Efficiency	\$2,375,500	(\$294,585)	2016
Public Works	LED* Street Light Retrofit - Phase I	\$1,144,000	(\$750,000)	2018
Public Works	LED* Street Light Retrofit - Phase II	\$0	(\$600,000)	2019
Total Reductions to Tax Operating Budget		\$8,557,000	(\$3,006,625)	

* LED = Light Emitting Diode

Savings to Rate Budget				
Public Works	High Lift Pumping Station at Woodward Treatment Plant	\$2,518,000	(\$400,000)	2018
REDUCTIONS TO RATE BUDGET		\$2,518,000	(\$400,000)	

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**SUBJECT: Savings Generated from Funded Projects (FCS21007) (City Wide) –
Page 3 of 3**

TABLE 1 Section 2 – Reserve Investments

Department	Project	Repayment Required	Savings after Repayment (annual)	Year Savings Begin
Savings Invested in Energy Reserve				
Public Works	Macassa Lodge Water Conservation	\$85,400	(\$28,000)	2016
Public Works	Arena Lighting & Controls	\$137,943	(\$37,152)	2017
Public Works	Fire Stations Lighting & Controls	\$570,289	(\$140,000)	2019
Public Works	Wentworth Operating Centre Lighting & Controls	\$147,100	(\$37,000)	2020
Public Works	Low Emissivity Ceilings - Arenas	\$76,668	(\$55,900)	2021
Public Works	Hamilton Convention Centre Lighting & Controls	\$313,062	(\$51,000)	2021
Public Works	EE** Lighting Aquatic Centres	\$265,943	(\$52,000)	2021
INVESTMENTS TO RESERVES		\$1,596,406	(\$401,052)	
TOTAL SAVINGS AFTER REPAYMENT (ANNUAL)			(\$3,807,677)	

** EE = Energy Efficient

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Report FCS21007 – Savings Generated from Funded Projects

KP/TT/dt

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

SAVINGS GENERATED FROM FUNDED PROJECTS

Lead Department	Project	Repayment Required	Projected Savings after Repayment (Annual)	Year Savings Begin	Comments
Public Works	Macassa Lodge Water Conservation	\$85,377	(\$28,000)	2016	Energy Reserve
Public Works	Arena Lighting & Controls	\$137,943	(\$37,152)	2017	Energy Reserve
Public Works	Fire Stations Lighting & Controls	\$570,289	(\$140,000)	2019	Energy Reserve
Public Works	Wentworth Operating Centre Lighting & Controls	\$147,100	(\$37,000)	2020	Energy Reserve
Public Works	Low Emissivity Ceilings - Arenas	\$76,668	(\$55,900)	2021	Energy Reserve
Public Works	Hamilton Convention Centre Lighting & Controls	\$313,062	(\$51,000)	2021	Energy Reserve
Public Works	EE Lighting Aquatic Centres	\$265,943	(\$52,000)	2021	Energy Reserve
Public Works	Transit Centre EE Lighting	\$340,913	(\$87,000)	2022	Energy Reserve
Public Works	EE Lighting Parking Garage	\$468,129	(\$125,000)	2023	Energy Reserve
Public Works	Energy Retrofit Pilot Program	\$2,637,500	(\$297,040)	2011	Operating Budget
CMO/ Corporate Services	Appointment of Managers for former HECFI Facilities	\$2,400,000	(\$1,065,000)	2014	Operating Budget
Public Works	Traffic Signal LED Replacement - System Efficiency	\$2,375,500	(\$294,585)	2016	Operating Budget
Public Works	LED Street Light Retrofit - Phase I	\$1,144,000	(\$750,000)	2018	Operating Budget
Public Works	LED Street Light Retrofit - Phase II	\$0	(\$600,000)	2019	Operating Budget
Healthy and Safe Communities	Power Assisted Ambulance Stretcher Replacement	\$1,556,662	(\$168,000)	2022	Operating Budget

SAVINGS GENERATED FROM FUNDED PROJECTS

Lead Department	Project	Repayment Required	Projected Savings after Repayment (Annual)	Year Savings Begin	Comments
Public Works	Dundas Lion's Memorial Community Centre LED Lighting	\$18,303	(\$8,067)	2022	Operating Budget
Public Works	Sackville Hill Recreation Centre Exterior Lighting	\$23,999	(\$6,000)	2022	Operating Budget
Public Works	Olympic Arena Infra-red Heater	\$32,506	(\$9,551)	2023	Operating Budget
Public Works	Wentworth Operations Centre - LED lighting Systems Upgrade (Interior)*	\$30,000	(\$33,100)	2023	Operating Budget
Public Works	Ice Plant Optimization Arenas - Head Pressure Control*	\$300,000	(\$157,000)	2024	Operating Budget
Public Works	Parkdale Arena & Morgan Firestone Arena Low-E Ceilings*	\$96,390	(\$41,417)	2024	Operating Budget
Public Works	Ancaster Senior Achievement Centre Lighting	\$30,209	(\$6,148)	2024	Operating Budget
Public Works	Traffic Operations Centre - LED Lighting Upgrade*	\$60,000	(\$30,100)	2024	Operating Budget
Public Works	Wentworth Lodge LED Lights	\$182,504	(\$48,317)	2024	Operating Budget
Public Works	First Ontario Centre LED Lighting	\$396,762	(\$66,127)	2025	Operating Budget
Public Works	Valley Park Aquatic Centre LED Lighting*	\$220,000	(\$34,802)	2025	Operating Budget
Public Works	Ice Arena LED Lighting*	\$1,221,000	(\$242,423)	2026	Operating Budget
Public Works	Macassa Lodge LED Lights	\$285,541	(\$60,708)	2026	Operating Budget
Public Works	Lister Block - LED Lighting Upgrade*	\$125,000	(\$21,500)	2028	Operating Budget
Public Works	Westmount Rec - DHW Solar Thermal	\$158,000	(\$27,000)	2028	Operating Budget

SAVINGS GENERATED FROM FUNDED PROJECTS

Lead Department	Project	Repayment Required	Projected Savings after Repayment (Annual)	Year Savings Begin	Comments
Public Works	Aquatic Centres Exterior LED Lighting*	\$106,000	(\$10,000)	2029	Operating Budget
Public Works	Hamilton Place LED Lighting*	\$590,000	(\$45,184)	2031	Operating Budget
Public Works	MRF Lifecycle Replacement	\$360,000	(\$38,839)	2032	Operating Budget
Public Works	Solar Wall - Norman Pinky Lewis Recreation Centre*	\$117,000	(\$10,500)	2034	Operating Budget
Public Works	Fire Stations LED Lighting	\$235,836	(\$69,877)	2022-2031	Operating Budget
Public Works	High Lift Pumping Station at Woodward Treatment Plant	\$2,518,000	(\$400,000)	2018	Rate Operating Budget
TOTAL		\$19,626,138	(\$5,154,336)		

*Capital Works Still In Progress - amounts and year savings begin estimated based on current information available

CITY OF HAMILTON MOTION

**General Issues Committee (Budget): February 25, 2020
(Deferred from the February 11, 2021 GIC meeting)**

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR J.P. DANKO.....

SECONDED BY MAYOR / COUNCILLOR

Neighbour to Neighbour Community Food Centre Funding

WHEREAS, City Council supported the establishment and ongoing operation of Neighbour to Neighbour Community Food Centre since 2015;

WHEREAS, the Neighbour to Neighbour Food Centre has become a community hub providing programs and support to the area residents;

WHEREAS the Neighbour to Neighbour Community Food Centre focussed programs and supports on hunger and food insecurity which connected to poverty, inequality, racism, health, the environment, and social relationships;

WHEREAS, the Neighbour to Neighbour Community Food Centre aligns with and contributes to the goals and objectives of the City of Hamilton’s Food Strategy;

WHEREAS, Council has provided financial support to Neighbour to Neighbour for the Community Food Centre operation in the amount of \$200,000 per year for the past five years, expiring December 31, 2020;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the N2N Community Food Centre be supported for 2021 at a cost of \$200,000 to be provided through the 2021 budget Tax Stabilization Reserve; and,
- (b) That the annual operating \$200,000 funding request from N2N for the remaining four years from 2022 through 2025 be referred to Emergency and Community Services Committee for a report back on multi-year sustainable funding options.