



City of Hamilton
GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
ADDENDUM

Meeting #: 22-010
Date: May 18, 2022
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: Due to the COVID-19 and the Closure of City Hall (CC)

All electronic meetings can be viewed at:

City's Website:

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

City's YouTube Channel:

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

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

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- *5.2. Correspondence from The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance in response to the City's request to establish a Vacant Home Tax for the purposes of improving housing supply and choice in Hamilton

(Referred by Council at its meeting of May11, 2022)

Recommendation: Be received and referred to the consideration of Item 10.5.

- *5.3. Correspondence respecting Item 10.3, Report PED19108(h), Commonwealth Games 2030 Update

Recommendation: Be received and referred to the consideration of Item 10.3.

- *a. Matt Jelly
- *b. Ryan LaFlamme
- *c. Peter Vander Klippe

- *5.4. Correspondence from Victoria Balfour respecting Item 10.2 - Report PED19168(c), Proposal for the Adaptive Re-use of Balfour House/Chedoke Estate

Recommendation: Be received and referred to the consideration of Item 10.4.

- *5.5. Helen Downey, President, Sport Hamilton, respecting Item 9.1 - the presentation by Hamilton 100 Commonwealth Games Committee, respecting an update on the 2030 Commonwealth Games Bid Initiative

Recommendation: Be received and referred to the consideration of Item 9.1.

6. DELEGATION REQUESTS

- *6.2. Dr. Sarah Sheehan, respecting Item 10.4– Report PED19168(c), respecting the Proposal for the Adaptive Re-use of Balfour House/Chedoke Estate

(For the May 18, 2022 GIC)

- *6.3. Craig Burley respecting Item 10.3, Report PED19108(h), Commonwealth Games 2030 Update

(For the May 18, 2022 GIC)

- *6.4. Karl Andrus, Hamilton Community Benefits Network, respecting Item 10.3, Report PED19108(h), Commonwealth Games 2030 Update

(For the May 18, 2022 GIC)

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- *10.5. Deferred Sub-sections (b) through (d) to Report FCS21017(b), respecting a Vacant Home Tax in Hamilton

(DEFERRED by the General Issues Committee at its meeting of February 2, 2022 pending a response from the Minister of Finance)

14. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

- *14.5. Contractor Service Update (PW20057(b)) (City Wide)

Pursuant to Section 9.1, Sub-sections (j) and (k) of the City's Procedural By-law 21-021, as amended, and Section 239(2), Sub-sections (j) and (k) of the *Ontario Municipal Act*, 2001, as amended, as the subject matter pertains to a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial or financial information that belongs to the municipality or local board and has monetary value or potential monetary value; and, a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board.



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May 2, 2022

His Worship Fred Eisenberger
Mayor
City of Hamilton, City Hall
71 Main Street West, 2nd Floor
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

I am writing further to my earlier correspondence of March 15, 2022, acknowledging your request for the authority to establish a Vacant Home Tax for the purposes of improving housing supply and choice in Hamilton.

Ontario's recently updated Housing Supply Action Plan anchored by the *More Homes for Everyone Act*, delivers important reforms to help address Ontario's housing supply crisis. This included measures to crack down on bad actors who are making the housing supply crisis worse, including tough penalties for new home contract cancellation, and serious fines and license impacts for speculators and developers wrongfully withholding housing permits and approvals to restrict the supply of new homes and drive sales prices up. The government has also significantly expanded the Non-Resident Speculation Tax.

The City of Toronto has identified and advanced its Vacant Home Tax as a potential additional tool to disincentivize actions that reduce housing options for more Ontarians. The establishment of a Vacant Home Tax is a municipal decision that, like the City of Toronto, you are approved to proceed with in an effort to improve housing supply and choice for those hopeful to call Hamilton home. Ontario is prepared to facilitate municipal discussions over the summer through the establishment of a working group to provide a forum for the sharing of information and best practices, as well as to explore opportunities to enhance the existing legislative framework.

The findings and recommendations of this working group may have implications for municipal Vacant Home Tax by-laws that you should be prepared to accommodate.

I look forward to Hamilton's participation on this staff-level working group. Officials from my ministry will be in contact with more details.

.../cont'd

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Thank you again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Bethlenfalvy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance

- c: The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Kate Manson-Smith, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Greg Orencsak, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance
- Tim Schuurman, Associate Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance
- Allan Doheny, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance
- Caspar Hall, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

From: Matt Jelly

Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 9:34 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca; Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Correspondence for inclusion in Wednesday's GIC agenda

To members of council:

I'm writing to you again to ask that you do not commit the city any further to a Commonwealth Games bid. Very simply, I believe this endeavour would be a waste of time and money, and a giant distraction from what should be the city's top priority: directly addressing the housing and homelessness crises.

Every dollar and minute council and city staff spend considering this proposal would be better spent lobbying upper levels of government to invest in new public housing.

Investing hundreds of millions (if not 1-2 billion) of public money on a two week event would be a mistake.

Additionally, considering a significant number of councillors have signalled they don't intend to return after this year's election, this council shouldn't commit the next council to the untold costs of a Commonwealth Games bid.

If it is truly in the best interests of Hamiltonians to be involved in the Games, proponents should make their case and let voters decide that.

Thanks

From: Ryan LaFlamme
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 10:28 AM
To: Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Correspondence for Inclusion in Wednesday's GIC agenda

To members of council:

I write to you to express my opposition and to ask that you do not commit the city any further to a Commonwealth Games bid. I agree with many other citizens that the Commonwealth Games bid is a colossal waste of city staff time and city budget. Given the litany of structural, public safety, health and welfare issues plaguing this city, not to mention the massive deficit in capital funds for repairs, this is no way a priority or a reasonable decision from any perspective.

Additionally, this is in no way a decision that should be made by a government on the eve of an election. There are huge implications across much of the city for this type of undertaking, and should be left to those that will be here over the course of said process to listen and engage with Hamiltonians, not ram through a literal earth moving decision at the 11th hour.

Those decision makers who will not have to live with the results of these decisions also raise great concern, as it is possible once freed from any legal conflicts, they will seek personal reward as "consultants" or other paid positions with the Games they in fact approved. It calls to question whose interest is this in? The people of the city who rely on their elected representatives to do what's best, or their own?

For these and many other reasons, I submit this is not the prudent, ethical or reasonable path for city council to undertake on behalf of the people of Hamilton. To quote another submission, "If it truly is in the best interests of Hamiltonians to be involved in the Games, proponents should make their case [to the public] and let voters decide."

Thank you.

From: Peter Vander Klippe

Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 10:04 PM

To: Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Correspondence for inclusion in May 18, 2022 GIC agenda

To members of council:

I am requesting that you abandon any further participation in any Commonwealth Games bids. These games are a waste of time and money and simply a distraction from much more urgent matters at hand.

Our city needs to focus on helping our citizens who need it most, the homeless, the poor, the disadvantaged, and the marginalized. We need to focus on building more affordable housing, and reducing the carbon footprint of our city.

If the games were a worthwhile investment there would be private investors lined up for a chance to participate. We all know that this is not the case and the only hope these games have is to get a city to front millions of dollars into this with no guarantee of return.

Thank you,
Peter Vander Klippe
Hamilton Resident

From: Victoria Balfour

Sent: May 9, 2022 9:42 AM

To: Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; Office of Ward 3 City Councillor Nrinder Nann <ward3@hamilton.ca>; Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>; Powers, Russ <Russ.Powers@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>

Subject: I am the granddaughter of St Clair and Ethel Balfour who owned the Balfour estate

Dear Mayor Eisenberger,

I read with interest that the think tank Cardus organization is moving closer to using the grounds of my grandparents' old home, Chedoke. I am not clear what stage the negotiations were in, but I strongly support Cardus' taking over the restoration at Chedoke (or as the Spectator calls it "The Balfour Estate.")

I happened to drop by Chedoke in 2015 when there were tenants living in my grandparents' old home. The place was a mess!! I was really upset. There was a story about this in the Spectator : <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2015/10/30/gran-would-be-horrified-about-hamilton-s-balfour-mansion.html>

Again, I fully support Cardus taking over the care of the grounds. If there is an upcoming vote in the Council, I urge them to support yes for Cardus.

Sincerely,

Victoria Balfour

From: Helen Downey <presidentsporthamilton@gmail.com>

Sent: May 16, 2022 5:19 PM

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

Subject: Hamilton100 Commonwealth Bid Corporation presentation to GIC May 18

Dear Mayor Eisenberger,

I trust this email finds you well. I am contacting you on behalf of SportHamilton, The Official Sport Council for the City of Hamilton, regarding the presentation by the Hamilton100 Bid Committee Corporation to the GIC scheduled on Wednesday May 18.

I kindly request that you review the attached letter below and urge you to vote in favour of authorizing City staff to negotiate an agreement with Hamilton100 in order to collaborate should the Province invite the commencement of a multi-party agreement in the future. It is important to enable City staff to have the opportunity to negotiate the best possible outcomes for its citizens. This in no way formalizes a commitment to the Games or mandates funding or any obligation on behalf of the City.

As you are aware, SportHamilton proudly supports and encourages the volunteer work of the Hamilton100 Commonwealth Bid Corporation as they endeavour to bring the Games to Ontario in 2030, not just an international one-time event but as a movement of huge social impact improving communities to be more healthy, sustainable and prosperous. Well-being of communities involves a combination of social, economic, environmental, cultural and political impact.

Again, I respectfully request that you consider the information presented to you by the Hamilton100 Commonwealth Bid members at the GIC meeting, ask questions and please vote to enable City staff to be involved in the next steps in this process.

Sincerely,
Helen



Helen Downey
President | SportHamilton

email: presidentsporthamilton@gmail.com
The Official Sport Council for the City of Hamilton



Submitted on Friday, May 13, 2022 - 3:15pm Submitted by anonymous user: 172.70.126.227 Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in person or virtually? Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video? No

==Requestor Information==

Name of Organization (if applicable):

Name of Individual: Dr. Sarah Sheehan

Preferred Pronoun: she/her

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: To speak to the history and future of Balfour House / Chedoke Estate (item 10.2)

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? Yes

Submitted on Saturday, May 14, 2022 - 8:54pm Submitted by anonymous user: 172.70.126.81
Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in person or virtually? Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video? No

==Requestor Information==

Name of Organization (if applicable):

Name of Individual: Craig Burley

Preferred Pronoun: he/him

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: I wish to speak to Item 10.3 on
the Agenda for May 18, PE19108(h), Commonwealth Games 2030 Update
and direction to the Mayor to sign a blank cheque for the 2030
Commonwealth Games and the Commonwealth Games Federation

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Submitted on Monday, May 16, 2022 - 6:02am Submitted by anonymous user: 162.158.126.185

Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in person or virtually? Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video? No

==Requestor Information==

Name of Organization (if applicable): Hamilton Community Benefits Network

Name of Individual: Karl Andrus

Preferred Pronoun:

Contact Number:

Email Address: karlandrus@hcbn.ca

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: To speak to the item:

Commonwealth Games 2030 Update (PED19108(h)) (City Wide)

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

DEFERRED by the General Issues Committee at its meeting of February 2, 2022 pending a response from the Minister of Finance

Sub-sections (b) through (d) to Report FCS21017(b), respecting a Vacant Home Tax in Hamilton

- (b) That the 2022 implementation costs, estimated at \$2,600,000 for the Vacant Home Tax to be funded through an internal loan plus interest from the Investment Stabilization Reserve (110046) to be repaid from revenues collected from the program over a 5-year term, be approved;
- (c) That the estimated gross annual operating costs of \$2,200,000 for administration of the Vacant Home Tax Program and related 16 Full Time Equivalents (FTE), to be funded from revenues generated by the program, be referred to the 2022 Budget Process for consideration; and,
- (d) That the matter respecting Vacant Home Tax, be removed from the General Issues Committee's Outstanding Business.