



City of Hamilton
GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE (BUDGET)
AGENDA

Date: February 7, 2025

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: Council Chambers
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West

Angela McRae, Legislative Coordinator (905) 546-2424 ext. 5987

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

6. DELEGATIONS

(Delegations on the 2025 Budget were received on November 18, 2024 & January 20, 2025)

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

7.1 Mayor's Memorandum - 2025 Proposed Tax Budget - REVISED

To be distributed.

8. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

9. MOTIONS

9.1 Elimination of Council Referred Items 11 & 12 City Enrichment Fund
Increases

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9.3	Re-Alignment of Taxpayer Funding to Good Faith Encampment Support Organizations	6
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10.	NOTICES OF MOTION	
11.	PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL	
12.	ADJOURNMENT	

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

General Issues Committee (Budget): February 7, 2025

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

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR.....

Elimination of Council Referred Items 11 & 12 City Enrichment Fund Increases

WHEREAS the City Enrichment Fund invests in the community by providing taxpayer funded grants from the City of Hamilton.

WHEREAS the purpose of the City Enrichment Fund is to provide transparency and access to taxpayer funded grants for eligible not-for profit organizations, registered charities, grassroots organizations, and professional artist projects that are determined through an independent, transparent, and defined application and approval process.

WHEREAS the City Enrichment Fund protects the interests of taxpayers by ensuring that City funding is only directed to legitimate, eligible, organizations that support the City’s strategic plan and Our Future Hamilton – Community Vision.

WHEREAS the City Enrichment Fund was created to eliminate arbitrary Councillor directed funding to organizations, groups and individuals that may be, or may be perceived to be, politically motivated spending intended to gain political support.

WHEREAS all Councillors have access to various reserve funding accounts including the Area Rating Special Capital Discretionary Reserve and Non-Property Tax Revenue Reserves.

WHEREAS subsequent to the 2022 municipal election, various Councillors initiated their own “Ward Community Grants” programs that now direct taxpayer funding to community organizations, groups and individuals at the discretion of the Ward Councillor without appropriate financial oversight.

WHEREAS there is no purpose to increase funding to the City Enrichment Fund when individual Councillors have created their own “Ward Community Grant” programs and continue to direct hundreds of thousands of dollars per Ward, annually, to their own individually selected recipients.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the 2025 Budget, **be amended**, as follows:

- (a) Eliminate Council referred Item 11 - 2025 Proposed Increase to City Enrichment Fund \$568,110
- (b) Eliminate Council referred Item 12 – Digital Program Area – City Enrichment Fund \$100,000

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

General Issues Committee (Budget): February 7, 2025

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

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR.....

Financial Relief to Help Offset the Increase Cost of Municipal Police Service

WHEREAS, the Ontario government will provide over \$77 million in financial relief to small and rural municipalities to help offset the increased cost of municipal police services provided by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP).

WHEREAS, Solicitor General Michael Kerzner stated: “The financial relief we (the Ontario government) are proposing will help municipal leaders balance their budgets and invest in their communities while ensuring no change to the policing provided by the OPP that keeps families and businesses safe”.

WHEREAS, the Ontario government acknowledges that the financial impacts resulting from police collective bargaining agreements has a significant impact on municipal budgets.

WHEREAS, all of the factors that resulted in significant costs to policing for small and rural communities also exist in large municipalities.

WHEREAS, municipalities that do not rely on the Ontario Provincial Police also require financial relief to offset the increasing cost of police services.

WHEREAS, urban municipalities have additional challenges such as homeless encampments, guns, gangs, drug trafficking, auto theft and organized crime that require significant police resources and specialized equipment and personnel.

WHEREAS, residents overwhelmingly support police and request a stronger and more effective police presence in their neighbourhoods.

WHEREAS, the Ontario government is a strong supporter of policing throughout the province.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the City of Hamilton request the Province of Ontario provide financial relief to the City of Hamilton due budget impacts of the increasing cost of policing;
- (b) That City Finance staff work with the City Manager, Mayor’s Office, Police Services Board and the Chief of Police to quantify a specific financial relief request; and,

- (c) That this direction be circulated to Ontario Big City Mayor and Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

CITY OF HAMILTON

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

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR.....

Re-Alignment of Taxpayer Funding to Good Faith Encampment Support Organizations

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton relies on many local social agencies, harm reduction, homeless and encampment organizations that provide various levels of support to vulnerable populations throughout the City.

WHEREAS, in 2024 the City of Hamilton invested a total of \$186 million dollars towards housing and homelessness, \$125 million funded by municipal taxpayers, equivalent to approximately \$215 per resident per year.

WHEREAS, on December 23rd, 2024, Ontario Superior Court Justice James Ramsay, issued a ruling dismissing the claim of fourteen homeless applicants that the City of Hamilton breached their right under the Charter to life, liberty and security of the person (s. 7) and to equal benefit of the law (s. 15).

WHEREAS, paragraph 4 of Justice Ramsay’s ruling states “I observe that the most vulnerable includes not only the homeless but also the elderly person and the child who want to use a sidewalk or a city park without tiptoeing through used needles and human feces.”

WHEREAS, paragraph 24 of Justice Ramsay’s ruling states “Many of the affidavits of the applicants contained boilerplate. Parts were obviously drafted by lawyers.”

WHEREAS, paragraph 61 of Justice Ramsay’s ruling states “...there is a developing, false narrative that encampments are a safe alternative form of housing. That narrative appears in the affidavits of some of the applicants’ witnesses. From talking to her (expert witness Dr. Koivu) patients it appears that it has been a factor in the decision to leave safer environments.”

WHEREAS, paragraph 64 of Justice Ramsay’s ruling states “...Dr. Koivu’s concern about the false narrative encouraging people to leave safer alternatives is supported by the evidence...a member of the Outreach Team, who has observed organized groups encouraging encampment residents to resist options other than encampments.”

WHEREAS residents have reported observing instances where homeless individuals have received organized assistance to set up, relocate and provision encampments in City parks.

WHEREAS, limited taxpayer resources should be prioritized to fund organizations that are proven good faith community partners, working collaboratively with the City of Hamilton in alignment with the interests of the City, residents, and the wellbeing of homeless individuals.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- (a) That Housing Services staff be directed to identify and itemize all City funding allocated to homelessness support social agencies, harm reduction, legal advice, and encampment outreach organizations; and,
- (b) That Housing Services staff propose opportunities to re-align City funding, limited to organizations that are proven good faith community partners committed to collaboratively working with the City of Hamilton in alignment with City and Council interests, approved by-laws and policies.

CITY OF HAMILTON

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

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR.....

Taxpayer Funding Exclusion for Organizations Involved in Litigation Against the City of Hamilton

WHEREAS Section 3 of the *Procurement Policy for the City of Hamilton* defines “Litigation” as “any dispute between the City and a vendor, where a legal proceeding...or other form of adjudication has been commenced..., against the City, its elected representatives, appointed officers, or employees...in relation to any...matter arising from the City’s exercise of its powers, duties, or functions.”

WHEREAS Section 4.1, Clause 2(a) of the *Procurement Policy for the City of Hamilton* states “the City may reject any Bid from a vendor where, in the opinion of the City, the commercial relationship between the City and the vendor has been impaired by the act(s) or omission(s) of such vendor including...any one or more of the following having occurred within the five year period immediately preceding either the date on which the RFP or RFT is awarded or the date on which the vendor has been shortlisted...

- (i) the vendor being involved in Litigation with the City;”

WHEREAS the City of Hamilton provides taxpayer funding for various third-party organizations, groups and individuals through grants, loans, donations, in-kind contributions, direct financing, Council directed financing and other City sources of public funds.

WHEREAS the *Procurement Policy for the City of Hamilton* explicitly bans vendors engaged in litigation against the City of Hamilton from participating in City contracts for a period of five years.

WHEREAS it is in the interest of all City of Hamilton taxpayers to uphold the integrity of City funding by extending the provisions of the *Procurement Policy for the City of Hamilton* to apply to all City funding for all third-party organizations, groups and individuals.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That all third-party organizations, groups and individuals engaged in litigation against the City of Hamilton within the last five years (2019 to 2024) are excluded

from all City funding in the 2025 budget, including grants, loans, donations, in kind contributions, direct funding or any other sources of funding from the City of Hamilton.

- (b) That Finance, Procurement and Legal Services staff report back to the Audit and Finance Committee no later than Q4 of 2025 with by-law and policy updates that will align the provisions of the Procurement Policy with City taxpayer funding agreements for third-party organizations, groups and individuals.