



**General Issues Committee
MINUTES (PUBLIC DELEGATIONS)**

3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Council Chambers

Hamilton City Hall

71 Main Street West

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- Present:** Deputy Mayor T. Whitehead (Chair)
Councillors C. Collins, S. Duvall, J. Farr,
L. Ferguson, B. McHattie, S. Merulla, B. Morelli, T. Jackson,
B. Johnson, J. Partridge, R. Pasuta, M. Pearson
- Absent with Regrets-** Mayor R. Bratina, Councillor R. Powers – City Business
Councillor B. Clark – Personal Business
- Also Present:** C. Murray, City Manager
R. Rossini, General Manager, Finance and Corporate
Services
G. Davis, General Manager, Public Works
T. McCabe, General Manager, Planning and Economic
Development
J. A. Priel, General Manager, Community Services
Dr. E. Richardson, Medical Officer of Health
C. Biggs, Co-ordinator, Committee Services/Council/Budgets

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REPORTED TO CITY COUNCIL FOR
INFORMATION:**

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

The Clerk advised of the following:

ADDED DELEGATION REQUESTS

- (i) Susan Braithwaite, Executive Director, International Village B.I.A.
- (ii) Kathy Drewitt, Executive Director, Downtown Hamilton B.I.A.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM:

- (iii) Written submission from Lisa Schumph on behalf of Lawson Ministries respecting Accessible Transportation Services Master Plan – Eligibility and Registration Policy Revision for Accessible Transportation Services (PW03128(c)) (City Wide)
- (iv) Trevor Clark, Regional Director of Development and Acting CEO, Alzheimer Society of Hamilton and Halton

(Partridge/Duvall)

That the agenda be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS/DELEGATIONS

3.1 Lisa Schumph, Lawson Ministries

Lisa Schumph, Program Manager, The Salvation Army Lawson Ministries Hamilton, appeared before the Committee to speak to the issue of changes that are required to the eligibility criteria for DARTS, including expansion of the service to include people with developmental disabilities. People with cognitive disabilities have no other means of transportation except for taxi scrip.

Judy Mansfield-Jones and her daughter, Kristen, submitted a petition with 150 signatures supporting and applauding the City for implementing the changes to the eligibility criteria for DARTS. Ms. Mansfield-Jones spoke of the challenges experienced by Kristen relative to transportation, which is essential and should be considered a life line.

A copy of Ms. Schumph's' comments was submitted to the Clerk for the public record and can be viewed on the City's website.

(Pearson/Johnson)

That the presentation from Lisa Schumph, Program Manager, The Salvation Army Lawson Ministries Hamilton, and the presentation and petition from Judy Mansfield-Jones and her daughter, Kristen, be received.

CARRIED

3.2 Roman Sarachman

Roman Sarachman, Flamborough resident, provided a power point presentation entitled, "New Challenge for Hamilton – Tax Implications for Flamborough", which addressed the following:

- Flamborough is the largest Ward, with a population of 45,000 and 15,000 dwellings
- New solutions for Flamborough are required to insure a fair return for tax dollars
- Debt forecast 2009-2019
- Outstanding debt – consolidated outstanding debt forecast
- 2012 gross tax expenditures by type - \$1.25 billion
- 2012 tax operating budget by cost category – specifically employee-related costs, vehicle expenses, consulting, reserves/recoveries
- Toronto residential property tax remains the lowest in the GTA
- No growth in Hamilton sine 2001
- Taxes for 11th Concession home value³ at \$315,000 today (retired)
- Paid parking; 2012 preliminary gross and net operating budget, specifically Parking and By-law Services
- 98% of Flamborough wants out of Hamilton
- Lawsuit budget and Mayor's election promise

During Mr. Sarachman's reference to the current lawsuit, Councillor Whitehead vacated the Chair and Councillor Pasuta assumed the Chair.

A copy of Mr. Sarachman's presentation was submitted to the Clerk for the public record and can be viewed on the City's website.

(Collins/Merulla)

That the presentation from Mr. Roman Sarachman be received.

CARRIED

3.3 Stan Haworth, Carlisle Resident

Mr. Haworth appeared before the Committee and spoke in response to a report prepared by City staff which states that municipal government is the most accessible and accountable level of government, and spoke to the following issues:

- Portion of total taxes paid to municipal government
- Impact of differences in tax assessments
- Parking services in downtown Waterdown
- Service Delivery Review
- Employee compensation.

A copy of Mr. Haworth's comments was submitted to the Clerk for the public record and is available for viewing on the City's website.

Mr. Haworth indicated that he has not yet received a response from staff with respect to the questions he raised at the 2011 public delegations meeting.

Staff was directed to respond to Mr. Haworth's questions from this year's submission in writing, and forward a copy to all members of the Committee.

(Pearson/Johnson)

That the presentation from Mr. Stan Haworth be received. **CARRIED**

3.4 Andy MacLaren, Chair, Flamborough Citizens' Coalition

Mr. Andy MacLaren, Chair of the Flamborough Citizens' Coalition, appeared before the Committee to address the issue of the removal of parking meters in downtown Waterdown. Mr. MacLaren is also the Chair of the Waterdown/Mill Street Heritage Committee, whose objective is to protect the historical attributes in the Waterdown core and heritage properties throughout Flamborough.

Mr. MacLaren addressed the issue of low revenues generated by the parking meters and the impact that the meters are having on businesses in the downtown core, and requested consideration to remove the parking meters as they are doing more harm than good.

A copy of Mr. MacLaren's comments was submitted to the Clerk for the public record and can be viewed on the City's website.

3.5 Susan Braithwaite, Executive Director, International Village BIA

Susan Braithwaite, Executive Director of the International Village BIA, appeared before the Committee and thanked the City for its support of various grants programs. Without these funds, businesses would not be able to pursue renovations.

With the assistance of a power point presentation, Ms. Braithwaite outlined the boundaries of the International Village BIA and provided statistics with respect to the number of businesses and square footage of retail space that make up the BIA. The presentation included "before" and "after" photos of businesses that took advantage of the CPIG grant to carry out renovations, various events that were funded by City grants, new banners designed and hung, addition of LED lights at Ferguson Pavillion and grants which assisted the graffiti removal program.

A copy of the presentation was submitted to the Clerk for the public record and is available for viewing on the City's website.

(Farr/Pearson)

That the presentation by Susan Braithwaite, Executive Director, international Village BIA, be received. **CARRIED**

3.6 Kathy Drewitt, Executive Director, Downtown Hamilton BIA

Kathy Drewitt, Executive Director of the Downtown Hamilton BIA, appeared before the Committee to thank the City for its continued support, and how various City-funded programs were translated into activities in the commercial district. With the assistance of a power point presentation, Ms. Drewitt spoke to:

- Boundaries of the Downtown Hamilton BIA, which is made up of 485 businesses and 179 property owners; composition of the Board
- City initiatives; Parking-Sharing Revenue Program; Clean Streets Summer Program; "Official Light Up Ceremony"; Commercial Property Improvement Program
- Other ways that the City has supported the downtown, including assisting with the development of the King William Art Walk, installation of cigarette containers, poster kiosks and completion of the streetscape improvements on King William Street
- Plans for the future.

A copy of the presentation was submitted to the Clerk for the public record and can be viewed on the City's website.

(Morelli/Pearson)

That the presentation from Ms. Kathy Drewitt, Executive Director, Downtown BIA, be received. **CARRIED**

(Collins/Partridge)

That the Committee recess the budget portion of the meeting at 4:40 p.m. and reconvene in the regular General Issues Committee meeting to continue with the business items. **CARRIED**

(Pearson/Partridge)

That the regular meeting of the General Issues Committee be adjourned at 6:20 p.m., and the Committee reconvene at 6:55 p.m. to entertain any additional public delegations with respect to the 2012 Tax-Supported Operating Budget. **CARRIED**

The General Issues Committee reconvened at 6:55 p.m., at which time Chair Whitehead asked if there was any one present wishing to make a delegation to the Committee respecting the 2012 Tax-Supported operating Budget.

No one came forward and the meeting of the General Issues Committee for the purpose of receiving public delegations respecting the 2012 Tax-Supported Operating Budget was closed.

Correspondence from Trevor Clark, Regional Director and Acting CEO, Alzheimer Society of Hamilton and Halton

(Morelli/McHattie)

That the correspondence from Trevor Clark, Regional Director and Acting CEO, Alzheimer Society of Hamilton and Halton, respecting Accessible Transportation Services and the 2011 budget, be received. **CARRIED**

4. ADJOURNMENT

(Pearson/Johnson)

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Councillor T. Whitehead, Deputy Mayor
General Issues Committee

Carolyn Biggs, Co-ordinator
Committee Services/Council/Budgets
February 15, 2012