



**General Issues Committee
MINUTES (BUDGET DELIBERATIONS)**

9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Council Chambers

Hamilton City Hall

71 Main Street West

Present: Deputy Mayor B. Clark (Chair)
Councillors C. Collins, S. Duvall, J. Farr, L. Ferguson,
B. McHattie, S. Merulla, B. Morelli, T. Jackson, B. Johnson,
R. Powers, J. Partridge, R. Pasuta, M. Pearson,
T. Whitehead

Absent with Regrets: Mayor R. Bratina – City 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 & Economic
Development
J. A. Priel, General Manager, Community Services
H. Hale Tomasik, Executive Director, Human Resources
R. Hall, Public Health Services
C. Biggs, Legislative Co-ordinator

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

The Clerk advised of the following change:

REPORTS POSTPONED

5.1(a) Public Health Services Accommodation – McMaster Health Campus
(PED1134(d)/FCS11063(d)/BOH11026(d)/CM11008(d)) (Ward 2) (Report
to be distributed)

5.1(b) Public Health Services Accommodation – McMaster Health Campus
(PED1134(c)/FCS11063(c)/BOH11026(c)/CM11008(c)) (Ward 2)
(Deferred by Committee on February 27, 2012)

- 5.2 Lease Extension for Public Health Services – 35 King Street East/1 Hughson Street North – Park Place Real Estate Limited Partnership (PED12013) (Ward 2)

ADDED REPORT

- (i) 2011 Draft Tax and Rate Operating Year End Variance (Unaudited) (FCS12017) (City Wide) (Added Item 5.5)

ADDED CORRESPONDENCE

- (ii) Opinion from Kevin Christenson, Municipal Advisor to the Mayor, respecting a ruling of the Chair at the March 2, 2012 meeting

ADDED PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

- (iii) Proposed or Pending Land Acquisition or disposition of land for City purposes

(Partridge/Pasuta)

That the agenda be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

Councillor S. Merulla indicated that he wished to be recorded as opposed to the opinion being formally adopted as part of the agenda.

(Merulla/Collins)

That no action be taken with respect to the Opinion from Kevin Christenson, Municipal Advisor to the Mayor, respecting a ruling of the Chair at the March 2, 2012 meeting.

CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 5.3 Eligibility and Registration for Accessible Transportation Services

Councillor L. Ferguson declared a conflict of interest as he has a family member who is severely disabled who may or may not be eligible for ATS (DARTS), pending the decision of Committee and Council.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

None

4. PRESENTATIONS

Rob Rossini provided an update on the budget amendments to date.

(Pearson/Powers)

That the update provided by Rob Rossini respecting the 2012 Tax-Supported Operating Budget, be received. **CARRIED**

5.5 2011 Draft Tax and Rate Operating Year End Variance (Unaudited) (FCS12027) (City Wide)

Mr. Rossini provided a power point presentation on the above-noted matter. He advised the Committee that a full report will be presented to the Committee at the April 19 General Issues Committee meeting; however, the presentation today is very high level and responds to questions and concerns expressed at previous budget meetings. The presentation also responds to surpluses over the past few years and gapping.

(Pearson/Powers)

That Report FCS12027 respecting 2011 Draft Tax and Rate Operating Year End Variance (Unaudited), be received. **CARRIED**

(Collins/Jackson)

That the City Clerk be directed to schedule two additional dates of the General Issues Committee, following the March break, to continue with the budget deliberations. **CARRIED**

(Pearson/Partridge)

That staff be directed to provide, on a regular basis, a tertiary line item that shows, by Ward, the assessment growth rate for 2012 and the assessment value in 2011. **CARRIED**

Provincial Downloading resulting from Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Legislation

(Merulla/Collins)

Whereas Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) legislation will have a significant financial impact on the residential taxpayer of Hamilton;

And Whereas Provincial downloading continues to be a financial burden, representing nearly 25% of the City of Hamilton's Operating Budget.

Therefore Be It Resolved:

- (a) That the City of Hamilton petition the Province of Ontario to include AODA financial implications into the downloading formula and that a resolution to the downloading crisis be pursued and implemented, thereby eliminating the regressive form of taxation
- (b) That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all local MPP's. **CARRIED**

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.3 Eligibility and Registration for Accessible Transportation Services – (PW03128(d)) (City Wide)

Don Hull provided introductory remarks to the report.

(McHattie/Farr)

That the General Manager of Public Works be directed to implement the Accessible Transportation Services (ATS) Program Enhancement submission, as identified on Page 53 of the 2012 Tax Supported, Preliminary Operating Budget, Book 1, Budget Summary Report, FCS12014, attached as Appendix “A” to this report, that includes a multi-year implementation forecasted to have a \$5.7 million (2012) Operating Budget impact as follows:

- (a) That initial Operating Budget in the amount of \$850,000 is approved in 2012;
- (b) That the remaining budget for this service enhancement be allocated through the annual budget process based on applicant demand and other relevant factors at the time of consideration with the understanding that implementation is to be completed no later than January 2017. **CARRIED**

5.4 2012 Tax-Supported Operating Budget – Recommendations (FCS12014) (City Wide) (No copy)

(b) Consideration of Recommendations from Report FCS12014

Planning & Economic Development Department

(Whitehead/Powers)

That the Planning & Economic Development Operating Budget be unparked.

(Whitehead/Jackson)

- (a) That \$100,000 for the Jobs Prosperity Collaborative not be approved. **CARRIED**

(Powers/Ferguson)

That the Planning & Economic Development operating budget in the amount of \$16,956,299 be approved. **CARRIED**

6. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

(a) Outstanding Issues:

Chair Clark advised the Committee that the budgets for the following items are still outstanding:

- (i) Forestry and Horticulture – Street Tree Trimming (PW05015(a) and (b) – Deferral recommended of \$1.32 million, including 2012 and deferred amounts from 2010 and 2011 – DEFERRED (February 29 GIC)
- (ii) Roads – Road and Sidewalk Safety Maintenance (PW11017) – address deficiencies; sidewalk (\$600K); road surface (\$500K); Minimum Maintenance Standards compliance – TABLED (February 29 GIC)
- (iii) Roads – Storm Water Facilities Maintenance (2011 Budget); Catch basin inspection and 3 cleaning cycle (\$300K); Catch basin repairs (\$150K); Storm Water Pont Maintenance (\$650K); Culvert and outfall inspection and maintenance (\$270K) – TABLED (February 29 GIC)
- (iv) Horticulture – Maintenance of new traffic roundabouts (\$161,400) – PARKED (March 2 GIC)

(b) Public Health Services/McMaster Health Campus

(McHattie/Farr)

That the City Manager be directed to communicate with McMaster to express the reasons for the delay in the City's decision, and request that they be kindly requested to stay with the City before making any final decision. **CARRIED**

7. NOTICE OF MOTION

8. PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

(Ferguson/Jackson)

That the Committee move into closed session at 12:00 noon pursuant to sub-sections 8.1(c), (e) and (f) of the City's Procedural By-law and Sections 239.2(c), (e) and (f) of the Municipal Act as the subject matter pertain to:

- (c) Proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land for City purposes;
- (e) Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the City
- (f) Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose, respecting City of Hamilton ats Yale Properties.

(Powers/Ferguson)

That the Committee reconvene in Open Session at 2:40 p.m. **CARRIED**

7.1 City of Hamilton ats Yale Properties (LS12004) (City Wide)

No action to report.

7.2 Siemens Hamilton Plant, 30 Milton Street, Hamilton

Direction provided to the Committee In Camera.

9. ADJOURNMENT

(Powers/Bratina)

There being no further business, the Committee recessed at 2:40 p.m. **CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted

Councillor B. Clark
Deputy Mayor