



EMERGENCY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

1:30 p.m.

Monday, March 19, 2012

Hamilton City Hall

Council Chambers

71 Main Street West

Hamilton, Ontario

Present: Councillor J. Partridge, Chair
Councillor T. Whitehead, Vice-Chair
Councillors S. Duvall, J. Farr, T. Jackson, B. McHattie, S. Merulla and
B. Morelli

Also Present: V. Woodcox, Acting General Manager, Community Services
A. Bradford, Director of Culture
G. Hendry, Director, Housing Services
K. Lubrick, Employment and Income Support Division
D. Brodati, Policy and Program Specialist
B. Browett, Director of EMS
I. Bedioui, Legislative Co-ordinator, City Clerk's Office

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REPORTED FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL:

- 1. 2011 Rick Hansen 25th Anniversary Relay and Celebration (PED12043) (City Wide) (Item 5.2)**

(McHattie/Duvall)

That Report PED12043 respecting Rick Hansen 25th Anniversary Relay and Celebration be received.

CARRIED

- 2. Correspondence from Central Huron regarding Use of Farm Buildings (HES12006/PED12050) (City Wide) (Item 5.3)**

(McHattie/Duvall)

That Report HES12006/PED12050 respecting Correspondence from Central Huron regarding Use of Farm Buildings be received.

CARRIED

3. Standardization of EMS Station Garage Ventilation System (HES12008) (City Wide) (Item 5.4)

(McHattie/Duvall)

That Hamilton Emergency Medical Services facilities be standardized to the Airmation Industrial Exhaust Extraction System for a period of three years (2012, 2013, 2014) and that the system be supplied and maintained by the sole source Ontario vendor, Air Technology Solutions at a cost of \$42,000 for 2012 to be charged to Project ID 7641141103, and \$14,000 for 2013 to be charged to Project ID 7641141102.

CARRIED

4. City of Hamilton's Submission to the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario (CS11081(a)) (City Wide) (Item 7.1)

(McHattie/Merulla)

- (a) That Report CS11081(a) respecting City of Hamilton's Submission to the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario, be received;
- (b) That the City of Hamilton Submission to the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario – Approaches for Reform, attached as Appendix "A" to Report CS11081(a) be endorsed;
- (c) That the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction Submission to the Commission for Review of Social Assistance in Ontario – Approaches for Reform, attached as Appendix "B" to Report CS11081(a) be endorsed; and,
- (d) That the Mayor correspond with the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Community and Social Services and the Commissioners of the Social Assistance Review; with copies to all local Members of Provincial Parliament, requesting:
 - (i) The immediate establishment of an Ontario Social Assistance Rates Board to set evidence-based annual social assistance rates that will meet basic living costs, including the cost of nutritious food, and allow individuals and families to live with dignity; and,
 - (ii) Introduce a \$100 monthly mandatory Healthy Food Supplement for those receiving social assistance in the 2012 Provincial Budget.
- (e) That the written submissions from the delegations at the March 19, 2012 Emergency and Community Services Committee who spoke to the issue of the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario be received and copies be forwarded with the aforementioned Mayor's correspondence to the Premier, the Minister of Community and Social Services, and the Commissioners for further information and review.

CARRIED

5. Feasibility of Using the Ottawa Somerset Gardens Affordable Housing Model in Hamilton (CS11043(a)/PED11077(a)) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)

(McHattie/Duvall)

That Report CS11043(a)/PED11077(a) respecting Feasibility of Using the Ottawa Somerset Gardens Affordable Housing Model in Hamilton be received.

CARRIED

6. Summer Music Concert Series in Gage Park (PED12045) (Ward 3) (Item 8.2)

(Morelli/Merulla)

- (a) That the City of Hamilton's Tourism and Culture Division plan and deliver a Summer Concert Series (six concerts with free admission) in Gage Park in July and August of 2012;
- (b) That the Summer Concert Series be funded in the amount of \$22,000 firstly from any 2012 year end budgetary surplus in the Planning and Economic Development Department's overall budget and, if then necessary , secondly from the 2012 City of Hamilton overall tax-supported operating budget surplus;
- (c) That staff be directed to release a call for Expression of Interest to identify third parties with abilities to partner with the City of Hamilton to plan, develop and implement the Summer Concert Series in Gage Park beyond 2012;
- (d) That staff report back to Council in Fall 2012 with an evaluation of the Gage Park Summer Concert Series and the results of the call for Expression of Interest.

CARRIED

7. Dedicated Offload Nurses to Receive Ambulance Patients in Hospital Emergency Departments (HES12005) (City Wide) (Item 8.3)

(Merulla/McHattie)

- (a) That the Emergency Medical Services Director of Hamilton Emergency Services be authorized and directed to enter into an agreement in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, to receive a grant which will fund the staffing of nurses that will be dedicated to receiving and managing the care of ambulance patients in the local hospital emergency departments to reduce the ambulance wait times, for the period of April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013 or such longer or shorter period agreed to by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care;
- (b) That the Emergency Medical Services Director of Hamilton Emergency Services be authorized and directed to negotiate and enter into the necessary agreements between the City of Hamilton and Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Joseph's Hospital, in a form satisfactory to the City

Solicitor, to reimburse those organizations for the payment of staffing the nursing hours dedicated to receiving and managing the care of ambulance patients in the emergency departments;

- (c) That the Emergency Medical Services Division be directed to utilize the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care grant to pay for all direct and supporting costs for staffing of nurses that will be dedicated to receiving and managing the care of ambulance patients in the local hospital emergency departments to reduce the ambulance wait times, for the period of April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013 or such longer or shorter period agreed to by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in accordance with the terms set out in the agreement with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

CARRIED

8. Hamilton Emergency Services – One Paramedic Transport Ambulance (HES12007) (City Wide) (Item 8.4)

(McHattie/Jackson)

That Report HES12007 respecting Hamilton Emergency Services – One Paramedic Transport Ambulance be received.

CARRIED

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Clerk advised of the following added items:

- (i) Added delegation requests wishing to address Committee at this meeting:
 - 4.7 Sally Palmer, Social Action Committee, Ontario Association of Social Workers, Hamilton & District Branch, speaking to “Responses to the Social Assistance Review Commission’s Report”. **(Wishing to address Committee at this meeting respecting Item 7.1)**
 - 4.8 Elizabeth McGuire, Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits, to present the Campaign’s concerns regarding the Social Assistance Review. **(Wishing to address Committee at this meeting respecting Item 7.1)**
 - 4.9 Yvonne Maracle, Chair of the City of Hamilton Aboriginal Advisory Committee regarding the Social Assistance Review. **(Wishing to address Committee at this meeting respecting Item 7.1)**
 - 4.10 Peter Hutton of the Roundtable on Poverty Reduction to present a short video as a supplement to the specific report of the Working

Group on Social Assistance Review. **(Wishing to address
Committee at this meeting respecting Item 7.1)**

- (ii) Added Notice of Motion from Councillor Farr:

10.1 New Art Installation on York Boulevard.

(McHattie/Duvall)

That the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

There were none declared.

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

(Whitehead/Farr)

That the Minutes of the February 13, 2012 meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED

(d) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 4)

(Farr/Jackson)

- (i) That the following delegation requests be approved to address Committee at a future meeting:

- (1.) Stephanie Vegh, Hamilton Arts Council, respecting the strategic direction of the Hamilton Arts Council following the 2011 Organizational Review. (Item 4.1)
- (2.) Rachel Adema-Hannes, Mohawk College, requesting support for the "Pay It Forward Day". (Item 4.2)

CARRIED

(Whitehead/Merulla)

- (ii) That the following delegation requests be approved and the rules of order waived to allow the delegations to address Committee today:

- (1.) Laura Cattari and Doctor Peter Graefe, Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, respecting the Roundtable's response to the Ontario social assistance review "approaches" paper and its implications for Hamilton's 62,000 residents living on Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program.(Item 4.3)
- (2.) Craig Foye, staff lawyer, the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic, respecting the critical work of the Commission for the Review of Social

Assistance in Ontario for the future of the Provincial social assistance policy. (Item 4.4)

- (3.) Clare Freeman & Cyndy Roberts, Interval House of Hamilton, respecting the City's social assistance report. (Item 4.5)
- (4.) Susan Muma, 25in5 Hamilton Network for Poverty Reduction/HOPE, respecting the Discussion Paper 2: Approaches to Reform, prepared by the Social Assistance Reform Commissioners. (Item 4.6)
- (5.) Sally Palmer, Social Action Committee, Ontario Association of Social Workers, Hamilton & District Branch, speaking to "Responses to the Social Assistance Review Commission's Report". (Item 4.7)
- (6.) Elizabeth McGuire, Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits, to present the Campaign's concerns regarding the Social Assistance Review. (Item 4.8)
- (7.) Yvonne Maracle, Chair of the City of Hamilton Aboriginal Advisory Committee regarding the Social Assistance Review. (Item 4.9)
- (8.) Peter Hutton of the Roundtable on Poverty Reduction, to present a short video as a supplement to the report of the Working Group on Social Assistance Review. (Item 4.10)

CARRIED

(e) VARIOUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (Item 5.1):

(McHattie/Duvall)

That the following Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes be received:

- (i) Food and Shelter Advisory Committee, January 12, 2012
- (ii) Arts Advisory Commission, January 24, 2012
- (iii) Tenant Advisory Committee, December 14, 2011

CARRIED

(f) PUBLIC HEARINGS/DELEGATIONS (Item 6):

- (i) **Renee Wetselaar, Affordable Housing Flagship, wishing to present their business plan regarding pocket housing and affordable housing in Hamilton. (Approved February 13, 2012) (Item 6.1)**

Renee Wetselaar addressed Committee with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation and hand-outs were distributed. Her comments included but were not limited to the following:

- Pocket Housing Essentials
- Neighbourhood Context

- Pocket Housing is new infill housing for single persons with 6 – 8 self contained apartments;
- Elevations and Layouts
 - Built to be self-contained and foster independent living within a broader neighbourhood setting;
- Context for Hamilton
 - The 2009 Official Plan states that rental housing demands in the City will require 446 new rental apartments to be created annually until 2031;
 - Pocket housing presents a positive alternative to illegal rooming houses;
- Financial viability of Pocket Housing
 - Pocket housing could be financially self-sustaining with a capital funding of \$60,000 per unit assuming the land is donated and the development charges are waived;
- Further issues/challenges
 - There are significant challenges/barriers due to current zoning rules, and the complexity due to transition to new Official Plan;
 - Neighbourhood engagement is critical ;
- Next steps
 - Confirm support for model;
 - Identify potential pilot sites;
 - Contract architectural firm for initial designs;
 - Confirm availability of potential funding.

Conrad Zurini, a local real estate agent with ReMax, and Larry Huibers, Executive Director of the Housing Help Centre, joined Renee Wetselaar and also addressed Committee in support of this initiative.

The delegations responded to questions from Committee.

A brochure entitled “The Right to Choose Where to Live” and a booklet entitled “In the zone: Housing, human rights and municipal planning” published by the Provincial government were provided to the Councillors and the Clerk. Renee Wetselaar advised that these publications will be distributed tomorrow at the Pocket Housing Business Plan Presentation organized by the Affordable Housing Flagship.

Committee debated the pros and cons of this proposal.

(Jackson/Whitehead)

That the delegation from Renee Wetselaar, Conrad Zurini and Larry Huibers be received.

CARRIED

(g) STAFF PRESENTATIONS (Item 7)

(i) City of Hamilton's Submission to the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario (CS11081(a)) (City Wide) (Item 7.1)

Kerry Lubrick, Director of Employment and Income Support Division provided an overview of the Report with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation and copies of the hand-out were distributed. Also distributed was a copy of the report from the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario entitled "Discussion paper 2: Approaches for Reform". Her comments included but were not limited to the following:

- History /Background of the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario
- Calendar/ dates of issuance of Discussion Paper, Discussion Paper 2 and the Final Report
- Need for Reform Poverty Costs:
- Input was requested on the following:
 - Reasonable expectations and necessary supports to employment;
 - Appropriate benefit structure;
 - Easier to understand;
 - Viable over the long term;
 - An integrated Ontario position on income security;
 - First Nations and Social Assistance

Kerry Lubrick responded to questions from Committee.

(Duvall/Whitehead)

That the staff presentation be received.

CARRIED

(1) Delegations:

(aa) Laura Cattari and Doctor Peter Graefe, Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, respecting the Roundtable's response to the Ontario social assistance review "approaches" paper and its implications for Hamilton's 62,000 residents living on Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program. (Item 4.3)

Laura Cattari and Doctor Peter Graefe addressed Committee. Doctor Graefe indicated that just under 12% of the City's population depend on the outcome of this Report and the Report does not contain much which addresses poverty reduction.

Laura Cattari advised that she is a member of the Hamilton Roundtable Steering Committee on poverty reduction. She indicated that she is the poster child for poverty reduction in this City. She wants a chance to actually work and look for some employment but it is not easy. She eats one meal a day which causes stomach acid which in turn affects her teeth. The Province is paying for her dental care. It is undoubtedly true that it is expensive to maintain people on poverty. If people ate healthily our health care rates would go down. Social assistance payments should be increased.

- (bb) Craig Foye, staff lawyer, the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic, respecting the critical work of the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario for the future of the Provincial social assistance policy. (Item 4.4)**

Mr. Craig Foye addressed Committee and read from a prepared statement copies of which were distributed.

He responded to questions from Committee.

- (cc) Clare Freeman & Cyndy Roberts, Interval House of Hamilton, respecting the City's social assistance report. (Item 4.5)**

Ms. Clare Freeman addressed Committee and submitted a copy of the Interval House of Hamilton report entitled "Freedom from Violence." She noted the different financial needs of women which need to be addressed especially when they are trying to escape domestic violence. She outlined the Organization's recommendations on page 5 of the report.

Ms. Freeman responded to questions.

- (dd) Susan Muma, 25in5 Hamilton Network for Poverty Reduction/HOPE, respecting the Discussion Paper 2: Approaches to Reform, prepared by the Social Assistance Reform Commissioners. (Item 4.6)**

Susan Muma and Susan Pratt addressed Committee and read from a prepared statement, copies of which were distributed.

- (ee) **Dave Cherkewski on half of Sally Palmer, Social Action Committee, Ontario Association of Social Workers, Hamilton & District Branch, speaking to “Responses to the Social Assistance Review Commission’s Report”. (Item 4.7)**

Dave Cherkewski read from a prepared statement, copies of which were distributed. He stated that a transition to employment program is required. He requested that Committee direct staff to find additional funds for this initiative.

- (ff) **Elizabeth McGuire, Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits, to present the Campaign’s concerns regarding the Social Assistance Review. (Item 4.8)**

Elizabeth McGuire addressed Committee and read from a prepared statement. A hand out was distributed. She indicated that when you are a recipient of social assistance you are punished. There is a strong surveillance of people on assistance which presumes that they are trying to scam the system. She has received a suspension letter for trying to start her own business. She requests that Members of Council first meet with Mission Services and Urban Core to learn from them the devastating impact of suspension letters and then meet with the members of the Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits. There is a better system of administration.

- (gg) **Yvonne Maracle, Chair of the City of Hamilton Aboriginal Advisory Committee regarding the Social Assistance Review. (Item 4.9)**

Yvonne Maracle read from a prepared statement and a copy was provided to the Clerk for the record.

She indicated that she was approached by a member of the Roundtable on Poverty Reduction to attend today’s meeting to represent the Aboriginal society. Around 80% of Hamilton’s Aboriginal residents earn less than \$20,000 per year and they make up a large portion of the homeless people.

She agrees with many of the statements in the Report. She highlighted the communication and trust issues which have always been a problem faced by Aboriginal people. She requested that the large Aboriginal presence in the City not be forgotten.

- (hh) **Peter Hutton of the Roundtable on Poverty Reduction to present a short video as a supplement to the specific report of the Working Group on Social Assistance Review. (Item 4.10)**

Peter Hutton presented a video prepared by the Roundtable on Poverty Reduction. The message is how people's lives would improve if adequate social assistance funding were provided.

Peter Hutton briefly addressed Committee and indicated that this is an opportunity to fix this system that is not working for the Municipality, the staff and the people on assistance. He recognized that there are challenges because of the current political climate. He noted that pre-conceived ideas about people on assistance need to be challenged.

(Merulla/Farr)

That the delegations respecting the Province's Social Assistance review be received.

CARRIED

Committee noted that the City's response was submitted on March 16, 2012 which was the deadline.

(McHattie/Merulla)

That the staff recommendation be amended by adding a subsection (e) as follows:

- (e) That the written submissions from the delegations at the March 19, 2012 Emergency and Community Services Committee who spoke to the issue of the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario be received and copies be forwarded with the aforementioned Mayor's correspondence to the Premier, the Minister of Community and Social Services, and the Commissioners for further information and review.

**Amendment CARRIED
Motion as amended CARRIED**

(h) DISCUSSION ITEMS

- (i) **Summer Music Concert Series in Gage Park (PED12045) (Ward 3) (Item 8.2)**

(Merulla/Jackson)

That the order of the agenda be changed so that Item 8.2 be considered after Item 6.1.

CARRIED

(i) MOTIONS

(i) Re: New Public Art Installation on York Boulevard (Item 10.1)

(Farr/Merulla)

- (a) That staff be directed to review the feasibility of undertaking a public art process for a new public art installation to be located on the York Boulevard sidewalk in the area outside the easterly entrance to the Hamilton Farmers' Market to identify the location of the Market and express the spirit and qualities of the Market to passing motorists and pedestrians and report back to Committee;
- (b) That staff be directed to investigate the reallocation of current monies allocated for downtown public art projects to a public art project for the Market and report back to Committee.
- (c) That staff work in consultation with the Farmers' Market Stallholders' with respect to what may be included in such a design.

Motion as amended CARRIED

(j) NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillor Farr presented the following Notice of Motion:

Re: New Public Art Installation on York Boulevard (Item 10.1)

- (a) That staff be directed to review the feasibility of undertaking a public art process for a new public art installation to be located on the York Boulevard sidewalk in the area outside the easterly entrance to the Hamilton Farmers' Market to identify the location of the Market and express the spirit and qualities of the Market to passing motorists and pedestrians;
- (b) That staff be directed to investigate the reallocation of current monies allocated for downtown public art projects to a public art project for the Market and report back to Committee.

(Farr/McHattie)

That the rules of Order be waived to introduce a motion respecting a new Public Art Installation on York Boulevard.

CARRIED

(Farr/Merulla)

That subsection (c) which reads as follows be added to the motion:

- (c) That staff work in consultation with the Farmers' Market Stallholders' with respect to what may be included in such a design.

Amendment CARRIED

For disposition of this Item see Item (i) above.

(k) GENERAL INFORMATION (Item 11)

Outstanding Business List (Item 11.1)

(Duvall/Farr)

That the following Items be identified as completed and removed from the Outstanding Business List:

- (i) Item N - Correspondence from the Municipality of Central Huron objecting to the Fire Marshal's Office restricting the use of farm buildings.
- (ii) Item R - Report back on feasibility and consideration of deploying 1 ambulance 12 hours a day, 7 days a week
- (iii) Item "M", respecting the Summer Music Events in Gage Park.
- (iv) Item "I", respecting the feasibility of using the Ottawa Somerset Gardens Affordable Housing Model in Hamilton.

CARRIED

(l) ADJOURNMENT

(Merulla/Jackson)

There being no further business, that the Emergency & Community Services Committee meeting be adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor J. Partridge, Chair
Emergency & Community Services Committee

Ida Bedioui
Legislative Co-ordinator
March 19, 2012