



GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

MINUTES 13-022

9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Council Chambers

Hamilton City Hall

71 Main Street West

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

Absent with Regrets: Councillor B. Morelli – Illness
Councillors B. Clark, R. Pasuta – Personal
Councillor B. Johnson – Vacation

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

(Pearson/Ferguson)

That the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Chair Powers advised the Committee that the City Manager had requested an opportunity to provide an update to the Committee with respect to the recent announcement by U. S. Steel to permanently shut down its Hamilton operation.

The update will be provided at the conclusion of the Rate Budget presentation.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

3.1 2014 Rate Budget

Tony Sergi, Senior Director of Growth Management, provided information respecting historical absorption rates, current absorption rates vs. rates of last year and the direction for 2014 and challenges. With the assistance of a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Sergi spoke to the following:

- Residential Units by dwelling types
- Equivalent Residential single family units
- Industrial-Commercial-Institutional (total square feet)
- New industrial vs. industrial expansion (total square feet)
- Industrial-Commercial-Institutional (total square feet)

A copy of the presentation was distributed to the Committee and is available for viewing on the City of Hamilton website.

John Savoia, Senior Policy Advisory, Financial Planning and Policy, provided a PowerPoint presentation respecting the 2014 Rate Budget, and spoke to the following:

- 2013 Financial Forecast – Expenditures and Revenues
- Industrial-Commercial-Residential (ICI) and Multi-Residential Water Consumption
- Residential Water Consumption
- Annual actual consumption per average household
- Factors driving the consumption decline
- Other factors driving the decline
- Meter inaccuracies
- Unauthorized consumption
- Benefits of reduced consumption
- Addressing financial challenges

Dan McKinnon, Director of Hamilton Water, spoke to the following matters:

- Organizational structure
- Clean Harbour Project
- Biosolids Management Program
- Randle Reef – 2013 Key Accomplishments and Successes; 2014 Outlook
- Protective Plumbing Program (3P) – Expenditures
- AMR/AMI – Life Cycle Replacement of Meters
- Water Consumption vs. Water Production

A copy of the presentation was distributed to the Committee and is available for viewing on the City of Hamilton website.

(Partridge/Whitehead)

That the presentations respecting “Historical Absorption Rates” and the “2014 Rate Budget” be received. **CARRIED**

Update respecting U. S. Steel

Chris Murray, City Manager, advised the Committee that he has met with staff from Corporate Services and Economic Development to discuss the immediate and long-term impacts of the U. S. Steel shut down.

Chair Powers advised the Committee that as per Council direction, an invitation was extended to U. S. Steel executives in Hamilton and to the Chairman and CEO of U. S. Steel Corporation in Pittsburgh in February, 2012 to attend a meeting of the General Issues Committee to address their intentions respecting Hamilton Hilton Work. To date, a response had not been received.

Mike Zegarac, Acting Manager of Finance and Corporate Services, advised that U. S. Steel's property taxes are current. The annual impact in 2013 is approximately \$9.1 million, of which 75% is municipal and 25% is educational.

The Committee requested that a meeting of the Steel Committee be convened at the earliest possible opportunity for further discussions on the shut down, including pensioners, individuals laid off, U. S. Steel's long-term plan, future land use, possibility of potential default of pensions, i.e., is it legally possible for U. S. Steel to default on pensions.

(Merulla/Whitehead)

That City Council re-affirm its motion approved on February 22, 2012, which reads as follows:

That an invitation be extended to U. S. Steel Executives to attend a future General Issues Committee meeting to address their intentions respecting Hamilton Hilton Works in the City of Hamilton. **CARRIED**

4. ADJOURNMENT

(Pearson/Bratina)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. **CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted

Councillor R. Powers
Deputy Mayor

Carolyn Biggs
Legislative Co-ordinator
Office of the City Clerk