



**GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
MINUTES 14-002(g)
3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 25, 2014
Council Chambers
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West**

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

Absent: Councillor R. Powers – City Business

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

The Clerk advised of the following changes:

ADDITIONAL DELEGATION REQUESTS

- 4.8 Don McLean
- 4.9 Jim Quinn
- 4.10 Ken Stone
- 4.11 Larry Pomerantz, Hamilton Civic League
- 4.12 Jim Sweetman
- 4.13 Roman Sarachman
- 4.14 Matthew Thompson, Beasley Neighbourhood Association
- 4.15 John McGreal
- 4.16 Raymond L. Fullerton
- 4.17 Lynda Lukasik, Environment Hamilton
- 4.18 Elenor Horgan

CORRESPONDENCE RESPECTING THE 2014 OPERATING BUDGET

- 5.1 Sheri Orvis
- 5.2 Linda DeFrance
- 5.3 Gale Mitchell
- 5.4 Steve Popovich
- 5.5 Anne Van Impe
- 5.6 James Boyd

(Jackson/Morrow)

That the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

4. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS

4.1 Denise Doyle, Co-Chair, Status of Women Committee

Denise Doyle, Co-Chair of the Hamilton Status of Women Committee, appeared before the Committee and indicated that their purpose to present was not to ask for money, but to present a couple of ideas for thought. The overall mission of the Status of Women Committee is to define and study issues on women in the City of Hamilton.

Ms. Doyle introduced Angelina Vacarra, a third-year student at McMaster University, whose studies are focusing on social issues.

Ms. Vacarra provided a PowerPoint presentation and spoke to “Equity and Inclusion Lens”.

4.2 Evelyn Myrie, Executive Director, Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion

Mile Komlen, Director, Human Rights & Equity Services, McMaster University, and Evelyn Myrie, Executive Director, Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion, appeared before the Committee to provide an overview of what HCCI has been involved in over the past year, and to ask for Council’s support around diversity to make Hamilton a place that is attractive to newcomers who want to work and live in the City. The presentation concluded with a request for Council’s consideration for a contribution of \$100,000 to assist with the work that HCCI is providing to the community.

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

(Clark/Whitehead)

That staff be directed to provide a service inventory respecting the various agencies in the City that deal with new comers to the City of Hamilton, and what services and where such services are provided, and the increase in GDP and economic dollars that are generated to the City of Hamilton, and report to the Emergency and Community Services Committee. **CARRIED**

4.3 David Arbuckle

David Arbuckle, resident of (Greensville) Ward 14 and a citizen member on the Accountability and Transparency Committee, appeared before the Committee to speak to the work of the AT&T Committee and specifically, to voice his support for the enactment of a lobbyist registry, which is an important initiative for the City. Mr. Arbuckle spoke to the issue of the cost that would be involved to implement a lobbyist registry.

A copy of Mr. Arbuckle's comments was submitted to the Clerk for the public record.

4.4 Bill Tufts, Fair Pensions for All

Bill Tufts, on behalf of Fair Pensions for All, appeared before the Committee to bring attention to the "elephant in the room" i.e., what has happened to the City over the last decade e.g., roads, sewers, water poverty, etc.

With the assistance of a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Tufts spoke to the compensation/pensions which makes up a portion of the budget, and benchmarking to the private sector.

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

4.5 Richard Wikkerink, Associate Provost, Co-Curriculum and Student Development, Redeemer University College

Elsje Zwart, Vice President, Advancement, Richard Wikkerink, Associate Provost, Co-Curriculum and Student Development, and Steve Dykstra, Community Development Co-ordinator, appeared before the Committee to speak to the bus service required for students to access Redeemer University College and to advocate for Redeemer's bussing needs, bus patterns and community engagement. The priorities include increased evening and weekend service, specifically for the Rymal/Garner Route 44.

The Committee was distributed with a summary of their presentation. A copy of this document was submitted to the Clerk for the public record and can be viewed on the City's website.

4.6 Justin Eisinga, Garnering Support

Justin Eisinga appeared on behalf of Garnering Support, a student-led campaign advocating for improved transit service on Hamilton Mountain, specifically in regard to increased service on the 44-Rymal line.

The Committee was distributed with the contents of a 725-signature petition expressing the desire for improved transit service between Redeemer University College and the greater City of Hamilton, as well as a proposed resolution for the Committee's consideration.

A copy of the petition in its entirety was submitted to the Clerk.

A copy of Mr. Eisinga's speaking notes was submitted to the Clerk for the public record, together with the materials referenced above and can be viewed on the City of Hamilton website.

4.7 Arend Kersten, Executive Director, Flamborough Chamber of Commerce

Arend Kersten, Executive Director of the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce, appeared before the Committee to speak to the 2014 Operating Budget, including the fee increase for a rezoning application by "an incredible 70%" and requested that the matter of rezoning application fees be revisited.

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

4.8 Don McLean, Hamilton 350 Committee

Don McLean appeared before the Committee to speak on behalf of the Hamilton 350 Committee and spoke to various issues including climate change, investment in the transit system, provincial and federal gas tax, comparison of transit growth, HSR historical comparisons and Weiner plant subsidies. Mr. McLean urged that the City needs to get ahead of the curve and the larger direction that the City is going.

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

4.9 Dr. Jim Quinn

Dr. Jim Quinn, scientist and professor of Biology at McMaster University, appeared before the Committee to speak to the issue of climate change, and suggested eight actions that would show leadership on climate change.

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

4.10 Ken Stone, Hamilton 350 Committee

Ken Stone appeared before the Committee on behalf of the Hamilton 350 Committee and spoke to the issue of rail safety, an issue of growing significance to the City of Hamilton and why rail safety should be of concern during budget deliberations. The answer, in one word, is "liability". Mr. Stone referenced the train that exploded in Lac Megantic and related that incident to rail safety.

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

4.11 Larry Pomerantz, Hamilton Civic League

Larry Pomerantz appeared before the Committee on behalf of the Hamilton Civic League and expressed concerns with respect to the 2014 Operating Budget. Mr. Pomerantz provided the Committee with the "Civic League Spreadsheet" which summarized parts of the 227-page budget book and questioned why some information is missing from areas as noted in the material distributed.

A copy of Mr. Pomerantz' comments was submitted to the Clerk for the public record and is available for review on the City of Hamilton website.

Mike Zegarac, General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services, requested that the presenter provide additional information in order to respond to the questions raised in the presentation. Mr. Zegarac also advised that the Civic League has asked for additional budget information.

The Committee requested that an information report be presented with all of the information and that Mr. Pomerantz be invited to that meeting.

4.12 Jim Sweetman

Jim Sweetman appeared before the Committee to provide comments with respect to the spending of the 2014 budget and the start of the 2015 budget and expressed concern with respect to the sustainability of the City's finances.

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

4.13 Roman Sarachman

Roman Sarachman, Chair of Free Flamborough, appeared before the Committee to address the biggest challenges that will be facing the City and increasing taxes.

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

4.14 Matthew Thompson, Beasley Neighbourhood Association

Matthew Thompson from the Beasley Neighbourhood Association appeared before the Committee to advocate for improved bus service for the Rymal/Garner bus route and spoke to the relationship building within the community that the improved service would create i.e., build a stronger neighbourhood and a stronger City.

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

4.15 John McGreal

John McGreal appeared before the Committee to speak to the issue public transit and the City's challenges, including aging infrastructure, no increased tax base for commercial/industrial from 23% to 40%, population dynamics, workforce dynamics, no transit strategy plan to reduce auto drivers to take transit to alternatives to switch to carpooling/cycling/walking, etc.

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

4.16 Raymond L. Fullerton

Raymond Fullerton appeared before the Committee and addressed issues including the 2012 Standard and Poors credit rating and the City's debt management policy. Mr. Fullerton indicated that he will be requesting a compilation of the City's debt history from 2000 to present and will have a question respecting the 2014 tax-supported capital budget presentation of November 28.

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

417 Lynda Lukasik, Environment Hamilton

Lynda Lukasik appeared before the Committee to speak to the issue of public transit and expressed concerns about the lack of investment in the system, the need to do more and what increasing service along the Rymal line will provide to the community.

Ms. Lukasik also spoke to the issue of light rail transit (LRT) and what it would bring to the City, and make sure that the City does not miss the opportunity.

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

4.18 Elenor Horgan

Elenor Horgan appeared before the Committee to speak to the issue of Hamilton Animal Services eliminating the service of picking up stray and feral cats and outlined the situation that she is finding herself in as a cat owner, animal lover and her experiences with stray cats.

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

(Morrow/Bratina)

That the presentations as noted in Items 4.1 to 4.18 inclusive with respect to the 2014 Operating Budget, be received. **CARRIED**

5. WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

(Johnson/Whitehead)

That the following written submissions respecting the 2014 Tax-Supported Operating Budget be received:

- (a) Sheri Orvis (Item 5.1)
- (b) Linda DeFrance (Item 5.2)
- (c) Gale Mitchell (Item 5.3)
- (d) Steve Popovich (Item 5.4)
- (e) Anne Van Impe (Item 5.5)

CARRIED

6. ADJOURNMENT

(PasutPearson)

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted

Councillor S. Merulla
Deputy Mayor

Carolyn Biggs
Legislative Co-ordinator
Office of the City Clerk