



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	January 9, 2015
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	2015 Budget Overview (FCS15009) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

N/A

Information:

The City of Hamilton is in the process of updating the Community Vision, Corporate Strategic Plan, Operational Workplans and Budget Process as part of an overall Financial Sustainability Plan.

The 2015 Budget Process started with 2015 Budget Process and Schedule (Report FCS14049/CM14008) presented to the General Issues Committee at its meeting of July 7th, 2014. The 2015 Budget Overview (Report FCS15009) provides an overview the 2015 Budget Process and Schedule. Preliminary budget information will be provided to GIC in a staff presentation.

The 2015 Budget Process incorporates the following four components:

- **Tax Supported Capital Budget**
The City of Hamilton's multi-year Capital Budget supports the City's planned investment in capital infrastructure and capital assets. The Tax Supported Capital Budget Available Funding represents a portion of the financing required to support the City's existing capital infrastructure repair and replacement requirements based on industry standards and Council priorities.
- **Rate Supported Operating & Capital Budget**
The City of Hamilton's Rate Supported Operating Budget provides the cost and ongoing financial obligations to deliver water, wastewater and storm water

OUR Vision: To be the best place in Canada to raise a child, promote innovation, engage citizens and provide diverse economic opportunities.

OUR Mission: WE provide quality public service that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Values: Accountability, Cost Consciousness, Equity, Excellence, Honesty, Innovation, Leadership, Respect and Teamwork.

programs and services to ratepayers. The City of Hamilton's Rate Supported Capital Budget supports the City's investment in capital infrastructure and capital assets. The cost for water, wastewater and storm water programs are fully funded from user fees and, therefore, do not affect municipal property taxes.

- **Tax Supported Operating Budget**
The City of Hamilton's Tax Supported Operating Budget provides the costs and ongoing financial obligations to deliver programs and services to taxpayers.
- **Tax Supported User Fees**
The City of Hamilton's User Fees represent charges to individual users of specific municipal services and are an integral part of the annual budget process. Revenue estimates for the current budget year are based on the fees contained in the Tax Supported User Fee Report (Report FCS15005) and other user fee reports and are included in the Tax Supported Operating Budget.

The schedule for the meetings of the General Issues Committee is summarized in the following table:

ITEM	GIC DATE
Budget Overview, User Fees, Rate Supported Budget	January 9, 2015
Tax Capital Report	January 15 & 23, 2015
Tax Operating Budget Board & Agencies Presentation	January 27 & 28, 2015
Tax Operating Budget Department Presentations	Jan. 30 - February 13, 2015
Tax Operating Budget Public Delegations	February 24, 2015
Tax Operating Budget GIC Deliberations	February - March 2015
Tax Operating Budget GIC / Council Approval	April 8, 2015

Although the User Fees and the Rate Supported Budget are normally presented ahead of the main budget deliberations, the 2015 schedule is typical for many municipalities in an election year and is in alignment with proposed long term changes to the budget process, described in Report FCS14049/CM14008. Although this is a later start to the overall process, it is not expected to extend the time period in which the budget is traditionally approved by Council.