



BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES 15-011

1:30 p.m.

Monday, November 16, 2015

Council Chambers

Hamilton City Hall

Present: Mayor F. Eisenberger (Chair)
Councillors A. Johnson, J. Farr, M. Green, S. Merulla, C. Collins,
T. Jackson, T. Whitehead, D. Conley, M. Pearson, B. Johnson,
L. Ferguson, J. Partridge.

Absent with
regrets: Councillors A. VanderBeek and R. Pasuta– City Business

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REPORTED TO COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. Food Strategy Update (BOH13001(c)) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)

(Whitehead/Farr)

That Report BOH13001(c) respecting a Food Strategy Update, be received.

CARRIED

2. Food Advisory Committee (BOH15029) (City Wide) (Item 8.2)

(Partridge/Whitehead)

- (a) That the roles and responsibilities respecting emergency food from the Food and Shelter Advisory Committee and community food security continuum from the Community Food Security Stakeholder Committee mandates be reallocated to the new advisory committee, Food Advisory Committee, being established for the 2014-2018 term of Council;
- (b) That the mandate for the new advisory committee be, “the Food Advisory Committee will support and advise on the implementation of Hamilton’s Food Strategy, and the development of inclusive and comprehensive food related policies and programs at the individual, household, and community/population level, based on internationally recognized principles of healthy public policy and best practices/available evidence”;

- (c) That the draft Terms of Reference for the Food Advisory Committee, attached as Appendix A to Report BOH15029, be approved;
- (d) That two (2) members of City Council be appointed as representatives to the Food Advisory Committee, with a requirement for each member to attend at least one (1) meeting per year;
- (e) That three (3) members of City Council be appointed to the recruitment process for the Food Advisory Committee (plus two alternates), including one to two (1-2) from the disbanded Food and Shelter Committees and Community Food Security Stakeholders Committee; and
- (f) That for 2016, a base budget of \$1,500 be established within the Legislative budget to support the Food Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

3. Sexual Health Clinic Dundas (BOH15031) (City Wide) (Item 8.3)

(Ferguson/Conley)

That Public Health Services close the Dundas Public Health clinic site at 2 King Street West, Dundas for a savings of \$114,424 annually in leasing costs and related operating costs and that clients be directed to other clinic sites for service.

CARRIED

4. Nutritious Food Basket 2015 (BOH15036) (City Wide) (Item 8.4)

(Green/Whitehead)

- (a) That the Board of Health correspond with the federal ministers of Health, Labour, Employment and Social Development, provincial ministers of Health and Long-Term Care, Labour, Children and Youth Services, and, the minister responsible for Poverty Reduction to consider and investigate a joint federal-provincial (Ontario) basic income guarantee for Ontarians and all Canadians;
- (b) That the Board of Health correspond with the Minister of Community and Social Services to request an update on the transformation of social assistance in Ontario, noting that current social assistance rates still do not reflect the actual costs of nutritious food and adequate housing, and to again propose the establishment of an Ontario Social Assistance Rates Board for setting evidence-based social assistance rates;

- (c) That the Board of Health correspond with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to request an increase in funding provided to the City of Hamilton for affordable housing to a level adequate to meet the needs identified in the City's 10-year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan; and
- (d) That Board of Health endorse the development of a Living Wage policy for the City of Hamilton to increase income security and reduce health inequities among employees.

CARRIED

5. Review of the City of Hamilton's Pest Control By-law (Item 9.1)

(Collins/Merulla)

- (a) That Public Health staff review Hamilton's pest control bylaw, currently part of the Property Standards Bylaw, with the goal of establishing an independent Bed Bug and/or pest control bylaw; and
- (b) That the review include an investigation of other jurisdictions who have implemented a minimum standard guideline for the treatment of bed bugs and other pests.

CARRIED

6. Correspondence from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Office of the Minister, respecting one-time funding for 2015-16 to support the planning, preparation and deployment activities for the Panorama Immunization Software (Item 11.1)

(Pearson/Farr)

- (a) That the Correspondence from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Office of the Minister, respecting one-time funding for 2015-16 to support the planning, preparation and deployment activities for the Panorama Immunization Software, be approved, and
- (b) That Medical Officer of Health be authorized and directed to sign and submit Appendix B to the Public Health Funding & Accountability Agreement.

CARRIED

7. Polychlorinated Biphenyl Inventory (Added Item 11.7)

(Merulla/Collins)

- (a) That staff be directed to provide an inventory of known environmental contaminated sites in the City of Hamilton; and
- (b) That staff be directed to establish a discussion with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change confirming all contaminated sites in the City of Hamilton.

CARRIED

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Clerk advised of the following Changes to the Agenda:

- (i) Withdrawn Item 4.1 – Withdrawn Delegation request from the Basic Needs Work Group of the Hamilton Best Start initiative, respecting the Food Advisory Committee
- (ii) Added Item 4.2 - Delegation request from Ms. Sally Palmer, Social Action Committee, Ontario Association of Social Workers, Hamilton Branch respecting the Nutritious Food Basket 2015 report (for today's meeting)
- (iii) Added Item 4.3 - Delegation request from Mr. Tom Cooper, respecting the Nutritious Food Basket 2015 report (for today's meeting) (copy attached).
- (iv) Added Item 4.4 - Delegation request from Ms. Elizabeth McGuire, Member of Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits Group, respecting support for Public Health Food Related Programs (for today's meeting) (copy attached).
- (v) Added Item 11.6 - Correspondence from Ms. Mary Anne Duncan respecting the request to make all City owned facility peanut free environments.

(A. Johnson/Green)

That the agenda of the November 16, 2015 Board of Health be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

None.

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

(i) October 19, 2015 (Item 3.1)

(A. Johnson/Conley)

That the Minutes of the October 19, 2015 meeting of the Board of Health be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

(d) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 4)

- (i) Delegation request from Ms. Sally Palmer, Social Action Committee, Ontario Association of Social Workers, Hamilton Branch respecting the Nutritious Food Basket 2015 report (Added Item 4.2).**

(Pearson/Conley)

That the Delegation request from Ms. Sally Palmer, Social Action Committee, Ontario Association of Social Workers, Hamilton Branch respecting the Nutritious Food Basket 2015 report be approved for today's meeting.

CARRIED

- (ii) Delegation request from Mr. Tom Cooper, respecting the Nutritious Food Basket 2015 report (for today's meeting) (Added Item 4.3).**

(Green/B. Johnson)

That the Delegation request from Mr. Tom Cooper, respecting the Nutritious Food Basket 2015 report be approved for today's meeting.

CARRIED

- (iii) Delegation request from Ms. Elizabeth McGuire, Member of Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits Group, respecting support for Public Health Food Related Programs (for today's meeting) (Added Item 4.4)**

(Conley/Farr)

That the Delegation request from Ms. Elizabeth McGuire, Member of Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits Group, respecting support for Public Health Food Related Programs be approved for today's meeting.

CARRIED

(e) PUBLIC HEARINGS / DELEGATIONS

(i) Mr. Ian Thompson respecting a request to make all City owned facilities peanut free environments (approved at the September 21, 2015 BOH meeting) (Item 6.1)

Ms. Melissa Thompson addressed the Board, on behalf of her husband, Mr. Ian Thompson, respecting her request to make all City owned facilities peanut free environments. A copy of the speaking notes have been added to the public record. Ms. Thompson's comments included, but were not limited to:

- Fiona, their nine-year old daughter, has had a peanut/tree nut allergy since the age of two
- Every year her allergies continue to grow worse
- Fiona is limited when wanting to go to large events at First Ontario Place or Tim Hortons Field because of the sale of peanuts and nuts products
- Her allergic reactions not only occur when ingesting the products, but can also occur by touching the product
- Peanut allergies affect many people in the City of Hamilton
- We ask that all City owned properties, including First Ontario Place and Tim Hortons Field be designated peanut/tree nut free zones

(Merulla/Whitehead)

That the presentation provided by Ms. Melissa Thompson respecting a request to make all City owned facilities peanut free, be received.

CARRIED

(ii) Delegation from Ms. Sally Palmer, Social Action Committee, Ontario Association of Social Workers, Hamilton Branch respecting the Nutritious Food Basket 2015 report (Added Item 6.2)

Ms. Palmer addressed the Board with the aid of speaking notes, and a PowerPoint presentation. A copy of the presentation, and speaking notes, have been added to the public record. The presentation included, but was not limited to:

- Their Committee is very pleased to see that Public Health Services (PHS) is presenting their annual Nutritious Food Basket (NFB) Report that shows the increasing cost of nutritious food to individuals and families who are struggling to survive on the benefits provided by Provincial social assistance programs

- This month, the benefits for most categories of Ontario Works (OW) increased by 1%; the most disadvantaged category, unattached people with no children (to be termed “OW Singles”) received an increase of \$25 or 3.8%
- The slightly higher increase to OW Singles is a belated follow up to the recommendations of the Province’s own Social Assistance Review Commission in their 2012 report: they cited the very low benefits to OW Singles and recommended they be raised by \$100 per month
- The total increase to benefits for OW Singles since 2012 has been only \$85, and recipients’ spending power has been diminished by inflation since 2012; today’s NFB Report provides inflation numbers for families of 4, showing that food has increased by 11.6% and rent by 9.9% since 2013
- Their Committee is very concerned about the plight of OW Singles: there are about 7,000 of them in Hamilton, and their income leaves them far below the poverty line; since 2012, we have been advocating for a food supplement to OW Singles to help address this gap
- History of the G2GFB Pilot Project
 - The Pilot Project lasted for 18 months, beginning in March 2013: the City provided \$55,000 from the Social Services Initiatives Reserve (SSIR), and the Hamilton Roundtable on Poverty Reduction contributed \$10,000
 - Pilot project ended in August 2014 at recommendation of PHS
- Their Social Assistance Committee has continued to deliver a privately-funded box of fresh produce to people who were participating when the Pilot Project ended; this is a partnership with the Good Food Box program at Grace Lutheran Church (GLC)
- They are currently serving only 40 OW Singles per month, but we are working with GLC and Environment Hamilton to increase our numbers
- The cost/benefit balance is much more positive than it was for the Pilot Project: it costs \$8,000 per year to give monthly GFBs to 40 people, and the work involved is done by volunteers

(Pearson/Conley)

That the presentation provided by Ms. Sally Palmer, respecting the Nutritious Food Basket 2015 report, be received.

CARRIED

(iii) Delegation from Mr. Tom Cooper, respecting the Nutritious Food Basket 2015 report (Added Item 6.3)

Mr. Tom Cooper, Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, introduced Ms. Laura Cattari, Chair of the Social Policy Working Group.

Mr. Cooper congratulated Dr. Tran and Public Health Services staff for their work on Report BOH15036, Nutritious Food Basket 2015.

Ms. Cattari, Chair of the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction's Social Policy Working Group addressed the Board respecting the Nutritious Food Basket 2015 report. Her comments included, but were not limited to:

- Ontario Works Single funding has increased by \$25.00
- Ontario Works Family funding has increased by 1%
- Ontario Disabilities Support Program has increased by 1% to recipients, but not to the families of recipients
- Her shelter costs have increased, taking \$255.00 from my Basic Needs Allowance of \$631.00 per month
- Her medication and medical supplies costs are \$120.00 - \$150.00 per month
- Health eating requirements as laid out in the report are not always possible

Mr. Cooper addressed the Board respecting the Nutritious Food Basket 2015 Report. His comments included, but were not limited to:

- Ontario Works, and Ontario Disabilities Support Program rates have not recovered from 1995 cuts
- Neither program is able to keep up with the cost of living
- 75% of people using food banks, are on Provincial Social Assistance

(Green/Farr)

That the presentations from Mr. Tom Cooper, and Ms. Laura Cattari respecting the Nutritious Food Basket 2015 Report, be received.

CARRIED

(iv) Delegation from Ms. Elizabeth McGuire, Member of Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits Group, respecting support for Public Health Food Related Programs (Added Item 6.4)

Ms. McGuire addressed the Board respecting Public Health Food Related Programs. Her comments included, but were not limited to:

- It is very expensive to administrate social assistance as it is now organized
- There is a simpler more effective way of delivering social assistance programs
- The pilot studies have provided them with concrete and positive results

(Farr/Conley)

That the presentation from Ms. Elizabeth McGuire respecting support for Public Health Food Related Programs, be received.

CARRIED

(f) MOTIONS

(i) Study of the Impact of Food Allergies on City owned facilities (Item 9.2)

Councillor Merulla introduced the following revised motion:

(Merulla/Collins)

- (a) That staff be directed to report to the Board of Health respecting a study of the impact of food allergies on publicly owned facilities in the City of Hamilton.

(Merulla/Ferguson)

- (b) *That staff be directed to report to the Board of Health on the feasibility of including Epinephrine Auto-Injectors at the same location as Defibrillators in City owned facilities.*

**AMENDMENT CARRIED
MOTION AS AMENDED, CARRIED**

(g) GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS

- (i) Correspondence from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Office of the Minister, respecting one-time funding for 2015-16 to support the planning, preparation and deployment activities for the Panorama Immunization Software (Item 11.1)**

For disposition on this item, refer to Item 6.

- (ii) Correspondence from Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Executive Director's Office respecting Amendments to the Protocols under the Ontario Public Health Standards - Infection Prevention and Control Practices Complaint Protocol, 2015; Infection Prevention and Control in Personal Services Settings Protocol, 2015; and Infectious Diseases Protocol, 2015. (Item 11.2)**

(Farr/Pearson)

That Correspondence from Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Executive Director's Office respecting Amendments to the Protocols under the Ontario Public Health Standards - Infection Prevention and Control Practices Complaint Protocol, 2015; Infection Prevention and Control in Personal Services Settings Protocol, 2015; and Infectious Diseases Protocol, 2015, be received.

CARRIED

- (iii) Correspondence from the Association of Local Public Health Agencies respecting the Public Health Funding Model (Item 11.3)**

(Pearson/Conley)

That Correspondence from the Association of Local Public Health Agencies respecting the Public Health Funding Model, be received.

CARRIED

- (iv) Correspondence from Mr. Peter Prakke respecting the Allergy Friendly Schoolyard Act, 2015. (Item 11.4)**

(Pearson/Conley)

That Correspondence from Mr. Peter Prakke respecting the Allergy Friendly Schoolyard Act, 2015, be received.

CARRIED

- (v) **Correspondence from the Basic Needs Work Group of the Hamilton Best Start initiative, respecting the Food Advisory Committee (to be distributed) (Item 11.5).**

(Whitehead/Collins)

That Correspondence from the Basic Needs Work Group of the Hamilton Best Start initiative, respecting the Food Advisory Committee, be received.

CARRIED

- (vi) **Correspondence from Ms. Mary Anne Duncan respecting the request to make all City owned facility peanut free environments (Added Item 11.6)**

(A. Johnson/Conley)

That Correspondence from Ms. Mary Anne Duncan respecting the request to make all City owned facility peanut free environments, be received.

CARRIED

- (vii) **Verbal Update on Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) Leakage in the City of Hamilton (Added Item 11.7)**

Rob Hall, Director of Health Protection provided an update related to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) draft order for commercial properties located near the Barton Street East and Strathearne Avenue area that have historical Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) contamination. His comments included, but were not limited to:

- No imminent public health threat
- Public Health Services to work with MOECC respecting remediation, to ensure leaching is not occurring during investigations
- MOECC monitors leaching at property lines
- Public Health Services will provide a response to the Environmental Bill of Rights posting related to the Draft Order from the MOECC

Councillor Merulla introduced the following motion:

- (a) That staff be directed to provide an inventory of known environmental contaminated sites in the City of Hamilton; and
- (b) That staff be directed to establish a discussion with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change confirming all contaminated sites in the City of Hamilton

For disposition on this motion, refer to Item 7.

(Merulla/Collins)

That the Verbal Update from the Director, Health Protection respecting Polychlorinated Biphenyl Leakage in the City of Hamilton, be received.

CARRIED

(g) ADJOURNMENT (Item 13)

(Pearson/Whitehead)

That there being no further business, the Board of Health be adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor F. Eisenberger
Chair, Board of Health

Loren Kolar
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk