



EMERGENCY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT 16-004

1:30 p.m.
Monday, April 25, 2016
Council Chamber
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West

Present: Councillor M. Green, Chair
Councillor A. Johnson, Vice Chair
Councillors T. Jackson, S. Merulla, J. Farr and J. Partridge

**Absent with
Regrets:** Councillor T. Whitehead - Personal

Also Present: Councillor C. Collins

THE EMERGENCY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 16-004 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. Affordable Access Strategy 5-Year Update (CS10047(b)) (Item 5.1)

That Report CS10047(b) respecting Affordable Access Strategy 5-Year Update, be received.

2. Ontario Works French Language Services Compliance Report (CS11038(a)) (Item 5.2)

That Report CS11038(a) respecting Ontario Works French Language Services Compliance Report, be received.

3. Mohawk 4Ice Centre Annual Report 2014 & 2015 (CES14029(a)) (City Wide) (Item 5.3)

That Report CES14029(a), respecting Mohawk 4Ice Centre Annual Report 2014 & 2015, be received.

4. Vehicle Donation to St. John Ambulance (CES16008) (City Wide) (Item 5.4)

That the donation from Hamilton Paramedic Services of a used Ambulance with 35A Stretcher (City Number 2245) and one surplus Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) (City Number 2382) in "as is condition", to St. John Ambulance, a not-for-profit agency, be approved.

5. Support of Improving Provincial Social Assistance Programs (City Wide) (Item 6.1)

- (a) That the Mayor correspond with the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Community and Social Services, requesting that the Government of Ontario immediately address the inadequacy of provincial social assistance benefits through a substantial increase to benefits, coupled with an arms-length mechanism to annually set future evidence based rates that will allow individuals and families to meet at least their basic needs; and
- (b) That the Mayor correspond with the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Community and Social Services, requesting that the Government of Ontario proceed with social assistance reform to alter the structure of the Ontario Works program benefits to acknowledge that many individuals and families in receipt of Ontario Works benefits face long-term barriers to employability, and thus require additional financial assistance (for example, to replace items such as furniture).

6. Recreation Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities Progress Update (Year 3) (CS13043(a)) (City Wide) (Item 7.1)

That Report CS13043(a), respecting Recreation Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities Progress Update (Year 3), be received.

7. Update to the Ontario Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy and the 2016 Federal Budget Housing Investments (CES15032(a)) (City Wide) (Item 7.2)

That Report CES15032(a), respecting Update to the Ontario Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy and the 2016 Federal Budget Housing Investments, be received.

8. Supporting the Implementation of the Provincial Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy (CES15032(a)) (City Wide) (Item 7.2)

WHEREAS, the Honourable Ted McMeekin, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has announced the Provincial Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy Update;

WHEREAS, as part of the Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy Update, the Province has committed to conducting extensive consultations on various initiatives to increase the supply of affordable housing, including inclusionary zoning; modernizing social housing programs, including developing more co-ordinated and effective access to the housing system, developing a portable system of housing subsidy, and simplifying rent-gear-to-income calculations; transforming the supportive housing system; developing an Indigenous specific housing strategy; and undertaking key steps to ending homelessness;

WHEREAS, as part of the Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy Update, and the 2016 Ontario Budget, the Province has committed \$178 million to implement the Strategy and transform the housing system;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton has demonstrated the capacity for Provincial leadership by sitting on the Expert Advisory Panel on Homelessness convened by the Honourable Ted McMeekin;

WHEREAS, the outcomes of the Province's consultations will impact the ability of the City of Hamilton to address Hamilton's housing issues and implement the City of Hamilton's Housing and Homelessness Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton has invested \$1.1 million annually in the operating budget for housing allowances.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- a) That staff be directed to play a leadership role with the Province on implementation of the Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy, by seeking a position on any committees related to implementation of the Strategy, and participating in implementation consultations;
- b) That the Mayor send a letter to the Honourable Ted McMeekin, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing asking that the City of Hamilton be provided the opportunity to participate on any steering committees that may be formed to implement the Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy; and
- c) That the General Manager of Emergency and Community Services be directed to submit a proposal for the City of Hamilton to be included as one of approximately three municipalities to pilot an affordable housing benefit program for survivors of domestic violence.

**9. ArcelorMittal Dofasco Grassroots Soccer Program (CES16022) (City Wide)
(Item 8.1)**

- (a) That the City of Hamilton enter into a ten (10) year agreement with ArcelorMittal Dofasco G.P. and the Hamilton and District Soccer Association that will allow the City of Hamilton to administer funding of \$250,000 contributed by ArcelorMittal Dofasco to support the ArcelorMittal Dofasco Grassroots Soccer program over the next 10 years;
- (b) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute an agreement on behalf of the City of Hamilton in a form that is satisfactory to the City Solicitor;
- (c) That the General Manager of Community and Emergency Services or designate be granted the delegated authority to approve any subsequent changes to the agreement and execute any related or ancillary

documentation as may be required to give effect thereto, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor; and,

- (d) That the General Manager of Community and Emergency Services or designate, be nominated as the representative of the City of Hamilton for the purpose of administering the agreement.

10. Mayor's Advisory Committee on Syrian Newcomers (CES16023) (City Wide) (Item 8.2)

That Report CES16023, respecting the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Syrian Newcomers, be received.

11. Single-Source Paramedic Service Linen Supply, Cleaning and Replacement (CES16001(a)) (Item 8.3)

- (a) That Council approve the single source procurement, pursuant to Procurement Policy #11 – Non-competitive Procurements, for the supply, cleaning and replacement of health care linen for the Hamilton Paramedic Service for a five year period ending December 31, 2020; and,
- (b) That the General Manager, Community and Emergency Services Department be authorized to negotiate, enter into and execute a Contract and any ancillary documents required to give effect thereto with Mohawk Shared Services Inc. (MSSI), in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

12. Urban Native Homes Incorporation – Management Plan (CES16024) (Item 8.4)

- (a) That Housing Services Division staff be directed and authorized to continue to provide support and assistance as required by the new Urban Native Homes' Board of Directors to ensure its immediate stability as a housing provider that provides housing and supports addressing the needs of the local Aboriginal community;
- (b) That Housing Services' Division staff be directed and authorized to request a proposal for services and/or a portfolio transfer plan from Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services for the consideration of the Service Manager;
- (c) That the General Manager of Community & Emergency Services be authorized and directed to approve and execute any agreements or other documents as may be required to give effect to Recommendations (a) and (b) of Report CES16024, in forms satisfactory to the City Solicitor; and,
- (d) That the General Manager of Community & Emergency Services be authorized and directed to reduce the subsidy payment to Urban Native

Homes Inc. to offset any costs associated with Recommendations (a) and (b) of Report CES16024.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Legislative Coordinator advised that there were no changes to the agenda.

The Agenda for the April 25, 2016 meeting of the Emergency & Community Services Committee was approved, as presented.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

Councillor S. Merulla declared an interest on Item 7.2 - Update to the Ontario Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy and the 2016 Federal Budget Housing Investments, as he is a landlord.

There were no other declarations of interest.

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

(i) March 7, 2016 (Item 3.1)

The Minutes of the March 7, 2016 Emergency and Community Services Committee meeting were approved, as presented.

(d) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 4)

(i) Delegation Request by Craig Foye, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic, respecting Support of Improving Provincial Social Assistance Programs (Item 4.1)

That the delegation request by Craig Foye respecting Support of Improving Provincial Social Assistance Programs, be approved for today's meeting.

(e) CONSENT ITEMS (Item 5)

(i) **Vehicle Donation to St. John Ambulance (CES16008) (City Wide) (Item 5.4)**

That the General Manager of Emergency & Community Services be directed to report back to Emergency and Community Services Committee regarding opportunities (both domestic and international, and including all associated costs) when dispossessing 'end-of-life cycle' vehicle assets that belong to the City of Hamilton.

(f) **DELEGATIONS (Item 6)**

(i) **Delegation Request by Craig Foye, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic, respecting Support of Improving Provincial Social Assistance Programs (Added as Item 6.1)**

Mr. Tom Cooper, on behalf of Craig Foye, addressed the Committee respecting Support of Improving Provincial Social Assistance Programs.

The presentation included, but was not limited to, the following:

- Issue of the former "Permanently Unemployable" category from the former *Family Benefits Act*.
- Concerns regarding the Provincial social assistance programs in the Hamilton community respecting ineligibility.
- Community members who are disabled and financially eligible for ODSP yet not receiving these benefits due to systematic issues or other.
- Move towards an evidence-based approach, as demonstrated by MPP Miller's passing of Bill 185 by 80-0 (all parties in support) in the Ontario Legislature to create a Social Assistance Research Commission.
- The Commission would include people with lived experience on social assistance who will base social assistance rates on regional, specific cost-of-living evidence.

That the delegation presented by Tom Cooper, on behalf of Craig Foye, respecting Support of Improving Provincial Social Assistance Programs, be received.

For disposition of this matter, refer to Item 5.

(g) **PRESENTATIONS (Item 7)**

(i) Recreation Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities Progress Update (Year 3) (CS13043(a)) (City Wide) (Item 7.1)

Courtney Groves, Program Lead – Inclusion, provided a presentation respecting Recreation Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities Progress Update (Year 3). The overview included information regarding:

- A video which demonstrated the impact of the programming to persons who benefit from the services as well as the larger community.
- Outline of the Recreation Needs Assessment for Persons with Disability Study
- Outline of the Related Action Plan.
- Year 4/5 Recommendations to include the maintenance and evaluation of current service levels, improvement of facility amenities, and an increase in program space and partnerships.

That the presentation respecting the Recreation Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities Progress Update (Year 3), be received.

For disposition of this matter, refer to Item 6.

(i) Update to the Ontario Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy and the 2016 Federal Budget Housing Investments (CES15032(a)) (City Wide) (Item 7.2)

Kirstin Maxwell, Policy and Program Specialist, provided a presentation respecting Update to the Ontario Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy and the 2016 Federal Budget Housing Investments. The overview included information regarding:

- The new vision and strategy themes (incl. housing supply, people-centred programs, evidence-informed system, portable assistance, ending homelessness, and an indigenous strategy)
- Legislative changes (e.g. inclusionary zoning), system changes as well as new funding availability
- Social Housing Modernization: Technical Document overview
- Immediate reforms and new funding which includes the Province's commitment to \$178-million over three years and the Federal Government's \$2.3 billion dollar investment over two years.
- An outline of next steps.

For disposition of this matter, refer to Items 7 and 8.

(h) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 8)

(i) ArcelorMittal Dofasco Grassroots Soccer Program (CES16022) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)

Councillor Green relinquished the Chair to Vice-Chair A. Johnson to move Report CES16022.

For disposition of this matter, refer to Item 9.

(i) ADJOURNMENT (Item 13)

There being no further business, the Emergency & Community Services Committee meeting, adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor M. Green, Chair
Emergency & Community Services Committee

Denis Farr
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk