

Pilon, Janet

Subject: 2018 Capital Budget

From: Anonymous Blogger

Sent: December-07-17 8:15 AM

To: Caterini, Rose

Cc: Office of the Mayor; Johnson, Aidan; Farr, Jason; Green, Matthew; Merulla, Sam; Collins, Chad; Jackson, Tom; Skelly, Donna; Whitehead, Terry; Conley, Doug; Pearson, Maria; Johnson, Brenda; Ferguson, Lloyd; VanderBeek, Arlene; Pasuta, Robert; Partridge, Judi

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Rose, can you please add this correspondence to tomorrow's Council Meeting. Thank you. Viv

Dear Honourable Mayor & Council,

I am respectfully requesting that you consider removing \$800,000 of funding under Council Initiatives, page 44 of Book 1.

As you know each councillor is provided with an annual discretionary fund of \$200,000 for Minor Rehabilitation and those funds must be spent on hard infrastructure. In addition to those infrastructure funds, the incumbents of Wards 1 to 8 are also provided with an additional \$100,000 per year of discretionary funds. A previous term of Council approved the Staff Recommendation to have those funds spent on small infrastructure and one-time in year projects.

In a large amount of cases during this term of Council, the \$100,000/year discretionary funding has not been spent by our incumbent councillors in keeping with the previously approved Staff Recommendation.

A review of some of the expenses 2014 to 2017 allegedly reveal:

1. \$60,000 spent on an outside organization's website
2. \$5,000 donated to Boy Scouts
3. \$10,000 donated for an unidentified organization's Team trip
4. \$95,000 spent on sponsorships
5. \$50,000 spent over 2 years on salary of an outside organization's employee
6. expenses allocated to this Reserve fund which arguably should have been allocated to Ward Office Budgets (ie Staff costs)
7. expenses allocated to this fund which arguably should have gone through City Enrichment fund process (ie Community Events)
8. expenses allocated to projects from one ward's reserve that are located in another ward.

For quite some time there has been chatter that these funds are a slush fund to aid incumbents in getting re-elected. With 2018 being an Election Year, coupled with recent transparency on how this capital funding has actually been spent during this term, I respectfully request Council as a whole remove this item from our Capital budget for 2018.

In addition, I would ask Council consider a moratorium on any & all expenditures via this Reserve during an election year that fall outside of the democratic & transparent Participatory Budgeting process.

This request is specific to the \$100K discretionary funds as well as to any projects not already identified in the 2018 Capital Budget that would be allocated to the additional \$1.58m/ward Special Re-investment Infrastructure Renewal.

Implementing these changes for 2018 is one way to remove any doubt that the taxpayer's property taxes will not end up being used as a means to provide an unfair advantage to an incumbent candidate's campaign.

Respectfully,

Viv Saunders
City of Hamilton Ward 10 Resident