



**GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE  
(2021 OPERATING BUDGET)  
MINUTES 21-002(c)**

9:30 a.m.

Friday, January 22, 2021

Due to COVID-19 and the closure of City Hall, this meeting was held virtually.

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**Present:** Mayor F. Eisenberger, Deputy Mayor B. Clark (Chair)  
Councillors M. Wilson, J. Farr, N. Nann, S. Merulla, C. Collins,  
T. Jackson, E. Pauls, J.P. Danko, M. Pearson, B. Johnson,  
L. Ferguson, A. VanderBeek, J. Partridge

**Absent:** Councillor T. Whitehead – Personal

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**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR INFORMATION:**

**1. PRESTO Adoption (PW17033(f)) (City Wide) (Item 5.1)**

**(Pauls/Farr)**

That Report PW17033(f), respecting PRESTO Adoption, be received.

**Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 11 to 0, as follows:**

Absent	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Absent	-	Ward 3 Councillor Ninder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson
Absent	-	Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead
Absent	-	Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge

2. **(RE)envision the HSR Update and Guiding Principles (PW20005(a)) (City Wide) (Item 7.1)**

**(Collins/Partridge)**

That Report PW20005(a), respecting the (RE)envision the HSR Update and Guiding Principles, be received.

**Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 14 to 0, as follows:**

Absent	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge

3. **Update on Financial Implications of Revenue and Ridership (PW20061(a)) (City Wide) (Item 7.2)**

**(Pearson/Jackson)**

That Report PW20061(a), respecting the Update on Financial Implications of Revenue and Ridership, be received.

**Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 14 to 0, as follows:**

Absent	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson

Yes	-	Ward 12	Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13	Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14	Councillor Terry Whitehead
Yes	-	Ward 15	Councillor Judi Partridge

**FOR INFORMATION:**

**(a) APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 1)**

The Committee Clerk advised of the following change to the agenda:

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

3.1 January 21, 2021

**(Johnson/Eisenberger)**

That the agenda for the January 22, 2021 General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting be approved, as amended.

**Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:**

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Absent	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson
Absent	-	Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead
Absent	-	Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge

**(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

**(i) January 21, 2021 (Item 3.1)**

**(Pearson/Farr)**

That the Minutes of the January 21, 2021 General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting be approved, as presented.

**Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:**

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Absent	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson
Absent	-	Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead
Absent	-	Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge

**(d) COMMUNICATIONS (Item 4)**

**(i) Correspondence from the Lakewood Beach Community Council respecting the Niagara Regional Transit On-Demand Pilot Project (Item 4.1)**

**(Pearson/Johnson)**

That the correspondence from the Lakewood Beach Community Council respecting the Niagara Regional Transit On-Demand Pilot Project, be received.

**Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:**

Yes	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Absent	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson

Yes	-	Ward 7	Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8	Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9	Councillor Brad Clark, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 10	Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11	Councillor Brenda Johnson
Absent	-	Ward 12	Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13	Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14	Councillor Terry Whitehead
Absent	-	Ward 15	Councillor Judi Partridge

**(e) PRESENTATIONS (Item 6)**

**(i) Transit Division – 2021 Operating Budget (Item 6.1)**

Debbie Dalle Vedove, Director of Transit, provided a PowerPoint presentation respecting the Transit Division’s 2021 Operating Budget.

**(Eisenberger/Partridge)**

That the General Issues Committee recess for one half hour until 1:10 p.m.

**Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:**

No	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger	
Yes	-	Ward 1	Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2	Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3	Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4	Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5	Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6	Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7	Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8	Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9	Councillor Brad Clark, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 10	Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11	Councillor Brenda Johnson
Yes	-	Ward 12	Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13	Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14	Councillor Terry Whitehead
Yes	-	Ward 15	Councillor Judi Partridge

**(Partridge/VanderBeek)**

That the presentation, respecting the Transit Division’s 2021 Operating Budget, be received.

**Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 14 to 0, as follows:**

Absent	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge

**Clarification respecting the On-Demand Transit Pilot Program**

**(Danko/Nann)**

That staff be directed to report back to the General Issues Committee, during the 2021 Budget process, with the following information as it relates to the On-Demand Transit Pilot program:

- (a) Cost to implement and operate the Waterdown On Demand Transit Pilot;
- (b) An evaluation of the funding sources including proportion of system wide fares paid by current HSR riders and any proportion shared by Hamilton ratepayers;
- (c) Terms of the pilot including length of operation, ridership targets, and business case financial evaluation criteria;
- (d) An evaluation of any potential impact on service levels throughout the system due to resources, staff time and buses being diverted to the Waterdown On Demand Transit Pilot; and,
- (e) An evaluation of potential tax implications for Waterdown residents due to increases in kilometers of service provided.

**Result: Motion was DEFEATED by a vote of 11 to 3, as follows:**

Absent	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson

No	-	Ward 2	Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3	Councillor Nrinder Nann
No	-	Ward 4	Councillor Sam Merulla
No	-	Ward 5	Councillor Chad Collins
No	-	Ward 6	Councillor Tom Jackson
No	-	Ward 7	Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8	Councillor J. P. Danko
No	-	Ward 9	Councillor Brad Clark, Deputy Mayor
No	-	Ward 10	Councillor Maria Pearson
No	-	Ward 11	Councillor Brenda Johnson
No	-	Ward 12	Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
No	-	Ward 13	Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14	Councillor Terry Whitehead
No	-	Ward 15	Councillor Judi Partridge

**(f) NOTICES OF MOTION (Item 9)**

Councillor N. Nann introduced the following Notice of Motion.

**(i) Transit Rate Freeze (Item 9.1)**

WHEREAS, access to a safe, reliable and robust transit system during the pandemic enables essential workers to travel, while also providing an essential service to residents who depend on it.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That Hamilton Street Railway (HSR) transit fare rates be frozen for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councillor B. Clark introduced the following Notice of Motion:

**(ii) Cease Purchase of Diesel Fuel Vehicles (Item 9.2)**

That Transit staff be directed to cease the purchase of any diesel vehicles, effective immediately.

**(g) ADJOURNMENT (Item 10)**

**(Pearson/Ferguson)**

That, there being no further business, the General Issues Committee (Budget), be adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

**Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 14 to 0, as follows:**

Absent	-	Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark, Deputy Mayor
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge

Respectfully submitted,

Deputy Mayor Brad Clark  
Chair, General Issues Committee

Stephanie Paparella  
Legislative Coordinator  
Office of the City Clerk