



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

9:30 a.m.

Thursday, February 25, 2021

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

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

Absent: Councillor T. Whitehead – Personal
Councillor S. Merulla – Other City Business

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. 2020 Assessment Growth (FCS21016) (City Wide) (Item 6.2)

(Eisenberger/Pearson)

That Report FCS21016, respecting the 2020 Assessment Growth, be received.

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

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| Yes | - | Mayor Fred Eisenberger |
| Yes | - | Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor |
| Yes | - | Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr |
| Yes | - | Ward 3 Councillor Ninder Nann |
| Absent | - | 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 |
| 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 |

2. Savings Generated from Funded Projects (FCS21007) (City Wide) (Item 7.2)

(Ferguson/Farr)

That Report FCS21007, respecting Savings Generated from Funded Projects, be received.

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

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| Yes | - | Mayor Fred Eisenberger |
| Yes | - | Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor |
| Yes | - | Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr |
| Yes | - | Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann |
| Absent | - | 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 |
| 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. Neighbour to Neighbour Community Food Centre Funding (Item 8.1)

(Danko/Pauls)

WHEREAS, City Council supported the establishment and ongoing operation of Neighbour to Neighbour Community Food Centre since 2015;

WHEREAS, the Neighbour to Neighbour Food Centre has become a community hub providing programs and support to the area residents;

WHEREAS the Neighbour to Neighbour Community Food Centre focussed programs and supports on hunger and food insecurity which connected to poverty, inequality, racism, health, the environment, and social relationships;

WHEREAS, the Neighbour to Neighbour Community Food Centre aligns with and contributes to the goals and objectives of the City of Hamilton's Food Strategy;

WHEREAS, Council has provided financial support to Neighbour to Neighbour for the Community Food Centre operation in the amount of \$200,000 per year for the past five years, expiring December 31, 2020;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Neighbour to Neighbour Community Food Centre be supported for 2021 at a cost of \$200,000, to be provided through the 2021 budget Tax Stabilization Reserve.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 11 to 3, as follows:

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| Yes | - | Mayor Fred Eisenberger |
| Yes | - | Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor |
| Yes | - | Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr |
| Yes | - | Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann |
| Absent | - | 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 |
| Yes | - | Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson |
| No | - | Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson |
| No | - | Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson |
| Yes | - | Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek |
| Absent | - | Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead |
| No | - | Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge |

FOR INFORMATION:

(a) APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 1)

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

STAFF PRESENTATIONS:

6.4 6.2 2020 Assessment Growth (FCS21016) (City Wide) – At the request of staff, this presentation has been moved to Item 6.2.

6.1 Added as the new Item 6.1 - 2021 Tax Operating Budget Update presentation.

ADDED DISCUSSION ITEMS:

7.1. Considerations to Implement a Vacant Home Tax in Hamilton (FCS21017) (City Wide)

7.2 Savings Generated from Funded Projects (FCS21007) (City Wide)

(Partridge/Clark)

That the agenda for the February 25, 2021 General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting be approved, as amended.

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

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| Yes | - | Mayor Fred Eisenberger |
| Yes | - | Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor |
| Yes | - | Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr |
| Yes | - | Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann |
| Absent | - | 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 |
| 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 |

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

- (i) Councillor E. Pauls declared an interest to Communication Item 4.1 (4.1.a. to 4.1.e), respecting the Hamilton Police Service 2021 Operating Budget, as her son works for the Hamilton Police Service.
- (ii) Councillor M. Pearson declared an interest to Item 7.1, respecting Report FCS21007 - Considerations to Implement a Vacant Home Tax in Hamilton, as she is a rental property landlord.
- (iii) Councillor A. VanderBeek declared an interest to Item 7.1, respecting Report FCS21007 - Considerations to Implement a Vacant Home Tax in Hamilton, as she is a rental property landlord.

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

(i) February 11, 2021 (Item 3.1)

(Ferguson/VanderBeek)

That the Minutes of the February 11, 2021 General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting be approved, as presented.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 13 to 0, as follows:

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

(d) COMMUNICATIONS (Item 4)

(i) Correspondence respecting the 2021 Hamilton Police Service Budget (Item 4.1)

(Nann/Farr)

That the following Communication Items, 4.1(a) to 4.1(e), respecting 2021 Operating Budget matters, be received:

- (1) Rebecca Steckle (Item 4.1.a.)
- (2) Meaghan Horn (Item 4.1.b.)
- (3) Tess Maclsaac (Item 4.1.c.)
- (4) Maddison Brockbank (Item 4.1.d.)
- (5) Laurel Carter (Item 4.1.e.)

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 13 to 0, as follows:

| | | |
|----------|---|--|
| Yes | - | Mayor Fred Eisenberger |
| Yes | - | Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor |
| Yes | - | Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr |
| Yes | - | Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann |
| Absent | - | Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla |
| Yes | - | Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins |
| Yes | - | Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson |
| Conflict | - | Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls |

| | | | |
|--------|---|---------|------------------------------|
| Yes | - | Ward 8 | Councillor J. P. Danko |
| Yes | - | Ward 9 | Councillor Brad Clark |
| 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 |

(e) PRESENTATIONS (Item 6)

(i) 2021 Tax Operating Budget Update (Item 6.1)

Mike Zegarac, General Manager of Finance & Corporate Services, provided a PowerPoint presentation respecting the 2021 Tax Operating Budget.

(Pearson/Nann)

That the following amendment to the 2021 Operating Budget, be approved:

- (a) Area Rated Parkland Purchases (\$605,240) (0.0%)

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 13 to 0, as follows:

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| Yes | - | Mayor Fred Eisenberger |
| Yes | - | Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor |
| Yes | - | Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr |
| Yes | - | Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann |
| Absent | - | 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 |
| 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 |
| Absent | - | Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge |

(Johnson/VanderBeek)

That the presentation, respecting the 2021 Tax Operating Budget, be received.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 13 to 0, as follows:

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| Yes | - | Mayor Fred Eisenberger |
| Yes | - | Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor |
| Yes | - | Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr |
| Yes | - | Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann |
| Absent | - | 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 |
| 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 |
| Absent | - | Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge |

(ii) 2020 Assessment Growth (FCS21016) (City Wide) (Item 6.2)

Mike Zegarac, General Manager of Finance & Corporate Services, provided a PowerPoint presentation respecting Report FCS21016 – 2020 Assessment Growth.

(Clark/Farr)

That the presentation, respecting Report FCS21016 – 2020 Assessment Growth, be received.

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

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| Yes | - | Mayor Fred Eisenberger |
| Yes | - | Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor |
| Yes | - | Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr |
| Yes | - | Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann |
| Absent | - | 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 |
| 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 |

(Ferguson/Pearson)

That Committee recess for one half hour until 12:45 p.m.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 13 to 0, as follows:

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| Yes | - | Mayor Fred Eisenberger |
| Yes | - | Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor |
| Yes | - | Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr |
| Yes | - | Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann |
| Absent | - | 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 |
| Yes | - | Ward 10 Councillor Maria Pearson |
| Yes | - | Ward 11 Councillor Brenda Johnson |
| Yes | - | Ward 12 Councillor Lloyd Ferguson |
| Absent | - | Ward 13 Councillor Arlene VanderBeek |
| Absent | - | Ward 14 Councillor Terry Whitehead |
| Yes | - | Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge |

(f) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 7)

(i) Considerations to Implement a Vacant Home Tax in Hamilton (FCS21017) (City Wide) (Item 7.1)

(Nann/Wilson)

That staff be directed to prepare a report respecting a Vacant Homes Tax as it relates to Hamilton's Housing market, fees collected from Municipal Law Enforcement vacant lands registry, the status of assessing vacant residential properties as well as how the municipality assesses those properties (with Metrolinx properties removed), and the success of this tax as a mechanism to identifying vacant homes, and report back with a breakdown by Ward to the General Issues Committee by June 16, 2021.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 9 to 3, as follows:

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| Yes | - | Mayor Fred Eisenberger |
| Yes | - | Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor |
| Yes | - | Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr |
| Yes | - | Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann |
| Absent | - | Ward 4 Councillor Sam Merulla |
| No | - | 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 |
| Conflict | - | Ward 10 | Councillor Maria Pearson |
| Yes | - | Ward 11 | Councillor Brenda Johnson |
| No | - | Ward 12 | Councillor Lloyd Ferguson |
| Conflict | - | Ward 13 | Councillor Arlene VanderBeek |
| Absent | - | Ward 14 | Councillor Terry Whitehead |
| No | - | Ward 15 | Councillor Judi Partridge |

(g) ADJOURNMENT (Item 10)

(Pearson/Ferguson)

That, there being no further business, the General Issues Committee (Budget), be adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

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

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| Yes | - | Mayor Fred Eisenberger |
| Yes | - | Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson, Deputy Mayor |
| Yes | - | Ward 2 Councillor Jason Farr |
| Yes | - | Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann |
| Absent | - | 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 |
| 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 Maureen Wilson
Chair, General Issues Committee

Stephanie Paparella
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk