



EMERGENCY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT 21-004

1:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 22, 2021
Council Chambers
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West

Present: Councillors N. Nann (Chair), B. Clark, T. Jackson, S. Merulla, and E. Pauls

Regrets: Councillor T. Whitehead – Leave of Absence

THE EMERGENCY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 21-004 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. Ontario's Vision for Social Assistance (HSC21014) (City Wide) (Item 7.1)

That Report HSC21014), respecting Ontario's Vision for Social Assistance, be received.

2. Tenant Defence Fund (HSC19011(a)) (City Wide) (Item 10.1)

- (a) (i) That the Tenant Defence Fund Program be expanded and amended to include tenants being displaced due to evictions as a result of renovations;
- (ii) That the Tenant Defense Fund grant cap be removed, as the costs can be much more than \$2500, and allocation of funds be at the discretion of Housing Services based on the eligibility criteria for the Fund;
- (iii) That the Outstanding Business List item identified as Mitigation Effects of Renovations, be removed from the Outstanding Business List and considered complete; and
- (iv) That staff report back to the Emergency and Community Services Committee within six months regarding the use of the Tenant Defence Fund.

- (b) That staff draft a letter to Chair of Landlord Tenant Board, copied to the respective Minister, outlining the City of Hamilton's experiences and concerns with the proliferation of N13 use, and the loss of affordable housing stock and increase in homelessness as a result.

3. Financial Support to Remove Existing Wood Fence, and Supply and Install New Pressure Treated Wood Fence at 470 Stone Church Rd East, Hamilton (Added Item 11.1)

WHEREAS, CityHousing Hamilton owns the property located at 470 Stone Church Rd E - a 70-unit multi-residential townhouse complex built in 1970;

WHEREAS, the roughly 750 ft original dividing fence between the property and the abutting yards of 15 private homeowners along Stone Church Rd E, Delancey Blvd and Hussar Ave is at the end of its useful life and requires full removal and replacement;

WHEREAS, CityHousing Hamilton has assumed full responsibility for the cost and scope of work, consistent with City of Hamilton Planning Department practices, to remove and replace the existing board-on-board "Good Neighbour" fence with a new board-on-board "Good Neighbour" fence;

WHEREAS, CityHousing Hamilton has undertaken a Request for Quote process to obtain the best price for removal and replacement of the fence;

WHEREAS, the scope of work requires \$58 952.00 to complete the removal and replacement of the fence; and,

WHEREAS, CityHousing Hamilton can commit total funds of \$29 476.00 from operating dollars and \$14 794.00 from previously committed Ward 7 area rating funds;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the remaining cost of \$14 682.00 for the removal and replacement of the fence, be funded from the Ward 7 Area Rating Special Capital Re-Investment Discretionary Account; and,
- (b) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute any required agreement(s) and ancillary documents, with such terms and conditions in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

4. Red Hill Valley Joint Stewardship Board (Added Item 11.2)

WHEREAS the Red Hill Valley Joint Stewardship Board (JSB) was established as a collaboration between the Haudenosaunee First Nation and the City of Hamilton in 2006 to oversee activities within the Red Hill Valley and;

WHEREAS the JSB funding is not reflective of the growing amount of work necessary to fulfil the spirit of the agreement;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff be directed to establish a Red Hill Valley Joint Stewardship Board (JSB) reserve and that any annual operating surpluses of the JSB be allocated to this reserve, for the purposes of funding projects and improvements for the Valley;
- (b) That the annual budget amount be adjusted annually by the Ontario CPI all items, not seasonally adjusted index, to ensure sustainability of the Board;
- (c) That the 2021 JSB budget be adjusted by 12.5 % to reflect a retro-active CPI increase dating back to 2013;
- (d) That staff be directed to establish a mechanism by which the JSB can procure the necessary technical services, when required, within the available budget;
- (e) That the annual funding for the JSB be provided in a one-time payment at the start of every calendar year; and
- (f) That the JSB budget be restated from the Public Works Department to Healthy and Safe Communities Department so as to align with the Urban Indigenous Strategy.

FOR INFORMATION:

(a) APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)

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

5. COMMUNICATIONS (Item 5)

5.1. Correspondence regarding Renovictions/Tenant Defence Fund

Recommendation: to be received and referred to Item 10.1, Tenant Defence Fund (HSC19011(a)).

- 5.1.a. Morgan Betz
- 5.1.b. Linda Lukasik, Environment Hamilton
- 5.1.c. Hunter Celenza, ACORN
- 5.1.d. Ali Naraghi, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic
- 5.1.e. Elizabeth Ellis, ACORN
- 5.1.f. Melanie Attwood, ACORN
- 5.1.g. Dawn Hoad, ACORN

6. DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 6)

6.1. Delegation Requests respecting Renovictions/Tenant Defence Fund (for today's meeting)

- 6.1.a. Keith Alarie, Hamilton Tenants in Unity
- 6.1.b. Veronica Gonzalez, ACORN
- 6.1.c. Karl Andrus, HCBN
- 6.1.d. Darlene Wesley, ACORN
- 6.1.e. Jonathan Lopez, ACORN - Video Submission
- 6.1.f. Violetta Nikolskaya, YWCA Hamilton
- 6.1.g. Gordon Smyth, ACORN - Video Submission
- 6.1.h. Juan Balandra, ACORN - Video Submission
- 6.1.i. Michael Lopez, ACORN – Video Submission
- 6.1.j. Drew Hewitt, ACORN - Video Submission
- 6.1.k. Darryl Starr, ACORN - Video Submission
- 6.1.l. Rebecca Guzzo, ACORN - Video Submission
- 6.1.m. James Webb, ACORN - Video Submission
- 6.1.n. Mike Wood, Hamilton Tenants in Unity
- 6.1.o. Kojo Dampsey, Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion
- 6.1.p. Bill Johnston
- 6.1 q. Dayna Sparkes, ACORN

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 10)

- 10.2 Accessing Capital Repair Funds from the National Housing Strategy - Co-Investment Fund for CityHousing Hamilton (HSC19048(a)) (City Wide) – DEFERRED to the May 6, 2021 Emergency and Community Services Committee meeting.

12. NOTICES OF MOTION (Item 12)

- 12.1. Financial Support to Remove Existing Wood Fence, and Supply and Install New Pressure Treated Wood Fence at 470 Stone Church Rd East, Hamilton
- 12.2 Red Hill Valley Joint Stewardship Board

The agenda for the April 8, 2021 Emergency and Community Services Committee meeting was approved, as amended.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

Councillor Merulla declared a conflict of Interest for Items 5.1 (a) to (g), Communications, respecting Renovictions/Tenant Defence Fund, as he is a landlord.

Councillor Merulla declared a conflict of Interest for Items 6.1 (a) to (q), Delegation Requests, respecting Renovictions/Tenant Defence Fund, as he is a landlord.

Councillor Merulla declared a conflict of Interest for Items 9.1 (a) to (q), Delegations, respecting Renovictions/Tenant Defence Fund, as he is a landlord.

Councillor Merulla declared a conflict of Interest for Item 10.1, Tenant Defence Fund (HSC19011(a)), as he is a landlord.

(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)

(i) April 8, 2021 (Item 4.1)

The Minutes of the April 8, 2021 meeting of the Emergency and Community Services Committee were approved, as presented.

(d) COMMUNICATIONS (Item 5)

(i) Correspondence respecting Renovictions/Tenant Defence Fund (Items 5.1(a) to (g))

The following correspondence items respecting Renovictions/Tenant Defence Fund, were received and referred to the consideration of Item 10.1, Tenant Defence Fund (HSC19011(a)):

1. Morgan Betz (Added Item 5.1.a)
2. Linda Lukasik, Environment Hamilton (Added Item 5.1.b)
3. Hunter Celenza, ACORN (Added Item 5.1.c)
4. Ali Naraghi, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic (Added Item 5.1.d)
5. Elizabeth Ellis, ACORN (Added Item 5.1.e)
6. Melanie Attwood, ACORN (Added Item 5.1.f)
7. Dawn Hoad, ACORN (Added Item 5.1.g)

For further disposition of this matter, refer to Item 2.

(e) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Added Item 6.1)

(i) Delegation Requests respecting Renovictions/Tenant Defence Fund (Items 6.1 (a) to (q))

The following Delegation Requests respecting Renovictions/Tenant Defence Fund, were approved for today's meeting:

1. Keith Alarie, Hamilton Tenants in Unity (Added Item 6.1.a)
2. Veronica Gonzalez, ACORN (Added Item 6.1.b)
3. Karl Andrus, HCBN (Added Item 6.1.c)
4. Darlene Wesley, ACORN (Added Item 6.1.d)
5. Jonathan Lopez, ACORN - Video Submission (Added Item 6.1.e)
6. Violetta Nikolskaya, YWCA Hamilton (Added Item 6.1.f)
7. Gordon Smyth, ACORN - Video Submission (Added Item 6.1.g)
8. Juan Balandra, ACORN - Video Submission (Added Item 6.1.h)
9. Michael Lopez, ACORN – Video Submission (Added Item 6.1.i)
10. Drew Hewitt, ACORN - Video Submission (Added Item 6.1.j)
11. Darryl Starr, ACORN - Video Submission (Added Item 6.1.k)
12. Rebecca Guzzo, ACORN - Video Submission (Added Item 6.1.l)
13. James Webb, ACORN - Video Submission (Added Item 6.1.m)
14. Mike Wood, Hamilton Tenants in Unity (Added Item 6.1.n)
15. Kojo Dampitey, Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion (Added Item 6.1.o)
16. Bill Johnston (Added Item 6.1.p)
17. Dayna Sparkes, ACORN (Added Item 6.1.q)

(f) PUBLIC HEARINGS/DELEGATIONS (Added Item 9.1)

(i) Delegations respecting Renovictions/Tenant Defence Fund

The following delegations addressed the Committee respecting Renovictions/Tenant Defence Fund:

1. Keith Alarie, Hamilton Tenants in Unity, respecting Renoviction (Added Item 9.1.a)
2. Veronica Gonzalez, ACORN, respecting Renoviction (Added Item 9.1.b)

3. Karl Andrus, HCBN, respecting Renoviction (Added Item 9.1.c)
4. Darlene Wesley, ACORN, respecting Renoviction (Added Item 9.1.d)
5. Jonathan Lopez, ACORN – Pre-Recorded Video Submission, respecting Renoviction (Added Item 9.1.e)
6. Violetta Nikolskaya, YWCA Hamilton, respecting Tenant Defence Fund (Added Item 9.1.f)
7. Gordon Smyth, ACORN - Pre-Recorded Video Submission, respecting Renoviction (Added Item 9.1.g)
8. Juan Balandra, ACORN - Pre-Recorded Video Submission, respecting Renoviction (Added Item 9.1.h)
9. Michael Lopez, ACORN – Pre-Recorded Video Submission, respecting Renoviction (Added Item 9.1.i)
10. Drew Hewitt, ACORN - Pre-Recorded Video Submission, respecting Renoviction (Added Item 9.1.j)
11. Darryl Starr, ACORN - Pre-Recorded Video Submission, respecting Renoviction (Added Item 9.1.k)
12. Rebecca Guzzo, ACORN - Pre-Recorded Video Submission, respecting Renoviction (Added Item 9.1.l)
13. James Webb, ACORN - Pre-Recorded Video Submission, respecting Renoviction (Added Item 9.1.m)
14. Mike Wood, Hamilton Tenants in Unity, respecting Renoviction (Added Item 9.1.n)
15. Kojo Dampitey, Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion, respecting Tenant Defence Fund (Added Item 9.1.o)
16. Bill Johnston, respecting Tenant Defence Fund (Added Item 9.1.p)
17. Dayna Sparkes, ACORN, respecting Renoviction (Added Item 9.1.q)

The following Delegations, respecting Renovictions/Tenant Defence Fund, were received and referred to the consideration of Item 10.1, Tenant Defence Fund (HSC19011(a)):

1. Keith Alarie, Hamilton Tenants in Unity (Added Item 9.1.a)
2. Veronica Gonzalez, ACORN (Added Item 9.1.b)

3. Karl Andrus, HCBN (Added Item 9.1.c)
4. Darlene Wesley, ACORN (Added Item 9.1.d)
5. Jonathan Lopez, ACORN - Video Submission (Added Item 9.1.e)
6. Violetta Nikolskaya, YWCA Hamilton (Added Item 9.1.f)
7. Gordon Smyth, ACORN - Video Submission (Added Item 9.1.g)
8. Juan Balandra, ACORN - Video Submission (Added Item 9.1.h)
9. Michael Lopez, ACORN – Video Submission (Added Item 9.1.i)
10. Drew Hewitt, ACORN - Video Submission (Added Item 9.1.j)
11. Darryl Starr, ACORN - Video Submission (Added Item 9.1.k)
12. Rebecca Guzzo, ACORN - Video Submission (Added Item 9.1.l)
13. James Webb, ACORN - Video Submission (Added Item 9.1.m)
14. Mike Wood, Hamilton Tenants in Unity (Added Item 9.1.n)
15. Kojo Dampsey, Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion (Added Item 9.1.o)
16. Bill Johnston (Added Item 9.1.p)
17. Dayna Sparkes, ACORN (Added Item 9.1.q)

For further disposition of this matter, refer to Item 2.

(g) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 10)

(i) Tenant Defence Fund (HSC19011(a)) (City Wide) (Item 10.1)

- (a) That recommendation (b) in Report HSC19011(a) be **amended** by deleting it in its entirety and replacing it as follows:

~~**(b) That the Tenant Defence Fund grant amount eligible to tenants for legal fees be increased to \$2,500;**~~

(b) That the Tenant Defense Fund grant cap be removed, as the costs can be much more than \$2500, and allocation of funds be at the discretion of Housing Services based on the eligibility criteria for the Fund;

- (b) That the recommendations in Report HSC19011(a) be **amended** by adding the following sub-section:

(d) ***That staff report back to the Emergency and Community Services Committee within six months regarding the use of the Tenant Defence Fund.***

- (c) Staff were directed to report back to the Emergency and Community Services Committee with a framework, including timeline and resources to develop a comprehensive renovations strategy for City Hamilton as part of our recovery plan, to include: the evaluation of the tenant defense fund, proactive tenant education options, and options for a licensing and by-law regime.

For further disposition of this matter, refer to Item 2.

(h) NOTICES OF MOTION (Item 12)

- (i) Financial Support to Remove Existing Wood Fence, and Supply and Install New Pressure Treated Wood Fence at 470 Stone Church Road East, Hamilton (Added Item 12.1)**

The Rules of Order were waived to allow for the introduction of a Motion respecting Financial Support to Remove Existing Wood Fence, and Supply and Install New Pressure Treated Wood Fence at 470 Stone Church Road East, Hamilton.

For further disposition of this matter, refer to Item 3.

- (ii) Red Hill Valley Joint Stewardship Board (Added Item 12.2)**

The Rules of Order were waived to allow for the introduction of a Motion respecting Financial Support to Remove Existing Wood Fence, and Supply and Install New Pressure Treated Wood Fence at 470 Stone Church Road East, Hamilton.

For further disposition of this matter, refer to Item 4.

(i) GENERAL INFORMATION AND OTHER BUSINESS (Item 13)

- (i) Amendments to the Outstanding Business List (Item 13.1)**

(Pauls/Clark)

The following amendment to the Emergency and Community Services Outstanding Business List, were approved:

13.1.a. Items to Be Removed

- (i) Mitigation of Effects of Reno-viction

Item on OBL: 20-J
Addressed as Item 10.1, Tenant Defence Fund
(HSC19011(a)) on today's Agenda

(f) ADJOURNMENT (Item 15)

There being no further business, the Emergency and Community Services Committee was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor N. Nann
Chair, Emergency and Community Services
Committee

Tamara Bates
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk