

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

Council Date: April 26, 2023

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR T. MCMEEKIN.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR C. KROETSCH.....

Supplementing Ward Councillors Office Budgets in 2023

WHEREAS, each and every member of Hamilton City Council strives to provide the best possible constituency service for those they are privileged to represent;

WHEREAS, it is critical to communicate with citizens in a variety of forms, in order to inform decision-making based on evidence, supported by principle and designed to achieve the greatest good;

WHEREAS, the funding of Ward Councillor offices budgets is projected to be in a deficit position as of December 31, 2022 and has been inadequate to meet the growing demands for ongoing discussion, communication, research, consultation, engagement, citizen empowerment and community building;

WHEREAS, the workload of Councillors and their staff has expanded in ways that can limit their ability to serve Hamiltonians effectively;

WHEREAS, it is important to foster a stronger sense of civic engagement as part of building stronger, healthier, more democratic, caring and sustainable community;

WHEREAS, each Ward has unique challenges that need immediate attention;

WHEREAS, the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation and the City of Hamilton have an agreement whereby the City is the recipient of a percentage of annual gaming revenues;

WHEREAS, the city applies the annual gaming revenues to reduce the City's general levy;

WHEREAS, in 2012 Council approved that year end gaming surpluses be transferred to the Flamborough Capital Reserve Fund; and

WHEREAS the 2022 gaming surplus is approximately \$263,000 and is recommended to be transferred to the Flamborough Capital Reserve Fund as per FCS22042(b).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That \$260,000 from the Flamborough Capital Reserve (108032) be used to supplement Ward Councillors Office budgets in 2023;
- (b) That each participating office be allocated an equal share of the \$260,000 available on a one-time basis;
- (c) That each Councillor wishing to share part of this supplemental funding inform the City Clerk of their desire to do so, in writing, by Wednesday May 3, 2023; and
- (d) That Hamilton's City Manager and Executive Director of Human Resources and their staff as needed, undertake a comprehensive review of the appropriate ongoing financing and staffing levels related to Ward Office Budgets and report back to General Issues Committee prior to its consideration of the 2024 operating budget.