

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Lost of Development Charges: Time To Roll Up Your Sleeves

From: Kim Zivanovich

Date: Fri, Jun 23, 2023 at 3:39 PM

Subject: Lost of Development Charges: Time To Roll Up Your Sleeves

To: Cassar, Craig <craig.cassar@hamilton.ca>, Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>, Mark Tadeson <mark.tadeson@hamilton.ca>, Matt Francis <matt.francis@hamilton.ca>, Mike Spadafora <mike.spadafora@hamilton.ca>, Ted McMeekin <ted.mcmeekin@hamilton.ca>, Jeff Beattie <jeff.beattie@hamilton.ca>, Esther Pauls <esther.pauls@hamilton.ca>, Alex Wilson <ward13@hamilton.ca>, <ward2@hamilton.ca>, Nrinder Nann <ward3@hamilton.ca>, Tammy Hwang <ward4@hamilton.ca>, John-Paul Danko <ward8@hamilton.ca>, Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>, Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>, <maureen.wilson@hamilton.ca>

Dear Mayor & Councillors:

Who said life is fair? Unfortunately we live in difficult times and strong leadership has never been more important. Hamiltonians are looking to each one of you to demonstrate your leadership.

It was very disappointing to hear some of you say that there is no alternative but to place this burden on the taxpayer. As some Councillors have pointed out, every tax increase directly causes more poverty and displacement and impacts the poor to a much greater degree. Raising taxes does not solve the problem but rather contributes and amplifies it.

I see no alternative other than rolling up your sleeves and making tough decisions to find 54 million (5% of operating budget) in cost savings and service reductions. As someone who ran service departments at AMD and successfully downsized every one of them, I humbly and respectfully offer you some suggestions/questions.

1. Immediate hiring freeze on replacing FTE's retiring.
2. No more new services without elimination of existing services (balanced approach i.e. for every new service dollar spent one dollar is removed from other services)
3. Have Managers been asked to reduce their department costs? If not, why not? Do you have a project manager to manage the cost reductions required? If not, why not?
4. What about a review of pension plans and COLA?

In closing, I respectfully ask each one of you, why did you run for office? Were you not aware of the economic tsunami facing Hamilton and society? It was troubling to see most of you voted in favour of increasing your staffing budget. I commend Councillor Danko for suggesting it was unfair and a slap in the face to taxpayers. After all when you ran for office you knew what the rules were. A change in attitude and the belief that you have an unending money tree is in order. Hopefully you will live up to the difficult tasks that lie ahead and make Hamiltonians proud.

Sincerely,

Kim Zivanovich Ward 12