

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

General Issues Committee: August 14, 2023

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR M. WILSON.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR.....

Revenue Sources to fund Council Priorities and Ongoing Operating and Capital Works

WHEREAS, Hamilton City Council has identified a set of priorities to guide its legislative agenda for the 2022-2026 term of Council;

WHEREAS, access to sufficient and sustainable revenue sources is critical to the city's ability to achieve these priorities along with ongoing operating, maintenance and capital programming needs;

WHEREAS, the fiscal framework within which Canadian municipalities work limits opportunities for local government to advance solutions at the scale required to address many of today's challenges, including but not limited to affordable and supportive housing, climate change mitigation, technology and an ageing infrastructure and population;

WHEREAS, Ontario municipalities like Hamilton are heavily reliant on property taxes as a source of revenue;

WHEREAS, property taxes are a regressive form of taxation;

WHEREAS, in 2021, Hamilton's taxes for a detached bungalow were 3.52% higher than municipalities with comparable populations, but 24.30% higher than a broader compactor group;

WHEREAS, municipalities are responsible for 60% of public infrastructure while collecting only 9 cents for every tax dollar collected in Ontario;

WHEREAS, municipalities continue to face the following challenges:

- Ongoing impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Rising inflation and interest rates;
- Supply chain disruptions and tight labour supply;
- Increasing demand for services; and,

- Unanticipated legislative changes (such as Bill 23).

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton directly invests a significant share of property tax revenues, in extensions of federal and provincial responsibilities, such as housing, social services, and health services;

WHEREAS, in the absence of other non-residential property tax revenue, property taxes will become less affordable for more people over the next few years while the need for local investments will continue to grow;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That staff be directed to report back to the General Issues Committee the following information by Q1 2024:

- (a) A scan of revenue authorities contained in the Municipal Act, 2021 or other Provincial legislation that do not require the expressed permission of the Government of Ontario;
- (b) An inventory of revenue sources that are contained in the City of Toronto Act, 2006 but not contained in the Municipal Act, 2021; and,
- (c) A scan of municipal revenue tools in other jurisdictions that may be more progressive and could support in the achievement of this term of Council priorities and ongoing programming needs and any expressed permissions necessary to implement the strategies.