



PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES 24-012

1:30 p.m.

Monday, September 16, 2024

Council Chambers (Hybrid)

Hamilton City Hall

71 Main Street West

Present: Councillors M. Spadafora (Chair), A. Wilson (Vice-Chair) (virtually), J. Beattie, C. Cassar, J.P. Danko, M. Francis (virtually), T. Hwang (virtually), T. Jackson, C. Kroetsch (virtually), T. McMeekin, N. Nann, E. Pauls, M. Tadeson and M. Wilson

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. Accessible Transportation Services Eligibility Appeal Policy (PW24051) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)

(M. Wilson/Tadeson)

That Report PW24051 respecting Accessible Transportation Services Eligibility Appeal Policy, be received.

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

Yes – Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
 Yes – Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
 Yes – Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
 Yes – Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
 Yes – Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
 Yes – Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
 Yes – Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
 Yes – Ward 8 Councillor John Paul Danko
 Yes – Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
 Yes – Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
 Yes – Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
 Yes – Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
 Yes – Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
 Yes – Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

2. Hamilton Street Railway (HSR) Trans-Cab - In-House Bid for 2024 Request for Tenders (RFT) (PW24055) (Wards 9, 10 and 11) (Item 11.1)

(Beattie/Tadeson)

- (a) That the Director of Procurement be authorized and directed to issue a Request for Tenders (RFT) for the provision of shared ride taxi (Trans-Cab) services between locations in designated neighbourhoods;
- (b) That the General Manager, Public Works be authorized and directed to establish an in-house bid team together with the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 107 ("ATU"), to prepare and submit a bid to the Request for Tender with the potential to transfer the Trans-Cab services from a contracted service provider to an in-house service as outlined in the City's Procurement Policy #22 – In-House Bid Submission; and
- (c) That staff report back to the Public Works Committee with recommendations based on the results of both the in-house bid and external bids received in response to the Request for Tenders, including a report summarizing the findings of a Fairness Monitor.

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

Yes – Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes – Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes – Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes – Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes – Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes – Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes – Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes – Ward 8 Councillor John Paul Danko
Yes – Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes – Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes – Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes – Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes – Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes – Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

3. Lake Pointe Park Playground and Sun Shelter Replacement, 60 Westhampton Way, (Stoney Creek) Hamilton (Ward 10) (Item 12.1)

(Beattie/Tadeson)

WHEREAS, Lake Pointe Park is a 2.9-acre neighbourhood park located at 60 Westhampton Way, Stoney Creek;

WHEREAS, the existing playground within the park is nearing the end of its service life and is up for replacement, and the existing sun shelter was destroyed by fire in May 2023 and needs to be replaced;

WHEREAS, Landscape Architectural Services is currently undertaking the design and installation of a multi-use court within the park (Project ID#4402456135) and combining these asset replacement projects would benefit the overall design and programming;

WHEREAS, the insurance proceeds for replacing the shade structure are based on a “like, kind and quality” replacement and as a result of enhancements to be made when replacing the shade structure, the proceeds will not fund the costs of a new shade structure and associated works in their entirety;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the new shade structure and associated works will be approximately \$150,000 and there is currently no capital funding available to cover the remaining expenses for the shade structure or the replacement of the playground; and

WHEREAS, the GFL Stoney Creek Compensation Royalties Reserve #117036 supports community investment within the boundaries of the former City of Stoney Creek, and its intent aligns with the works associated with the playground replacement.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the replacement of the playground and the sun shelter be added to the 2025 scope of work for Lake Point Park Multi-Use Court (Project ID# 4402456135) in order to minimize impacts to the park, reduce the impact on staff resourcing, and ensure the park assets are looked at with a holistic approach;
- (b) That the replacement of the playground at Lake Pointe Park, 60 Westhampton Way, Stoney Creek, be funded from the GFL Stoney Creek Compensation Royalties Reserve #117036 at an upset limit, including contingency, not to exceed \$250,000, be approved;
- (c) That the replacement of the sun shelter at Lake Pointe Park, 60 Westhampton Way, Stoney Creek, receive additional funding from the Ward 10 Non-Property Tax Revenue Account #3301609610 at an upset limit, not to exceed \$100,000 to bridge any funding gap between the insurance proceeds and project costs, be approved; and
- (d) That the General Manager, Public Works or designate be authorized and directed to approve and execute any and all required agreements and ancillary documents, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

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

Yes – Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson

Yes – Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes – Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes – Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes – Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes – Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes – Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes – Ward 8 Councillor John Paul Danko
Yes – Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes – Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes – Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes – Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes – Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes – Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

4. Inch Park Inclusive Play Space, 400 Queensdale Avenue East, Hamilton (Ward 7) (Item 12.2)

(Pauls/M. Wilson)

WHEREAS, Inch Park is a community park that is 4.7 hectares in size and is located within the Inch Park neighbourhood at 400 Queensdale Avenue East, Hamilton;

WHEREAS, the existing amenities at Inch Park, 400 Queensdale Avenue East, Hamilton, include an indoor ice-skating arena with public washrooms, a fenced (pay-for-use) outdoor wading pool with beach entry and indoor changing rooms, two parking lots, two tennis courts, six ball diamonds, a batting cage, two sun shelter structures, paved pathways, and a playground;

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Challenger Baseball Association (HCBA) hosts junior and senior sports programs and social activities at Inch Park, 400 Queensdale Avenue East, Hamilton, for players with special needs, and their families and friends;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton has a history of investing in accessible amenities at Inch Park, 400 Queensdale Avenue East, Hamilton, with the aim of making the park inclusive for all users, with a focus on the needs of the Hamilton Challenger Baseball Association (HCBA) members;

WHEREAS, the existing playground within Inch Park, 400 Queensdale Avenue East, Hamilton, is at the end of its service life and needs to be replaced;

WHEREAS, in 2023 Landscape Architectural Services completed public and stakeholder engagement to produce a design for the new playground at Inch Park, 400 Queensdale Avenue East, Hamilton, that is “Radically Inclusive” (physically, socially and emotionally inviting for all) and a “Park Within a Park”; a carefully designed, high-quality play space with a focus on accessible amenities

that will be a recreational destination both for local Inch Park residents and those travelling from farther afield in search of a fun, inclusive play experience;

WHEREAS, this “Radically Inclusive” play space will be unique in Hamilton and will be an asset to residents City-wide;

WHEREAS, the construction of the inclusive play space is planned for 2025 and is estimated to cost \$2,500,000;

WHEREAS, through the 2024 capital budget process, the Ward 7 Councillor contributed \$1,000,000 from the Ward 7 Capital Re-Investment Reserve (#108057) to support this inclusive play space project and an additional \$427,000 was allocated to the project from Development Charge reserves; and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Challenger Baseball Association (HCBA) is a registered Canadian Charity that is actively fundraising and applying for grant funding to contribute money to the inclusive play space project.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Inch Park inclusive play space project (PID No. 4402256113) receive an additional \$1,000,000 in funding from the Ward 7 Capital Re-Investment Reserve (#108057) in 2024 to support the development of an inclusive play space in Hamilton;
- (b) That any future fundraising efforts in support of this project will be used to offset the Ward 7 Capital Re-Investment Reserve Funding allotment and returned to the Ward 7 Capital Re-Investment Reserve (#108057); and
- (c) That the General Manager, Public Works or designate be authorized and directed to approve and execute any and all required agreements and ancillary documents, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

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

Yes – Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes – Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes – Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes – Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes – Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes – Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes – Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes – Ward 8 Councillor John Paul Danko
Yes – Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes – Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes – Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes – Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson

Yes – Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes – Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

5. Keith Neighbourhood Collision Review and Complete Streets Enhancements (Ward 3) (Added Item 12.3)

(Nann/M. Wilson)

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton Vision Zero Action Plan 2019-2025 identifies that no loss of life is acceptable, and that traffic fatalities and injuries are preventable;

WHEREAS, ensuring the safety of vulnerable road users is a priority;

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2024 an 11-year old who was waiting for a school bus on Emerald Street North was struck by a driver and suffered life-altering injuries;

WHEREAS Hamilton Police Services are actively investigating the traffic collision;

WHEREAS, the Transportation Division has conducted a Complete Streets Study for Ward 3 that includes proposed recommendations for the Keith Neighbourhood; and

WHEREAS, Ward 3 residents in the Keith Neighbourhood have and continue to express traffic safety concerns.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Transportation Division with the assistance of Hamilton Police Services and the Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Committee, whose membership includes the Public School Boards, Emergency Services and Public Health, collectively review the conditions of the collision and report back to the Ward 3 Office with any recommendations based on the findings; and
- (b) That the Transportation Division implement the proposed recommendations in the Ward 3 Complete Streets Study for the Keith Neighbourhood, as well as action the findings and recommendations from the collision review as a priority.

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

Yes – Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes – Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes – Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes – Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes – Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang

Yes – Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes – Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes – Ward 8 Councillor John Paul Danko
Yes – Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes – Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes – Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes – Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes – Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes – Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

6. Transit Maintenance & Storage Facility - Policy 11 Contract Administration Fee Increase – Arcadis Professional Services (Canada) Inc. (PW19006(b)) (City Wide) (Item 15.1)

(Cassar/Beattie)

That Report (PW19006(b)), respecting Transit Maintenance & Storage Facility - Policy 11 Contract Administration Fee Increase – Arcadis Professional Services (Canada) Inc., be received and remain confidential.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 11 to 2, as follows:

Yes – Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes – Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes – Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
No – Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes – Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
No – Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Not Present – Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes – Ward 8 Councillor John Paul Danko
Yes – Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes – Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes – Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes – Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes – Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes – Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

FOR INFORMATION:

(a) CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES (Item 1)

(i) Hamilton Street Railway (HSR) Open House and Behind-the-Wheel VIP Tour (Item 1.1)

Chair Spadafora announced that Hamilton Street Railway (HSR) is celebrating a milestone anniversary this year: 150 years of service to the

people of Hamilton. They are hosting an Open House and Behind-the-wheel VIP tour on Saturday, September 21, 2024, at the Mountain Transit Centre at 2200 Upper James.

(b) APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)

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

1. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES

- 1.1 Hamilton Street Railway (HSR) Open House and Behind-the-Wheel VIP Tour

6. DELEGATION REQUESTS

- 6.1 John Galer, Rockton Lions Club, respecting a permit to construct a path around the Beverly Community Centre (In Person) (For a future meeting)

8. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

- 8.1 Transit Maintenance & Storage Facility Project Update (PW19006(b))

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

- 13.1 Keith Neighbourhood Collision Review and Complete Streets Enhancements (Ward 3)

(A request to waive the rules will be introduced)

(Pauls/Beattie)

That the Agenda for the September 16, 2024, Public Works Committee meeting be approved, as amended.

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

Yes – Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes – Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes – Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes – Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes – Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes – Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes – Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Not Present – Ward 8 Councillor John Paul Danko
Yes – Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes – Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson

Yes – Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes – Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes – Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes – Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

(c) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

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

(i) September 3, 2024 (Item 4.1)

(Tadeson/Nann)

That the Minutes of the September 3, 2024, meeting of the Public Works Committee be approved, as presented.

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

Yes – Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes – Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes – Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes – Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes – Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes – Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes – Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Not Present – Ward 8 Councillor John Paul Danko
Yes – Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes – Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes – Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes – Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes – Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes – Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

(e) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 6)

(i) John Galer, Rockton Lions Club, respecting a permit to construct a path around the Beverly Community Centre (In Person) (For a future meeting)

(A. Wilson/Tadeson)

That the Delegation Request from John Galer, Rockton Lions Club, respecting a permit to construct a path around the Beverly Community Centre, be approved for a future meeting.

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

Yes – Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes – Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes – Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes – Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes – Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes – Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes – Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Not Present – Ward 8 Councillor John Paul Danko
Yes – Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes – Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes – Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes – Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes – Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes – Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

(f) STAFF PRESENTATIONS (Item 8)

(i) Accessible Transportation Services Eligibility Appeal Policy (PW24051) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)

Maureen Cosyn Heath, Director of Transit, addressed Committee respecting Accessible Transportation Services Eligibility Appeal Policy (PW24051) (City Wide), with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation.

(Tadeson/M. Wilson)

That the presentation respecting Accessible Transportation Services Eligibility Appeal Policy (PW24051) (City Wide), be received.

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

Yes – Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes – Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes – Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes – Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes – Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes – Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes – Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes – Ward 8 Councillor John Paul Danko
Yes – Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes – Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes – Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes – Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes – Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes – Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

For further disposition of this matter refer to Item 1.

(ii) **Transit Maintenance & Storage Facility Project Update (PW19006(b))
(Item 8.2)**

Maureen Cosyn Heath, Director of Transit, addressed Committee respecting Transit Maintenance & Storage Facility Project Update (PW19006(b)), with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation.

(Nann/Tadeson)

That the presentation from Maureen Cosyn Heath, Director of Transit, respecting Transit Maintenance & Storage Facility Project Update (PW19006(b)), be received.

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

Yes – Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes – Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes – Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes – Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes – Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes – Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes – Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes – Ward 8 Councillor John Paul Danko
Yes – Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes – Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes – Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes – Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes – Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes – Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

For further disposition of this matter, refer to Item 6.

(g) **NOTICES OF MOTION (Item 13)**

(i) **Keith Neighbourhood Collision Review and Complete Streets
Enhancements (Ward 3) (Added Item 13.1)**

(Nann/M. Wilson)

That the Rules of Order be waived to allow for the introduction of a Motion respecting Keith Neighbourhood Collision Review and Complete Streets Enhancements (Ward 3).

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a 2/3 majority vote of 14 to 0, as follows:

Yes – Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes – Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes – Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann

Yes – Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes – Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes – Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes – Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes – Ward 8 Councillor John Paul Danko
Yes – Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes – Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes – Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes – Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes – Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes – Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

For further disposition of this matter, refer to Item 5.

Councillor Tadeson introduced the following Notice of Motion:

(ii) Rural Broadband (Added Item 13.2)

WHEREAS, reliable, high-speed internet access is essential for economic growth, educational opportunities, healthcare, and the overall well-being of residents in both urban and rural areas;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the growing need for equitable access to high-speed internet for remote work, online education, telehealth, digital business operations and agriculture technologies;

WHEREAS, expanding broadband infrastructure is aligned with the City of Hamilton's long-term strategy for fostering economic development, enhancing quality of life, and ensuring that all residents benefit from connected communities' initiatives and digital transformation;

WHEREAS access to reliable internet service is critical to attracting new businesses, supporting innovation, and providing modern services in rural areas, contributing to sustainable economic development and workforce training opportunities;

WHEREAS improved broadband access in rural areas will support remote learning and work opportunities, increasing educational access and workforce flexibility for rural residents;

WHEREAS increasing broadband connectivity in the rural areas will enable the municipality to enhance digital public services, including emergency response, public health, and local government communications;

WHEREAS expanded broadband infrastructure will improve the

efficiency and safety of rural roads by supporting smart transportation systems and providing internet-based GPS tools for drivers;

WHEREAS, the federal and provincial governments have recognized the importance of rural broadband expansion and have established programs, such as the Universal Broadband Fund and Ontario's Accelerated High-Speed Internet Program (AHSIP), which provide funding and support for local initiatives, offer cost-sharing partnerships with municipalities and internet service providers to close the digital divide and achieve the federal Basic Service Objective (BSO) of 50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload speeds, making large-scale broadband and projects feasible and affordable;

WHEREAS, over 75% of the City of Hamilton is considered "rural" and many of these rural communities, including areas such as Flamborough, Glanbrook, Ancaster, Stoney Creek, and other rural zones, continue to face significant challenges in accessing reliable and affordable broadband services, are currently not serviced by fibre broadband infrastructure, creating a significant digital divide between urban and rural residents;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton's Rural Broadband Study, conducted by the University of Guelph in 2021, demonstrated that the median download internet speed for rural Hamilton to be 7 Mbps vs 49 Mbps for urban Hamilton, the median upload speed for rural Hamilton to be 1 Mbps vs 10 Mbps for urban Hamilton and median latency to be 33 ms for rural Hamilton vs 15 ms for urban Hamilton; only 9.4% of rural respondents achieved the federal BSO, compared to 40.57% in urban areas; 42.31% of rural respondents reported data caps compared to only 7.76% in urban areas; 0.6% of rural residents had access to fibre broadband connection vs 13.6% in rural areas; and 96% of farms and 84% of home-based businesses in rural areas were below the BSO, negatively impacting business opportunities;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton has actively supported via letter of reference any applications for funding programs when requested and has previously developed an innovative permitting approval process, funded by the Internet Service Provider;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton Engineering Services staff have a track record of issuing permits within ten business days from receipt of a complete and compliant application for fibre installation; and

WHEREAS the City of Hamilton Digital & Innovation Office staff has interviewed several rural Internet Service Providers, done an environmental scan of various installation techniques allowed in various municipalities, identified areas of opportunities for consideration

including plough in fibre method of installation and shared the findings with relevant internal stakeholders.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Council of the City of Hamilton supports the establishment of partnerships with local internet service providers and regional stakeholders to plan, fund, and implement high-speed broadband expansion along rural roads and underserved areas;
- (b) That Council commits to working with relevant provincial and federal authorities to ensure that rural broadband expansion remains a priority for the long-term growth and prosperity of the City of Hamilton and advocate for continued and increased funding to support broadband infrastructure development in rural communities;
- (c) That Council directs staff to work with Internet Service Provider(s) to seek a rural broadband expansion plan, including identification of candidate rural roads in Hamilton where alternative installation techniques, such as plough-in (considering both Roadside and Property line), may be implemented for faster broadband deployment, taking into consideration costs vs risks vs benefits;
- (d) That the identification and investigation work to be led by Engineering Services and includes Transportation Services, Hamilton Water, and Internet Service Provider(s) and includes consultation with any other relevant City departments;
- (e) That Council directs Engineering Services staff to report back within 4 months on the progress of the rural broadband expansion plan, risks and mitigation plan, possible partnerships, costs and any potential funding sources if available and timelines for implementation; and
- (f) That Council directs Engineering Services staff to continue actioning upon the rural broadband expansion plan in consultation with other departments and Internet Service Provider on a regular basis and report back to Council every 6 months until the completion of the program.

(h) **PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL (Item 15)**

(Jackson/Cassar)

That Committee move into Closed Session Pursuant to Section 9.3, Sub-section (k) of the City's Procedural By-law 21-021, and Section 239(2), Sub-section (k) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, as the subject matter pertains to a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the City or a local board.

(i) **Transit Maintenance & Storage Facility - Policy 11 Contract Administration Fee Increase – Arcadis Professional Services (Canada) Inc. (PW19006(b)) (City Wide)**

For disposition of this matter, refer to Item 6.

(i) **ADJOURNMENT (Item 16)**

(McMeekin/Tadeson)

That there being no further business, the Public Works Committee meeting be adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

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

Yes – Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes – Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes – Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes – Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes – Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes – Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Not Present – Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes – Ward 8 Councillor John Paul Danko
Yes – Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes – Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes – Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes – Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes – Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes – Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor M. Spadafora, Chair,
Public Works Committee

Carrie McIntosh
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk