



**GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
(RATE BUDGET)
MINUTES 24-019(a)**

9:30 a.m.

November 22, 2024

Council Chambers, City Hall, 2nd Floor
71 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario

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

Absent: Mayor A. Horwath and Councillor T. McMeekin – City Business

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. Alectra Utilities Water, Wastewater and Storm 2024 Service Activity Report (FCS24056) (City Wide) (Item 6.1)

(A. Wilson/Hwang)

That Report FCS24056, Alectra Utilities Water, Wastewater and Storm 2024 Service Activity Report, be received.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:

Absent	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Absent	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Absent	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

FOR INFORMATION:

(a) APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 1)

The Committee Clerk advised that there were no changes to the agenda.

(A. Wilson/Cassar)

That the agenda for the November 22, 2024 General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting, be approved, as presented.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 11 to 0, as follows:

Absent	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Absent	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Absent	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Absent	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
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
Absent	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

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

(i) November 18, 2024 (Item 4.1)

(Jackson/Hwang)

That the minutes of the November 18, 2024 General Issues Committee (Budget), be approved, as presented.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 11 to 0, as follows:

Absent	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch

Absent	-	Ward 3	Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4	Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5	Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6	Councillor Tom Jackson
Absent	-	Ward 7	Councillor Esther Pauls
Absent	-	Ward 8	Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9	Councillor Brad Clark
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
Absent	-	Ward 15	Councillor Ted McMeekin

(d) STAFF PRESENTATIONS (Item 5)

(i) 2025 Preliminary Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Budget (FCS24055) (City Wide) (Item 5.1)

Mike Zegarac, General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services, introduced Nick Winters, Director, Hamilton Water, and Kirk Weaver, Acting Director, Financial Planning, Administration and Policy, who provided the presentations on the 2025 Preliminary Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Budget.

(1) (Clark/A. Wilson)

That the presentation respecting Report FCS24055, 2025 Preliminary Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Budget, be received.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:

Absent	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Absent	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Absent	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
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
- Absent - Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

(2) (Clark/A. Wilson)

- (a) That the metered water consumption charges for average residential properties (meters < 25mm in size) in the City of Hamilton be imposed at the following rates, effective January 1, 2025:

Monthly Water Consumption (m3)	Rate (\$/m3)
0 – 10	1.17
> 10	2.34

- (b) That the metered water consumption charge for commercial, industrial, institutional and larger residential properties (meters = >25mm in size) in the City of Hamilton be imposed at the rate of \$2.34 per cubic metre, effective January 1, 2025;
- (c) That daily water fixed charges for all properties in the City of Hamilton be imposed at the following rates, effective January 1, 2025:

Meter Size	Daily Water Rate
15 mm	\$0.53
16 mm	\$0.53
20 mm	\$0.53
21 mm	\$0.53
25 mm	\$1.33
38 mm	\$2.65
50 mm	\$4.24
75 mm	\$8.48
100 mm	\$13.25
150 mm	\$26.50
200 mm	\$42.40
250 mm	\$60.95
300 mm	\$90.10

- (d) That the wastewater / storm treatment charges for average residential properties (meters < 25mm in size) in the City of Hamilton be imposed at the following rates, effective January

1, 2025:

Monthly Water Consumption (m3)	Rate (\$/m3)
0 – 10	1.19
> 10	2.37

- (e) That the wastewater / storm treatment charge for all commercial, industrial, institutional and larger residential properties (meters = >25mm in size) in the City of Hamilton be imposed at the rate of \$2.37 per cubic metre, effective January 1, 2025;
- (f) That daily wastewater / storm fixed charges for all properties in the City of Hamilton be imposed at the following rates, effective January 1, 2025

Meter Size	Daily Wastewater / Storm Rate
15 mm	\$0.57
16 mm	\$0.57
20 mm	\$0.57
21 mm	\$0.57
25 mm	\$1.43
38 mm	\$2.85
50 mm	\$4.56
75 mm	\$9.12
100 mm	\$14.25
150 mm	\$28.50
200 mm	\$45.60
250 mm	\$65.55
300 mm	\$96.90

- (g) That the residential non-metered annual water rate be imposed at the flat rate of \$854.10 per annum, effective January 1, 2025;
- (h) That the residential non-metered annual wastewater / storm rate be imposed at the flat rate of \$865.05 per annum, effective January 1, 2025;

- (i) That the residential combined non-metered annual water and wastewater / storm rate be imposed at the flat rate of \$1,719.15 per annum, effective January 1, 2025;
- (j) That the Private Fire Line rates be imposed at the following rates, effective January 1, 2025:

Connection Size		Monthly Rate
mm	inches	
25	1	\$5.08
38	1.5	\$11.67
50	2	\$20.30
75	3	\$45.68
100	4	\$81.20
150	6	\$182.70
200	8	\$324.80
250	10	\$324.80
300	12	\$324.80

- (k) That the 2025 Water, Wastewater and Storm Proposed User Fees and Charges be imposed as per Appendix “G” to Report FCS24055, effective January 1, 2025;
- (l) That the daily single-family unit (SFU) stormwater fee of \$0.74 (\$270.10 annually) for all properties in the City of Hamilton be approved, in principle, effective April 1, 2026;
- (m) That the 2025 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Operating Budget in the amount of \$327,779,491 be approved as per Appendix “A” to Report FCS24055;
- (n) That the long-term financing plan for the Water, Wastewater and Stormwater programs and related rate increases required to meet sustainable financing as identified in the 2025 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Operating Budget forecast 2026-2034 (Appendix “A” to Report FCS24055) be approved, in principle;
- (o) That the 2025 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Capital Budget and Financing Plan in the amount of \$314,899,750 be approved as per Appendices “K”, “N”, “Q” and “S” to Report FCS24055;

- (p) That the 2026-2034 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Capital Budget forecast and financing plan (Appendix "I" to Report FCS24055) be approved, in principle;
- (q) That the City Solicitor be authorized and directed to prepare, for Council approval, all necessary by-laws respecting the 2025 water and wastewater / storm user fees, charges and rates set out in Recommendations (a) through (k) of Report FCS24055;
- (r) That the 2025 Rate Supported Staffing Summary, inclusive of the proposed Business Cases, be approved as per Appendix "F" to Report FCS24055;
- (s) That three additional Full-Time Equivalents that are not included in Appendix "F" to Report FCS24055 be included in the Preliminary 2025 Tax Supported Budget with a net-zero cost;
- (t) That the General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services, be authorized and directed to negotiate and confirm the terms for the placement and issuance of all debenture issue(s), and / or private placement debenture issue(s), in either a public or private market and / or bank loan agreements and debenture issue(s) and / or variable interest rate bank loan agreements and debenture issue(s), in an amount not to exceed \$101,904,316 Canadian currency as attached in Appendices "K", "N" and "Q" to Report FCS24055, which includes \$51,925,440 in Rate Supported municipal debt and \$49,978,876 Rate Supported Development Charges municipal debt;
- (u)
 - (i) That the General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services, be authorized to engage the services of all required professionals to secure the terms and issuance of the debenture issue(s) described in Recommendations (t) and (v) including, but not limited to, external legal counsel and fiscal agents;
 - (ii) That the General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services, is authorized and directed, on behalf of the City of Hamilton, to enter into and / or execute, all agreements and necessary ancillary documents to secure the terms and issuance of the debenture issue(s) described in Recommendations (t) and (u) and conditional upon the by-law being enacted as

described in Recommendation (v) to Report FCS24055, on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor;

- (v) That staff be authorized and directed to prepare all necessary By-Law(s), for Council's consideration, for the purpose of authorizing debenture issue(s) described in Recommendation (t) to Report FCS24055; and
- (w) That the City of Hamilton continue to appeal to the Provincial Government of Ontario and the Federal Government of Canada for financial assistance in addressing the infrastructure deficit in the water, wastewater and storm programs.

(3) (Jackson/Clark)

That Report FCS24055, 2025 Preliminary Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Budget, be DEFERRED to the November 28, 2024 General Issues Committee (Rate Budget) meeting.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 10 to 2, as follows:

Absent	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
No	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Absent	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Absent	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
No	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Absent	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

(e) ADJOURNMENT (Item 9)

(Cassar/Kroetsch)

That there being no further business, the General Issues Committee (Budget) be adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:

Absent	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Absent	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Absent	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
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
Absent	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Maureen Wilson
Chair, General Issues Committee (Budget)

Angela McRae
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk