



**GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE  
(WATER, WASTEWATER AND  
STORMWATER RATE BUDGET)  
REPORT 24-019**

November 18, 2024 – November 28, 2024  
Council Chambers, City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
71 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario

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**November 18, 2024**

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

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**November 22, 2024**

**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

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**November 28, 2024**

**Present:** Mayor A. Horwath  
Councillor M. Wilson (Budget Chair)  
Councillors J. Beattie (Virtually), C. Cassar, J.P. Danko, M. Francis (Virtually), T. Hwang, T. Jackson, C. Kroetsch, T. McMeekin, N. Nann (Virtually), E. Pauls (Virtually), M. Spadafora (Virtually), M. Tadeson, and A. Wilson

**Absent:** Councillor B. Clark - Personal

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**THE GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE (BUDGET) PRESENTS REPORT 24-019 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:**

**1. Alectra Utilities Water, Wastewater and Storm 2024 Service Activity Report (FCS24056) (City Wide) (Item 6.1) (November 22, 2024)**

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

**2. 2025 Preliminary Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Budget (FCS24055) (City Wide) - REVISED (Item 5.1) (November 28, 2024)**

That the General Issues Committee (Budget) considered the following respecting the 2025 Preliminary Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Budget (FCS24055) (City Wide) - REVISED:

- (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

Meter Size	Daily Water Rate
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 2025 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Operating Budget in the amount of \$327,779,491 is as per Appendix “A” to Report FCS24055;
- (m) That the long-term financing plan for the Water, Wastewater and Stormwater programs and related rate increases required to meet sustainable financing is 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;
- (n) That the 2025 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Capital Budget and Financing Plan in the amount of \$314,899,750 is as per Appendices “K”, “N”, “Q” and “S” to Report FCS24055;
- (o) That the 2026-2034 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Capital Budget forecast and financing plan is as per Appendix “I” to Report FCS24055);
- (p) That the 2025 Rate Supported Staffing Summary, inclusive of the proposed Business Cases, is as per Appendix “F” to Report FCS24055;

- (q) 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;
- (r) 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;
- (s) That the General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services, is authorized and directed to engage the services of all required professionals to secure the terms and issuance of the debenture issue(s) described in this report including, but not limited to, external legal counsel and fiscal agents;
- (t) 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 Report FCS24055, on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor;
- (u) That staff is authorized and directed to prepare all necessary By-Law(s), for the purpose of authorizing debenture issue(s) described in Report FCS24055; and

**3. Stormwater Residential Fee (Generated From Item 5.1) (November 28, 2024)**

**(Danko/Cassar)**

- (a) That staff report to General Issues Committee in Q1 2025 with an analysis summarizing the factors contributing to the 2026 forecast change in the stormwater fee to \$270.10 per annum; and,
  - (b) That staff identify any options that would further support the forecast stormwater management investments to realize a largely revenue neutral transition to a stormwater fee structure.
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**November 18, 2024**

**FOR INFORMATION:**

**(a) APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 1)**

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

**3. COMMUNICATIONS**

3.1 Correspondence respecting the 2025 Budget, from the following individuals:

- (a) Brian Pirvu, Government Relations Consultant, CAA South Central Ontario

Recommendation: Be received.

**4. DELEGATION REQUESTS**

4.1 Delegation Requests respecting the 2025 Budget, from the following individuals:

- (a) Karl Andrus (In-Person) – WITHDRAWN
- (e) Jacqueline Wilson (Virtually)
- (f) Steacy Easton (In-Person)
- (g) Jeff Neven, Indwell (In-Person)
- (h) Clare Freeman, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic (In-Person)

The agenda for the November 18, 2024 General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting, was approved, as amended.

**(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)**

There were no declarations of interest.

**(c) COMMUNICATIONS (Item 3)**

(i) The following Communications Items respecting the 2025 Budget, were received:

- (1) Brian Pirvu, Government Relations Consultant, CAA South Central Ontario (Added Item 3.1(a))

**(d) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 4)**

(i) The delegation requests for today's meeting, respecting the 2025 Budget were approved, as follows:

- (1) Tom Cooper and Ted Hildebrandt, Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction & Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton (In-Person) (Item 4.1(b))
- (2) Manny Figueiredo, YMCA Hamilton | Burlington | Brantford (In-Person) (Item 4.1(c))
- (3) Stewart Klazinga, ACORN Hamilton (Virtually) (Item 4.1(d))
- (4) Jacqueline Wilson (Virtually) (Added Item 4.1(e))
- (5) Steacy Easton (In-Person) (Added Item 4.1(f))
- (6) Jeff Neven, Indwell (In-Person) (Added Item 4.1(g))
- (7) Clare Freeman, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic (In-Person) (Added Item 4.1(h))

**(e) DELEGATIONS (Item 5)**

(i) The following Delegates addressed the Committee respecting the 2025 Budget:

- (1) Tom Cooper and Ted Hildebrandt, Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction & Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton (In-Person) (Added Item 5.1(a))
- (2) Manny Figueiredo, CEO & President; and Genevieve Hladysh, Vice President of Health, Fitness & Aquatics & Residence YMCA Hamilton | Burlington | Brantford (In-Person) (Added Item 5.1(b))
- (3) Stewart Klazinga, ACORN Hamilton (Virtually) (Added Item 5.1(c))
- (4) Jacqueline Wilson (Virtually) (Added Item 5.1(d))
- (5) Steacy Easton (In-Person) (Added Item 5.1(e))
- (6) Jeff Neven, Indwell (In-Person) (Added Item 5.1(f))
- (7) Clare Freeman, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic (Virtually) (Added Item 5.1(g))

- (ii) The delegations respecting the 2025 Budget, were received, as follows:
- (1) Tom Cooper and Ted Hildebrandt, Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction & Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton (In-Person) (Added Item 5.1(a))
  - (2) Manny Figueiredo, CEO & President; and Genevieve Hladysz, Vice President of Health, Fitness & Aquatics & Residence YMCA Hamilton | Burlington | Brantford (In-Person) (Added Item 5.1(b))
  - (3) Stewart Klazinga, ACORN Hamilton (Virtually) (Added Item 5.1(c))
  - (4) Jacqueline Wilson (Virtually) (Added Item 5.1(d))
  - (5) Steacy Easton (In-Person) (Added Item 5.1(e))
  - (6) Jeff Neven, Indwell (In-Person) (Added Item 5.1(f))
  - (7) Clare Freeman, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic (Virtually) (Added Item 5.1(g))

**(f) ADJOURNMENT (Item 8)**

There being no further business, the General Issues Committee (Budget) adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

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**November 22, 2024**

**FOR INFORMATION:**

**(a) APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 1)**

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

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

**(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)**

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

**(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)** The presentation respecting Report FCS24055, 2025 Preliminary Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Budget, was received.

The Report was put on the floor as follows:

- (2)** (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
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- (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
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21 mm	\$0.57
25 mm	\$1.43
38 mm	\$2.85
50 mm	\$4.56

Meter Size	Daily Wastewater /
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;
- (ii) 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	
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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) Report FCS24055, 2025 Preliminary Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Budget, was DEFERRED to the November 28, 2024 General Issues Committee (Rate Budget) meeting.

**(e) ADJOURNMENT (Item 9)**

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

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**November 28, 2024**

**FOR INFORMATION:**

**(a) APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 1)**

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

**4. COMMUNICATION ITEMS**

4.1 Budget Process Changes (CC24003)

**5. STAFF PRESENTATIONS**

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

The agenda for the November 28, 2024 General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting, was approved, as amended.

**(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

**(i) November 22, 2024 (Item 4.1)**

The minutes of the November 22, 2024 General Issues Committee (Budget), were approved, as presented.

**(d) COMMUNICATION ITEMS (Item 4)**

**(i) Budget Process Changes (CC24003) (Added Item 4.1)**

That CC24003 respecting Budget Process Changes, was received.

**(e) ADJOURNMENT (Item 10)**

There being no further business, the General Issues Committee (Budget) adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Councillor Maureen Wilson  
Chair, General Issues Committee (Budget)

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Angela McRae  
Legislative Coordinator  
Office of the City Clerk