



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

9:30 a.m.

November 28, 2024

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

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

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. 2025 Preliminary Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Budget (FCS24055) (City Wide) - REVISED (Item 5.1)

(Kroetsch/Hwang)

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
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

Meter Size	Daily Wastewater /
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

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 8 to 6, as follows:

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

2. Stormwater Residential Fee (Generated From Item 5.1)

(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.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 10 to 4, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
No	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
No	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
No	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	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
No	-	Ward 15	Councillor Ted McMeekin

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

(Kroetsch/Cassar)

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

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

Yes	-	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
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	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 22, 2024 (Item 4.1)

(Hwang/Jackson)

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

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

Yes	-	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
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	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) COMMUNICATION ITEMS (Item 4)

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

(Danko/A. Wilson)

That CC24003 respecting Budget Process Changes, be received.

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

Yes	-	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
Yes	-	Ward 8	Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	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

(e) ADJOURNMENT (Item 10)

(Hwang/Kroetsch)

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

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

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	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
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	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

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Maureen Wilson
Chair, General Issues Committee (Budget)

Angela McRae
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk