



**GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
(OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET)
MINUTES GIC-B 25-007**

9:30 a.m.

Friday, February 7, 2025
Council Chambers, City Hall, 2nd Floor
71 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario

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

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR INFORMATION:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Budget Chair M. Wilson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES

There were no ceremonial activities.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

(Clark/Kroetsch)

That the agenda for the February 7, 2025 General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting, be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor C. Kroetsch declared a disqualifying interest to Item 9.3 - Re-Alignment of Taxpayer Funding to Good Faith Encampment Support Organizations, and Item 9.4 - Taxpayer Funding Exclusion for Organizations Involved in Litigation Against the City of Hamilton, as he has a personal and professional relationship with Ashley Wilson who works at the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic under the Tenant Support Program.

Councillor B. Clark declared a non-disqualifying interest to Item 9.3 - Re-Alignment of Taxpayer Funding to Good Faith Encampment Support Organizations, as he referred Wade Poziomka to a Ward 9 community group experiencing an ongoing environmental issue.

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5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no previous meeting minutes.

6. DELEGATIONS

Delegations on the 2025 Budget were received on November 18, 2024 & January 20, 2025.

6.1 Written Delegations Respecting the 2025 Tax Budget

(Nann/Tadeson)

That the following Written Delegations respecting the 2025 Tax Budget, be received:

- (a) Clare Freeman, Executive Director, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic
- (b) Lois Corey
- (c) Harriet Woodside
- (d) Anne Washington
- (e) Caitlin Craven, Executive Director, Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion
- (f) Brad Evoy, Executive Director, Disability Justice Network of Ontario
- (g) Daniel Coleman
- (h) Lynn Gates
- (i) Jeff Davies
- (j) Jacqueline Wilson, Canadian Environmental Law Association
- (k) Jen Baker, General Manager, Hamilton Naturalists' Club
- (l) Ian Borsuk, Executive Director, Environment Hamilton
- (m) Olivia O'Connor, ACORN Hamilton
- (n) Maryanne Lemieux
- (o) Elizabeth Knight
- (p) Rick Johnson

CARRIED

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

7.1 Mayor's Memorandum - 2025 Proposed Tax Budget - REVISED

(A. Wilson/Cassar)

That the Mayor's Memorandum - 2025 Proposed Tax Budget - REVISED, be received.

CARRIED

7.2 Correspondence from Paul Takala, Chief Librarian/CEO, Hamilton Public Library respecting the 2025 Budget Submission for the Hamilton Public Library (HPL)

(McMeekin/Kroetsch)

That the Correspondence from Paul Takala, Chief Librarian/CEO, Hamilton Public Library respecting the 2025 Budget Submission for the Hamilton Public Library (HPL), be received.

CARRIED

8. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

There were no Items for Consideration.

9. MOTIONS

9.1 Elimination of Council Referred Items 11 & 12 City Enrichment Fund Increases

(Danko/Spadafora)

WHEREAS, the City Enrichment Fund invests in the community by providing taxpayer funded grants from the City of Hamilton;

WHEREAS, the purpose of the City Enrichment Fund is to provide transparency and access to taxpayer funded grants for eligible not-for profit organizations, registered charities, grassroots organizations, and professional artist projects that are determined through an independent, transparent, and defined application and approval process;

WHEREAS, the City Enrichment Fund protects the interests of taxpayers by ensuring that City funding is only directed to legitimate, eligible, organizations that support the City's strategic plan and Our Future Hamilton – Community Vision;

WHEREAS, the City Enrichment Fund was created to eliminate arbitrary Councillor directed funding to organizations, groups and individuals that may be, or may be perceived to be, politically motivated spending intended to gain political support;

WHEREAS, all Councillors have access to various reserve funding accounts including the Area Rating Special Capital Discretionary Reserve and Non-Property Tax Revenue Reserves;

WHEREAS, subsequent to the 2022 municipal election, various Councillors initiated their own "Ward Community Grants" programs that now direct taxpayer funding to community organizations, groups and individuals at the discretion of the Ward Councillor without appropriate financial oversight; and,

WHEREAS, there is no purpose to increase funding to the City Enrichment Fund when individual Councillors have created their own “Ward Community Grant” programs and continue to direct hundreds of thousands of dollars per Ward, annually, to their own individually selected recipients.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the 2025 Budget, be amended, as follows:

- (a) Remove Council referred Item 11 - 2025 Proposed Increase to City Enrichment Fund \$568,110
- (b) Remove Council referred Item 12 – Digital Program Area – City Enrichment Fund \$100,000

Result: MOTION, DEFEATED by a vote of 6 to 10, as follows:

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

9.2 Financial Relief to Help Offset the Increase Cost of Municipal Police Service

This Motion was deemed not in order and therefore was withdrawn from consideration.

9.3 Re-Alignment of Taxpayer Funding to Good Faith Encampment Support Organizations

This Motion was deemed not in order and therefore was withdrawn from consideration.

9.4 Taxpayer Funding Exclusion for Organizations Involved in Litigation Against the City of Hamilton

This Motion was deemed not in order and therefore was withdrawn from consideration.

On a Point of Order, Councillor Francis requested that Chair M. Wilson divulge all Motions that are going to be ruled out of order at one time instead going through the motions one at a time.

Chair M. Wilson ruled that Committee would continue to follow the process of considering the motions one at a time.

(1) Challenge the Chair

Councillor M. Francis challenged the ruling of the chair. Clerk Trennum assumed the Chair and called the vote on the challenge as follows:

(Francis/Pauls)

That the ruling of the Chair be sustained.

Result: MOTION on the Chair's Ruling, SUSTAINED by a 2/3 vote of 12 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
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
No	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
No	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
No	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

Clerk Trennum declared the ruling of the Chair to be sustained and Chair M. Wilson assumed the Chair.

9.5 Electric Maintenance Vehicles – REVISED

This Motion was deemed not in order and therefore was withdrawn from consideration.

(1) Challenge the Chair

On a Point of Order, Councillor Francis challenged the ruling of the Chair that the Motion respecting Electric Maintenance Vehicles was out of order.

Clerk Trennum assumed the Chair and called the vote on the challenge as follows:

(Francis/Spadafora)

That the ruling of the Chair be sustained.

Result: MOTION on the Chair's Ruling, SUSTAINED by a 2/3 vote of 12 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
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
No	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
No	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
No	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

Clerk Trennum declared the ruling of the Chair to be sustained and Chair M. Wilson assumed the Chair.

9.6 Climate Change Initiative

This Motion was deemed not in order and therefore was withdrawn from consideration.

9.7 Amendment to the Proposed 2025 Tax-Supported Budget - Development of a Community Benefits Protocol

(Kroetsch/Hwang)

WHEREAS, the Community Benefits Protocol Sub-Committee was established by Council on June 27, 2018 and the main purpose of the Sub-Committee is to “develop a protocol” (called a Community Benefits Protocol or Social Value Framework);

WHEREAS, there is currently no internal City staff resource with the expertise to support the development of a protocol;

WHEREAS, it will cost \$75,000 to hire a consultant to support the development of a protocol, which represents an approximate increase to the overall City budget of 0.006%, as each percentage increase to the overall City budget is valued at approximately \$13m; and

WHEREAS, the City's projected budget increase for 2025 is 5.663% and increasing it by 0.006% would raise the overall increase to approximately 5.669%.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Proposed 2025 Tax-Supported Budget, be amended, as follows:

- (a) That \$75,000 be allocated to support the hiring of a consultant to develop a draft Community Benefits Protocol or Social Value Framework;
- (b) That staff be directed to develop a scope of work to meet the objective of developing a draft Community Benefits Protocol or Social Value Framework and oversee the consultant's work; and
- (c) That the City Manager, or General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services, or their assigned designate, be authorized and directed, on behalf of the City of Hamilton, to negotiate, enter into and/or execute, all agreements and necessary ancillary documents on terms satisfactory to the General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 9 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
No	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	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
Yes - Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

9.8 Amendment to the Proposed 2025 Tax-Supported Budget - Hamilton Police Service Board Budget

(Kroetsch/A. Wilson)

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Police Service Board submitted a budget increase of \$12,252,775 representing a 5.7% increase for a total 2025 budget of \$227,075,420;

WHEREAS, according to the City of Hamilton's budget documents there is a budget increase of \$17,351,475 for the total costs of policing, including legally mandated costs, representing an 8.1% increase for a total 2025 budget of \$232,174,120;

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Police Service Board budget has received more consistent support from City Council than any other departmental budget, with all increases approved without modification since amalgamation;

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Police Service Board budget has increased by \$145,825,170 since amalgamation (the 2001 Annual Report of the Hamilton Police Service Board indicated a total budget of \$86,348,950 as compared to \$232,174,120 in 2025);

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Police Service Board's submitted increase (\$12,252,775) represents an approximate 0.94% increase to the overall City budget, as each percentage increase to the overall City budget is valued at approximately \$13m; and,

WHEREAS, the City's projected budget increase for 2025 is 5.66% and reducing it by 0.94% would lower the overall increase to approximately 4.72%.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Proposed 2025 Tax-Supported Budget, be amended, as follows:

- (a) That the Hamilton Police Service Board's 2025 Budget be established at \$214,822,645.

(1) Recess

Without motion Chair M. Wilson recessed the General Issues Committee (Budget) at 11:41 a.m. as order was not able to be maintained.

The General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting reconvened at 11:56 a.m.

After further discussion, the Chair called the vote on the Motion respecting the Amendment to the Proposed 2025 Tax-Supported Budget - Hamilton Police Service Board Budget, as presented.

Result: MOTION, DEFEATED by a vote of 2 to 14, as follows:

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

9.9 Amendment to the Proposed 2025 Tax-Supported Budget - Improving the Cleanliness and Safety of Downtown Underpasses

(Kroetsch/Nann)

WHEREAS, Transportation Roadway Maintenance has received an increase in the number of requests regarding underpass maintenance and cleaning, including surrounding sidewalks and adjacent roadways;

WHEREAS, all underpasses throughout the City were assessed and 14 were identified based on high pedestrian and pigeon activity;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton currently does not have an annual underpass cleaning program with an established level of service, sidewalks, stairs, or adjacent roadways;

WHEREAS, pigeon feces, dead pigeons and other birds, litter, and illegal dumping are all prevalent issues in underpasses, which require regular maintenance;

WHEREAS, the City is currently is making a series of capital investments including repairing and replacing vital underpass infrastructure, putting up bird netting, installing new and brighter lighting, and painting that require regular maintenance;

WHEREAS, it will cost \$130,000 annually to perform this regular maintenance, which represents an approximate increase to the overall City budget of 0.01%, as each percentage increase to the overall City budget is valued at approximately \$13m; and,

WHEREAS, the City's projected budget increase for 2025 is 5.66% and increasing it by 0.01% would raise the overall increase to approximately 5.67%.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Proposed 2025 Tax-Supported Budget, as follows:

- (a) That fourteen (14) underpass locations with heavy pedestrian activity and a high volume of sanitary and debris complaints be added to a Roadway Maintenance Underpass Cleaning Program including:

Ward 1

- (i) Aberdeen Avenue at Studholme Road - underpass
- (ii) Main Street West at Osler Drive - underpass

Ward 2

- (iii) MacNab Street South at Hunter Street West - tunnel, stairs
- (iv) James Street South at Hunter Street - underpass, stairs
- (v) John Street South at Hunter Street East - underpass
- (vi) Catharine Street South at Hunter Street East - underpass
- (vii) Walnut Street South at Hunter Street East - underpass
- (viii) Ferguson Street South at Young Street - tunnel
- (ix) Young Street near Ford Street - underpass, stairs

Ward 3

- (x) Charlton Avenue East at Victoria Avenue South - tunnel
- (xi) Victoria Avenue South at Young Street - underpass
- (xii) Victoria Avenue South at Stinson Street - tunnel
- (xiii) Birch Avenue at Burlington Street East - underpass

Ward 4

(xiv) Kenilworth Avenue North at McAnulty Boulevard - underpass

- (b) That the Transportation Division budget be amended in 2025 for all costs associated with the Roadway Maintenance Underpass Cleaning Program (\$130,000); and
- (c) That the General Manager of Public Works and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute any required agreement(s) and ancillary documents, with such terms and conditions in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

(Danko/Francis)

That sub-section (b), ***be amended***, as follows:

- (b) That the ***one-time funding Transportation Division budget be amended in 2025*** for all costs associated with the Roadway Maintenance Underpass Cleaning Program (\$130,000 ***annually***) ***be funded from the respective Ward Area Discretionary Reserves budgets in 2025***; and

Result: AMENDMENT, DEFEATED by a vote of 7 to 9, as follows:

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

The Chair called the vote on the motion as presented.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 13 to 3, 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
Yes	-	Ward 6	Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7	Councillor Esther Pauls
No	-	Ward 8	Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9	Councillor Brad Clark
No	-	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

**9.10 Amendment to the Proposed 2025 Tax-Supported Budget -
Unallocated Ward 2 Balance from the Canada Community-Building
Fund (CCBF)**

(Kroetsch/Nann)

WHEREAS, a motion was ratified by Council at its July 9, 2021 meeting to allocate \$30M from the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) to road projects across all wards (\$2M each);

WHEREAS, the former Ward 2 City Councillor allocated all of the \$2M for Ward 2 to road repaving projects in the Corktown neighbourhood;

WHEREAS, the Canada Community-Building Fund can be used to support a wide range of projects, not only local roads and bridges, in 17 additional areas including improvements to broadband connectivity, brownfield redevelopment, capacity-building, community energy systems, culture, drinking water, fire stations, public transit, recreation, regional and local airports, resilience, short-line rail, short-sea shipping, solid waste, sports, tourism, and wastewater;

WHEREAS, approximately \$97,415.72 remains as unallocated funding from these repaving projects in Ward 2;

WHEREAS, returning the remaining unallocated funds (\$97,415.72) represents an approximate decrease to the overall City budget of 0.008%, as each percentage increase to the overall City budget is valued at approximately \$13M; and,

WHEREAS, the City's projected budget increase for 2025 is 5.663% and reducing it by 0.008% would lower the overall increase to approximately 5.655%.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Proposed 2025 Tax Supported Budget, as follows:

- (a) That Capital Project 4032111102 be closed and the remaining uncommitted funds be transferred to the Canada Community-Building Fund Reserve 112213 and applied as a funding source in 2025 on other Canada Community-Building Fund eligible capital projects currently funded through the 2025 capital levy.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 16 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
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
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

(1) Recess

(A. Wilson/Jackson)

That the General Issues Committee recess for 32 minutes until 1:30 p.m.
CARRIED

The General Issues Committee reconvened at 1:31 p.m.

9.11 Deferral of 2025 Budgeted Funding Related to Light Rail Transit (LRT)

This Motion was deemed not in order and therefore was withdrawn from consideration.

9.12 Indefinitely Pause The Safe Apartment Buildings By-law and Additional 17 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Hires For The Renovation License and Relocation By-law

This Motion was deemed not in order and therefore was withdrawn from consideration.

**9.13(a) Removal of \$372,490 Budgeted for the Realigned Gardens Program
(PW24031(a))**

(Spadafora/Beattie)

WHEREAS, the General Issues Committee (Budget) on November 28, 2024, received a Memorandum respecting a Budget Process Update;

WHEREAS, members of Council may propose amendments to the Proposed 2025 Tax Supported Budget;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton has supported Community Garden Programs in their current form for many years as successful volunteer-led programs, without drastic increases to project funding, enabling Hamilton residents to safely and affordably grow their own nutritious food;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

(a) That the Proposed 2025 Tax Supported Budget, as follows:

- (i) Remove the \$372,490 budgeted for 2 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) as part of the Realigned Gardens Program (PW24031(a))

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 11 to 5, as follows:

No	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
No	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
No	-	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
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
No	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
No	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

**9.13(b) Budgeting of \$350,000 for the YMCA of Hamilton | Burlington | Brantford
Men's Residence to Re-Open the Third Floor and House 43 Individuals -
REVISED**

(Kroetsch/Spadafora)

WHEREAS, for the past 66 years, since September 14, 1959, the downtown YMCA has provided transitional housing for 173 men while

supporting individuals at risk who are facing both health and social challenges;

WHEREAS, representatives from the YMCA delegated and presented their budgetary needs of \$350,000 at the General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting on November 18, 2024, at which time they communicated the devastating impact of the fire that initially displaced their tenants from all 174 units;

WHEREAS, the third floor of the downtown YMCA remains vacant and could accommodate an additional 43 men in a transitional program including wraparound services focusing on onsite health care and addiction and mental health supports; and

WHEREAS, the creation of 43 spaces for homeless individuals will expand the City of Hamilton's supportive housing ecosystem, reduce the strain on public systems, address homelessness at its root, and build a healthier, more equitable community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Proposed 2025 Tax Supported Budget, as follows:
 - (i) That the one-time costs of \$350,000 for the YMCA of Hamilton | Burlington | Brantford Men's Residence to fund Staffing, Security and Public Safety Measures, a Mental Health and Addiction Specialist, Food Security (Non-Perishables) and Resident Essentials, and Capital Repairs so as to open the third floor and house 43 men, be funded from the Ward 2 Area Rating Reserve (108052).

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 15 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
Absent	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	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

Yes - Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

9.14 Removal of Senior Level Leadership Mental Health Position from the 2025 Proposed Tax Budget

Councillor Beattie withdrew the Motion from consideration.

9.15 Removal of Hamilton's Biodiversity Action Plan (PED21065(d) / PW24040) From the 2025 Budget

(Beattie/Spadafora)

WHEREAS, the General Issues Committee (Budget) on November 28, 2024, received a Memorandum respecting a Budget Process Update;

WHEREAS, members of Council may propose amendments to the Proposed 2025 Tax Supported Budget;

WHEREAS, Council recently declared an affordability crisis in the City of Hamilton;

WHEREAS, a distinction has been made during this 2025 budget process of recognizing needs versus wants, similar to a household's fiscal responsibility;

WHEREAS, the Biodiversity Action Plan, approved in 2024, is an enhancement to the City of Hamilton's core service delivery mandate, including but not limited to parks, roads, water and wastewater, recreation and emergency services;

WHEREAS, the full implementation – in 2025 - of components of the Action Plan may not have the same material impact on residents as the above stated services;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Proposed 2025 Tax Supported Budget, as follows:

- (a) That 2025 Council referred item of Hamilton's Biodiversity Action Plan (PED21065(d) / PW24040) be removed from the 2025 Proposed Tax Supported Budget, resulting in a net operating budget savings of \$560,000; and,
- (b) That the four FTE's associated with 2025 Council referred item of Hamilton's Biodiversity Action Plan (PED21065(d) / PW24040) be removed.

Result: MOTION, DEFEATED by a vote of 7 to 9, as follows:

No	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
No	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
No	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
No	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
No	-	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
No	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
No	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
No	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
No	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

9.16 Removal of PED 21065(d) Biodiversity Action Plan - Sr. Planner From the 2025 Budget

(Beattie/Spadafora)

WHEREAS, the General Issues Committee (Budget) on November 28, 2024, received a Memorandum respecting a Budget Process Update;

WHEREAS, members of Council may propose amendments to the Proposed 2025 Tax Supported Budget;

WHEREAS, Council recently declared an affordability crisis in the City of Hamilton;

WHEREAS, a distinction has been made during this 2025 budget process of recognizing needs versus wants, similar to a household's fiscal responsibility;

WHEREAS, the Biodiversity Action Plan, approved in 2024, is an enhancement to the City of Hamilton's core service delivery mandate, including but not limited to parks, roads, water and wastewater, recreation and emergency services;

WHEREAS, the full implementation – in 2025 - of components of the Action Plan may not have the same material impact on residents as the above stated services;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Proposed 2025 Tax Supported Budget, as follows:

- (a) That 2025 Council referred item PED 21065(d) Biodiversity Action Plan - Sr. Planner be removed from the 2025 Proposed Tax Supported Budget, resulting in a net operating budget savings of \$128,860; and,
- (b) That staff from the Planning and Economic and Development Department in the Planning Division assist in the interim to facilitate the development of the Biodiversity Action Plan governance model and other administrative and communications duties related to implantation of the plan.

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

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
No	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
No	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
No	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
No	-	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
No	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
No	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
No	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
No	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

9.17 Reduction of Consultant Fee Amounts

(Tadeson/Kroetsch)

WHEREAS, the General Issues Committee (Budget) on November 28, 2024, received a Memorandum respecting a Budget Process Update;

WHEREAS, residential taxpayers are looking at a potential 5.7% increase in their property taxes;

WHEREAS, council has declared an affordability crisis;

WHEREAS, fiscal responsibility is a priority for the municipality, and every expenditure should be evaluated for its impact on taxpayers;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Council's motion on January 30, 2024 Budget General Issues Committee reflecting "Attaining Efficiencies Through the Review of the Use of Consultants" and subsequent report (FCS24033) (City Wide) the next steps for staff was to focus on a comprehensive evaluation aimed at identifying long-term, cost-saving opportunities;

WHEREAS, results were to be included in 2025 and subsequent year's budget materials;

WHEREAS, a detailed review of the list of projects that have historically relied on external consultants, particularly, those under the Tax Capital and Rate funded categories and the specific expertise that these projects demand is still outstanding; and,

WHEREAS, the 2025 Net Levy Summary indicated a proposed 2025 Budget of \$1,824,719 for consulting;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Proposed 2025 Tax Supported Budget, as follows:

That all departments (responsible for the total costs of proposed consulting fees totaling \$1,824,719 in the 2025 Net Levy Summary) reduce their budget for consulting fees a further 8% resulting in a decrease of further \$145,977 and new total of \$1,678,742 for consulting fees for the 2025 Proposed Tax Supported Budget.

After some discussion, Councillor M. Tadeson withdrew the motion in order to obtain additional information from staff.

9.18 Flamborough Reserve (108032) Contribution to the City Enrichment Fund

(McMeekin/Jackson)

WHEREAS, the City Enrichment Fund (CEF) is a program that's been making a measurable difference in our community;

WHEREAS, in 2022, Council directed an 8% annual increase to the CEF, toward a target value of just over \$9.6 million by 2028;

WHEREAS, the 2025 Proposed Tax Budget reflects a Council Referred Item (CRI), item 11, proposing an increase of \$568,110 in levy funding to the overall City Enrichment Fund (CEF);

WHEREAS, any year-end Flamborough slot revenue surpluses are transferred to the Flamborough Reserve;

WHEREAS, the Flamborough Reserve has a balance of approximately \$1,000,000; and,

WHEREAS, the City has adopted a multi-year reserve strategy to address affordability challenges, as per the Mayor's 2025 Budget Directive;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the 2025 proposed City Enrichment Funding increase of \$568,110 be funded accordingly, \$335,000 from the Flamborough Reserve and the balance of \$233,100 from the levy, and
- (b) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute any required agreement(s) and ancillary documents, with such terms and conditions in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

After some discussion, Councillor T. McMeekin withdrew the motion.

9.19 Reduction of Staffing to Support Public Engagement

(Francis/Spadafora)

WHEREAS, residential taxpayers are looking at a potential 5.7% increase in their property taxes;

WHEREAS, council has declared an affordability crisis;

WHEREAS, the threat of looming US tariffs will create an economic recession in Canada and will have a billion dollar impact on Hamilton's local economy that could impact thousands of jobs;

WHEREAS, fiscal responsibility is a priority for the municipality, and every expenditure should be evaluated for its impact on taxpayers;

WHEREAS, 2 FTEs were referred to the 2025 Tax budget to support Public Engagement (CMO), with a net levy impact of \$235,969; and,

WHEREAS, the current Public Engagement staffing compliment amounts to 5 FTE's and the Communications staffing compliment amounts to 28 FTE's;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Proposed 2025 Tax Supported Budget, as follows:

- (a) That the Council Referred Item, Staffing to Support Public Engagement, representing a 2025 net levy impact of \$235,969 and 2 FTEs be removed from the 2025 Proposed Tax Budget.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 13 to 3, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
No	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
No	-	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
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
No	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

9.20 Removal of 2025 Capital Funding for Expedited Bike Lanes

Councillor Francis withdrew this Motion from consideration.

9.21 Removal of Funding for the Poet in Place Pilot Program

(Francis/Jackson)

WHEREAS, residential taxpayers are looking at a potential 5.7% increase in their property taxes;

WHEREAS, council has declared an affordability crisis;

WHEREAS, the threat of looming US tariffs will create an economic recession in Canada and will have a billion dollar impact on Hamilton's local economy that could impact thousands of jobs;

WHEREAS, fiscal responsibility is a priority for the municipality, and every expenditure should be evaluated for its impact on taxpayers;

Whereas the Poet in Place pilot program is funded at \$25,000 per annum allocated from the Culture Strategic Priorities Capital Project;

WHEREAS, \$10,000 per year is designated as an honorarium for the Poet in Place, while \$15,000 per year is allocated for program-related expenses;

WHEREAS, these funds could be redirected to provide tax relief to residents by applying the savings directly to the tax levy; and,

WHEREAS, the municipality should prioritize essential services and initiatives that provide the greatest benefit to the community as a whole;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Proposed 2025 Tax Supported Budget, be amended, as follows:

- (a) That the \$25,000 allocated for the Poet in Place be removed from the 2025 Proposed Tax Budget; and,
- (b) That the \$25,000 in related funding be moved to the unallocated Capital Reserve for the purpose of funding infrastructure projects such as roads, sidewalks, and parks.

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

No	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
No	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
No	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
No	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
No	-	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
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
No	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
No	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
No	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

9.22 Lowering of the Contingency Funds for Levy Supported Public Works Projects

(Tadeson/Beattie)

WHEREAS, the General Issues Committee (Budget) on November 28, 2024, received a Memorandum respecting a Budget Process Update;

WHEREAS, residential taxpayers are looking at a potential 5.7% increase in their property taxes;

WHEREAS, council has declared an affordability crisis;

WHEREAS, the threat of looming US tariffs will create an economic recession in Canada and will have a billion dollar impact on Hamilton's local economy that could impact thousands of jobs;

WHEREAS, fiscal responsibility is a priority for the municipality, and every expenditure should be evaluated for its impact on taxpayers;

WHEREAS, the Directors and Project Managers in Public Works have set budgets for the completion of tax funded Public Works Projects with contingencies funds allowing for unforeseen setbacks totaling between 10-12%; and,

WHEREAS, the majority of projects will come in below the set budget allotted and those funds will be directed towards reserve funds for future use.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Proposed 2025 Tax Supported Budget, be amended, as follows:

- (a) That applicable tax funded 'Public Works Projects' reduce their budget totals by 2% and work within a budget for said projects with an 8 -10% contingency.

After some discussion, Councillor M. Tadeson withdrew the motion.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no Notices of Motion.

11. PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

There were no Private & Confidential Items.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the General Issues Committee (Budget) adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Trennum
City Clerk

Councillor Maureen Wilson
Chair, General Issues Committee (Budget)