



**GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
(OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET)
MINUTES GIC-B 25-006**

9:30 a.m.

Friday, January 31, 2025
Council Chambers, City Hall, 2nd Floor
71 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario

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

(Tadeson/Beattie)

That the agenda for the January 31, 2025 General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting, be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mayor Andrea Horwath declared a disqualifying interest to Item 9.1, Options to Re-deploy Safe Apartment FTEs to Encampment Enforcement, as she is a landlord.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no minutes of the previous meetings.

6. DELEGATIONS

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

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

7.1 Planning and Economic Development Department - 2025 Budget Presentation

Anita Fabac, Acting Director of Planning and Chief Planner, addressed the Committee with a presentation respecting the Planning and Economic Development Department - 2025 Budget.

(Hwang/Cassar)

That the presentation respecting the Planning and Economic Development Department – 2025 Budget, be received.

CARRIED

(Beattie/Nann)

That the General Issues Committee (Budget) recess for 7 minutes until 10:50 a.m.

CARRIED

The General Issues Committee reconvened at 10:50 a.m.

7.2 Public Works Department - 2025 Budget Presentation

Carlyle Khan, General Manager of Public Works, addressed the Committee with a presentation respecting the Public Works Department - 2025 Budget.

(Nann/Kroetsch)

That the General Issues Committee (Budget) recess for 60 minutes until 1:05 p.m.

CARRIED

The General Issues Committee reconvened at 1:05 p.m.

(Pauls/Kroetsch)

That the presentation respecting the Public Works Department – 2025 Budget, be received.

CARRIED

8. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

There were no Items for Consideration.

9. MOTIONS

9.1 Options to Re-deploy Safe Apartment FTEs to Encampment Enforcement

(Danko/Francis)

WHEREAS, by Mayoral directive all departments were directed to identify efficiencies to reduce the municipal property tax rate;

WHEREAS, as part of the 2025 budget, seventeen full time staff will be added to Licensing and By-Law services compliment, and under the current direction, are dedicated to specific by-law initiatives and cannot be re-deployed to other needs;

WHEREAS, the Rental Renovation and Relocation By-Law came into effect on January 1st, 2025 and has received no applications to date and the Safe Apartment By-Law will not be in effect until January 2026;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton will no longer permit homeless tent encampments in City parks beginning March 6th, 2025;

WHEREAS, staff have been directed to report back to the General Issues Committee with recommendations for additional resources needed to clear and proactively enforce the pending restriction against homeless tent encampments in City parks;

WHEREAS, additional Municipal Law Enforcement staff will be required to enforce and maintain the pending restriction against homeless tent encampments; and,

WHEREAS, enforcement of the restriction against homeless tent encampments in City parks is a top priority for residents across the City;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That staff be directed to review options to amend the scope of duties for all staff dedicated to both the Renovation License and Relocation By-Law, the Safe Apartment Buildings By-Law and any other program specific staff to permit re-deployment to other Municipal Law Enforcement needs including but not limited to encampment enforcement and report back to the February 7, 2025 General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting.

Result: MOTION, DEFEATED by a vote of 5 to 8, as follows:

Conflict	-	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
Absent	-	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
Absent	-	Ward 14	Councillor Mike Spadafora
No	-	Ward 15	Councillor Ted McMeekin

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 2:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela McRae
Legislative Coordinator

Councillor Maureen Wilson
Chair, General Issues Committee (Budget)