



AUDIT, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES AFA 25-004

9:30 a.m.

March 20, 2025

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

Present: Councillors M. Spadafora (Chair), J. Beattie, B. Clark, T. Hwang,
C. Kroetsch, M. Tadeson, A. Wilson (virtually) and M. Wilson

Also Present: Councillor T. McMeekin

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Spadafora called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES

There were no ceremonial activities.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

(Clark/Hwang)

That the agenda for the March 20, 2025 Audit, Finance and Administration Committee meeting, be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(Clark/Tadeson)

That the Minutes of the February 27, 2025 meeting, be adopted, as presented.

CARRIED

6. DELEGATIONS

Chair M. Spadafora relinquished the Chair to Vice-Chair Beattie during the delegation from Sue Taylor, Interval House of Hamilton, respecting Supporting motion for funding to support rural women experiencing intimate partner violence/gender-based violence (Item 6.2).

6.2 Sue Taylor, Interval House of Hamilton, respecting Supporting motion for funding to support rural women experiencing intimate partner violence/gender-based violence

Sue Taylor, Interval House of Hamilton, addressed Committee respecting Supporting motion for funding to support rural women experiencing intimate partner violence/gender-based violence.

Chair Spadafora assumed the Chair.

6.1 Andrew Selman, respecting Privacy by Design and the City of Hamilton's Failure to Implement its Principles

Andrew Selman, addressed Committee respecting Privacy by Design and the City of Hamilton's Failure to Implement its Principles.

(Beattie/Hwang)

- (a) That the Delegation from Andrew Selman, respecting Privacy by Design and the City of Hamilton's Failure to Implement its Principles, be received; and
- (b) That the Delegation from Sue Taylor, Interval House of Hamilton, respecting Supporting motion for funding to support rural women experiencing intimate partner violence/gender-based violence, be received and referred to the consideration of Item 9.3, Interval Housing Funding.

CARRIED

(Hwang/Tadeson)

That Item 9.3, respecting Interval House Funding, be considered immediately following Item 6, Delegations.

CARRIED

9. MOTIONS

Chair Spadafora relinquished the Chair to Vice-Chair Beattie to introduce the following motion:

9.3 Interval House Funding

(Spadafora/Tadeson)

WHEREAS, rural women experience intimate partner violence at rates 5 times higher than rural men and 75% higher than urban women (CWF, 2022);

WHEREAS, in 2021, the rate of gender-related homicide in Canada was 2.5 times greater in rural areas compared to urban areas (1.13 versus 0.44 per 100,000 women and girls. (Sutton, 2023);

WHEREAS, there are more firearms in rural homes than in urban homes and, in Ontario, it is reported that an abuser living in a rural area is 2.5 times more likely to use a firearm to kill their partner;

WHEREAS, rural women experience more challenges when a victim of domestic violence including isolation, lack of transportation, a lack of services, cultural norms and beliefs and practices amongst rural communities;

WHEREAS, according to city data, 'about 80%' of Hamilton's land mass, close to 220,000 acres (Shaker, 2024) and approximately 68% of this land has a rural zoning;

WHEREAS, in Wards 9,10, 11, 12, 13 and 15 there are 206,950 residents with 50.9% identifying as women;

WHEREAS, the rise in the number of domestic gender violence situations has so dramatically increased that Hamilton City Council in 2023 declared intimate partner gender-violence to be a crisis;

WHEREAS, Interval House was founded in 1986 to provide a response to assist women and childhood victims of domestic gender violence;

WHEREAS, in 2009 the Flamborough Women's Resource Centre (FWRC) opened in Waterdown to support women and children experiencing intimate domestic gender-based violence in the Waterdown and Flamborough area;

WHEREAS, Interval House is recognized by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) as the lead agency for the provision of rural domestic gender abuse services in Hamilton;

WHEREAS, Interval House provides the only rural outreach to the victims of domestic gender-based violence living in the Flamborough Waterdown area, through the provision of NO charge counselling, safety planning, group program support, legal advocacy including in-court support, housing and

income navigation, employment readiness training and a mobile responses as occasionally required;

WHEREAS, in 2024, through temporary funding, the Women's Education and Rural Support (WEARS) program was piloted by Interval House Hamilton to support all rural women experiencing intimate partner violence;

WHEREAS, the WEARS program focuses on interagency collaboration, public education, professional education and advocacy outreach, with the goal of decreasing the risk of lethal harm, increasing, and making a survivor's sense of safety and well-being a priority and providing when necessary, a mobile response to a person in distress, including no-charge safety planning, counselling, access to necessary resources, transportation assistance, housing supports and legal navigation;

WHEREAS, the WEARS program works closely with Hamilton Police Services and Hamilton's child welfare system to ensure high risk women and their children are identified and provided with necessary surrounding services;

WHEREAS, since WEARS inception, the program has negotiated 14 safe spaces across Wards 9,10,11,12, 13 and 15 and remains both active and visible throughout the rural Wards;

WHEREAS, in 2025 a rural HUB will be established which WEARS and the FWRC will share space, providing a safe location to access services, including legal and housing supports. Emergency transportation assistance will also be provided to all rural women, if required, thus ensuring access to the HUB; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That a grant in the amount of \$250,000 be made available to Interval House Hamilton to facilitate the expansion of the WEARS program and hiring of rural crisis support workers for a twelve-month period, to be funded from the Former Municipality Reserve for Flamborough - Account # 108032;
- (b) That funds be exempt on a one-time basis and not be counted toward any formula that restricts regular funding from the City including the City Enrichment Fund (e.g. the City's 30% formula);
- (c) That Children's and Community Services staff be directed to incorporate key deliverables and metrics into the funding agreement with Interval House Hamilton, and work with Interval House to report back to the Emergency and Community Services Committee in Q2 of

2026 with the outcomes of this funding support and recommendations for the continuation of any additional funding for subsequent years; and,

- (d) That the General Manager, Healthy and Safe Communities, 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

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 7 to 1, as follows:

YES - Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
YES - Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
YES - Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
NO - Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
YES – ACTING CHAIR - Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
YES - Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
YES - Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
YES - Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora

Chair Spadafora assumed the Chair.

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

(Tadeson/Kroetsch)

That the following Items for Information, be received:

- 7.1 FCS25013, respecting Development Charges Complaints and Communications (City Wide)**
- 7.2 FCS23094(a), respecting Master Trust Pension Investment Performance Report as at December 31, 2023 (City Wide)**
- 7.3 FCS25007, respecting Master Trust Pension Investment Performance Report as at June 30, 2024 (City Wide)**
- 7.4 FCS25020, respecting Report of the 2024 Remuneration and Expenses as Required under Section 284 of the Municipal Act**

CARRIED

8. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

8.1 FCS25008

**Master Trust Pension Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures
(City Wide)**

(A. Wilson/Tadeson)

That Report FCS25008 dated March 20, 2025, respecting Master Trust Pension Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures, be received, and the following recommendation be approved:

- (a) That Appendix “A” to Report FCS25008, respecting the 2024 City of Hamilton Defined Benefit Pension Plans Master Trust Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures, be approved and replace the previous 2023 City of Hamilton Defined Benefit Pension Plans Master Trust Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures contained in Report FCS23098 and approved by Council on January 24, 2024; and
- (b) That report FCS25008 and Appendix “A” to Report FCS25008, respecting the 2024 City of Hamilton Defined Benefit Pension Plans Master Trust Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures, be forwarded to the HMRF/ HWRF Pension Administration Sub-Committee and to the Hamilton Street Railway Pension Advisory Committee for their information.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 7 to 0, as follows:

YES - Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
YES - Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
ABSENT - Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
YES - Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
YES -- Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
YES - Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
YES - Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
YES - CHAIR Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora

8.2 FCS25002

Reserve and Reserve Fund Policy Update (City Wide)

(M. Wilson/Clark)

That Report FCS25002, dated March 20, 2025, respecting Reserve and Reserve Fund Policy Update, be received, and the following recommendations be approved:

- (a) That the Reserve and Reserve Fund Policy, attached as Appendix “A” to Report FCS25002, be adopted.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 7 to 0, as follows:

YES - Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
YES - Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
ABSENT - Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
YES - Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
YES - Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
YES - Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
YES - Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
YES - CHAIR - Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora

8.3 Procurement Sub-Committee Minutes PSCC 25-001 (March 7, 2025)

(Kroetsch/Tadeson)

That the Minutes PSCC 25-001, being the Minutes of the Procurement Sub-Committee meeting held on March 7, 2025, be received and the recommendations therein be approved.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 7 to 0, as follows:

YES - Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
YES - Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
YES - Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
YES - Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
YES - Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
YES - Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
YES - Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
YES - CHAIR - Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora

9. MOTIONS (CONTINUED)

9.1 Ward 2 Community Grants - Q1 2025 (Ward 2)

(Kroetsch/Tadeson)

WHEREAS, the Ward 2 Community Grants program closed for Q1 on February 2, 2025 with a total of 12 applications;

WHEREAS, City staff in Financial Planning, Administration and Policy and Community Engagement - Grants reviewed the recommendations from the Ward 2 Community Grants program and found that the following were eligible;

WHEREAS, grants that are for capital infrastructure projects and are within the policy shall be funded from the Ward 2 Capital Re-investment (Area Rating) Reserve Account #108052;

WHEREAS, grants that are for programming that addresses food insecurity or student supports in Ward 2 shall be funded from the Ward 2 Non-Property Tax Revenue Account #3301609602, when possible; and

WHEREAS, the following \$38,000 in 10 individual grants represents the fulfillment of Q1 - 2025 of the Ward 2 Community Grants program, with \$25,000 from the Ward 2 Capital Discretionary Account #3302309200 and \$13,000 from the Ward 2 Non-Property Tax Revenue Account #3301609602.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That costs associated with hiring a consultant to guide a fundraising campaign to ABRAR Trauma and Mental Health Services be funded from the Ward 2 Capital Discretionary Account #3302309200 at an upset limit, not to exceed \$4,500;
- (b) That ingredients and supplies for the Golden Hearts Pantry at 226 Rebecca Street to CityHousing Hamilton be funded from the Ward 2 Non-Property Tax Revenue Account #3301609602 at an upset limit, including contingency, not to exceed \$3,000;
- (c) That equipment for their after school volleyball program to Dr. J. Edgar Davey Elementary School be funded from the Ward 2 Non-Property Tax Revenue Account #3301609602 at an upset limit, including contingency, not to exceed \$4,000;
- (d) That artists fees, equipment rentals, and promotional costs for the Frost Bites Double-Header to Hamilton Festival Theatre Company be funded from the Ward 2 Capital Discretionary Account #3302309200 at an upset limit, including contingency, not to exceed \$4,000;
- (e) That food costs associated with Ward 2 program locations to Hamilton Out of the Cold be funded from the Ward 2 Non-Property Tax Revenue Account #3301609602 at an upset limit, including contingency, not to exceed \$4,000;
- (f) That materials for Eco Home Kits that improve home energy efficiency in Ward 2 to Hamilton Wentworth Green Venture be funded from the Ward 2 Capital Discretionary Account #3302309200 at an upset limit, including contingency, not to exceed \$4,000;
- (g) That facilitators, outreach, snacks, and translator services for five newcomer community-based performance workshops to Open Heart Arts Theatre be funded from the Ward 2 Capital Discretionary Account #3302309200 at an upset limit, including contingency, not to exceed \$4,000;

- (h) That program costs associated with two McMaster Experiential Learning Placements within Ward 2 non-profit organizations to OPIRG McMaster be funded from the Ward 2 Non-Property Tax Revenue Account #3301609602 at an upset limit, including contingency, not to exceed \$2,000;
- (i) That materials for the SWAP Hamilton archive in the Hamilton Public Library archives, technology maintenance in SWAP Hamilton's digital and web-based drive, and educational and professional development programming for community members to SWAP Hamilton be funded from the Ward 2 Capital Discretionary Account #3302309200 at an upset limit, including contingency, not to exceed \$4,500;
- (j) That promotional initiatives and materials, including signage, brochure design and printing, and four branded banners to hang outside Custom House to Workers Arts & Heritage Centre be funded from Ward 2 Capital Discretionary Account #3302309200 at an upset limit, including contingency, not to exceed \$4,000;
- (k) That any funds allocated and distributed through the Ward 2 Community Grants Program be exempt on a one-time basis and not be counted toward any formula that restricts regular funding from the City including the City Enrichment Fund (e.g. the City's 30% formula); and
- (l) 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.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 7 to 0, as follows:

YES - Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
YES - Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
ABSENT - Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
YES - Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
YES- Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
YES - Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
YES - Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
YES - CHAIR - Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora

9.2 Financial Support for Sky Dragon Cooperative Redevelopment (Ward 2)

(Kroetsch/M. Wilson)

WHEREAS, Sky Dragon Cooperative is a non-profit community development organization that was founded in 2002, incorporated in 2004, and developed into a multi-use community centre in downtown Hamilton in 2005;

WHEREAS, Sky Dragon Cooperative is dedicated to nurturing and developing community projects that are socially, ecologically, and economically sustainable;

WHEREAS, Sky Dragon Cooperative is undergoing a development project to install an elevator that will make the building fully accessible, add three affordable rental housing units, and provide four large, multi-use, accessible and affordable studio spaces for use by Hamilton-based artists, wellness practitioners, community groups, non-profits, and entrepreneurs;

WHEREAS, the costs associated with this development project are significant and, as a non-profit organization, Sky Dragon Cooperative does not have sufficient funding for emerging costs; and

WHEREAS, an easement is necessary to satisfy a condition of development and that easement has been valued at \$54,000.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That costs associated with the development project to install an elevator that will make the building fully accessible, add three affordable rental housing units, and provide four large, multi-use, accessible and affordable studio spaces for use by Hamilton-based artists, wellness practitioners, community groups, non-profits, and entrepreneurs by Sky Dragon Cooperative be funded from the Ward 2 Capital Reinvestment Reserve #108052 at an upset limit, including contingency, not to exceed \$54,000; 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.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 7 to 0, as follows:

YES - Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
YES - Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
ABSENT - Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
YES - Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
YES - Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
YES - Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
YES - Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
YES - CHAIR -Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no Notices of Motion.

11. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

There were no Private and Confidential Items.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Audit, Finance and Administration Committee, adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara Bates
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk

Councillor M. Spadafora,
Chair, Audit, Finance and
Administration Committee