



**GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
(OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET)
MINUTES GICB 26-003**

9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, January 27, 2026
Council Chambers, City Hall, 2nd Floor
71 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario

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

Absent: Councillor A. Wilson - Personal

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

(Francis/Beattie)

That the agenda for the January 27, 2026 General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting, be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

4DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

Please refer to the February 11, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

**5.1 GICB 26-002
January 23, 2026**

(Kroetsch/Nann)

That the minutes of the January 23, 2026 General Issues Committee (Budget), be adopted, as presented.

CARRIED

6. DELEGATIONS

Delegations on the 2026 Budget were received on November 17, 2025 & January 19, 2026.

6.1 Written Delegations respecting the 2026 Tax Budget

(Beattie/Pauls)

That the following Written Delegations respecting the 2026 Tax Budget, be received:

(a) Viv Saunders

CARRIED

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

(i) (McMeekin/Hwang)

That the length of the presentations respecting the items for information, be extended indefinitely for today's meeting.

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 Rob Cooper
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Absent	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

Please refer to the February 11, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

7.1 Hamilton Public Library

- (i) Paul Takala, Hamilton Public Library CEO and Chief Librarian; Gagan Batra, Hamilton Public Library Board Chair; Jennifer Horwath, Hamilton Public Library Vice Chair; and Pam Byrne, Director of Finance addressed the Committee with a presentation respecting the 2026 Budget for the Hamilton Public Library.
- (ii) **(Clark/Cooper)**
That the presentation respecting the Hamilton Public Library – 2026 Budget, be received.

CARRIED

7.2 Hamilton Conservation Authority

- (i) Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer; Scott Peck, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer / Director, Watershed Management Services; and Scott Fleming, Director of Finance & Central Support Services, Hamilton Conservation Authority addressed the Committee with a presentation respecting the 2026 Budget for the Hamilton Conservation Authority.
- (ii) **(Clark/Cassar)**
That the presentation respecting the Hamilton Conservation Authority – 2026 Budget, be received.

CARRIED

7.3 Hamilton Board of Health

- (i) Councillor Cameron Kroetsch, Hamilton Board of Health Chair, introduced Dr. Elizabeth Richardson who addressed the Committee with a presentation respecting the 2026 Budget for the Hamilton Board of Health.
 - (ii) **(Kroetsch/Jackson)**
That the presentation respecting the Hamilton Board of Health – 2026 Budget, be received.
- (ii) **(Pauls/Jackson)**
That the General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting recess for 5 minutes until 12:17 p.m.

CARRIED

CARRIED

The General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting reconvened at 12:20 p.m.

7.4 Hamilton Police Services Board

- (i) Don Robertson, Chair Hamilton Police Services; and Police Chief Frank Bergen, addressed the Committee with a presentation respecting the 2026 Budget for the Hamilton Police Services Board.
- (ii) **(Pauls/Kroetsch)**
That the presentation respecting the Hamilton Police Services Board – 2026 Budget, be received.

CARRIED

- (iii) **(Hwang/Cassar)**
That the General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting recess for 13 minutes until 3:00 p.m.

CARRIED

The General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting reconvened at 3:02 p.m.

- (iv) **(McMeekin/Clark)**
That the following Items for Information, be received:

7.5 Conservation Halton

7.6 Grand River Conservation Authority

7.7 Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

CARRIED

7.8 Hamilton Beach Rescue

(Francis/Jackson)

That the Hamilton Beach Rescue 2026 Budget submission, be received.

CARRIED

7.9 Hamilton Farmers' Market

(Kroetsch/Nann)

That the Hamilton Farmers' Market 2026 Budget submission, be received.

CARRIED

7.10 Royal Botanical Gardens

(Kroetsch/Hwang)

That the Royal Botanical Gardens 2026 Budget submission, be received.

CARRIED

8. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

There were no Items for Consideration.

9. MOTIONS

9.1 Use of Red Light Camera and Former Automated Speed Enforcement Revenues to Support Vision Zero Initiatives

(Francis/Jackson)

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton is committed to the principles of Vision Zero, aiming to eliminate serious injuries and fatalities through coordinated efforts in engineering, education, and enforcement;

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Police Service supports this work through its Traffic Safety Unit and ongoing collaboration with City staff under the Strategic Road Safety Program;

WHEREAS, the Province of Ontario has discontinued the Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) program, removing an important tool used by municipalities to improve road safety;

WHEREAS, the City continues to generate revenues from the Red Light Camera (RLC) program and Provincial Offences Act (POA) revenues, and may have remaining or unallocated funds from the discontinued ASE program;

WHEREAS, if not directed toward specific initiatives, these funds may remain unallocated within reserves rather than being applied strategically to improve road safety outcomes; and,

WHEREAS, redirecting a portion of these revenues toward enhanced road safety initiatives could further the City's Vision Zero objectives, including enforcement, education, and community safety programs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff be directed to report to the General Issues Committee in Q1 2026 with the updated Red Light Camera Reserve forecast and any remaining or unallocated Automated Speed Enforcement-related balances to assess available funding for the City's Vision Zero Action Plan;
- (b) That subject to available funds, staff collaborate with the Hamilton Police Service to develop a zero new tax levy impact business case for enhanced enforcement, education, and road safety initiatives, including related costs and anticipated recoveries; and,

Please refer to the February 11, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

- (c) That the potential for a business case for enhanced enforcement, education, and road safety initiatives, be presented to City Council for consideration in Q2 2026.

The mover WITHDREW the motion.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillor Francis introduced the following Notice of Motion:

10.1 Hamilton Beach Rescue Review

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Beach Rescue Unit has historically received a property tax bill that is then covered by the City, and it is prudent to review whether this approach remains the most effective;

WHEREAS, future capital and renewal needs have been identified;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVED:

- (a) That city staff meet with Hamilton Beach Rescue to review future forecasts and ensure future budgets and reserves for renewal are adequate; and,
- (b) That city staff review the feasibility and practicality of deeming Hamilton Beach rescue facilities as municipal capital facilities, and report back.

11. PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

There were no Private & Confidential Items.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the General Issues Committee (Budget) adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela McRae
Legislative Coordinator

Councillor Maureen Wilson
Chair, General Issues Committee (Budget)