



**GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
(OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET)
MINUTES GICB 26-002**

9:30 a.m.

Friday, January 23, 2026
Council Chambers, City Hall, 2nd Floor
71 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario

Present: Mayor A. Horwath (Virtually)
Councillors M. Wilson (Chair), J. Beattie, C. Cassar, B. Clark, R. Cooper,
M. Francis, T. Hwang, T. Jackson, C. Kroetsch, T. McMeekin,
N. Nann (Virtually), 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 9:43 a.m.

2. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES

There were no ceremonial activities.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

(A. Wilson/Beattie)

That the agenda for the January 23, 2026 General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting, be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

**5.1 GICB 26-001
January 19, 2026**

(McMeekin/Cassar)

That the minutes of the January 19, 2026 General Issues Committee (Budget), be adopted, as presented.

CARRIED

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

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

(Jackson/Pauls)

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

- (a) Christopher Stanton
- (b) Gabriel Nicholson

CARRIED

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

(i) (Jackson/Tadeson)

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

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 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
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

7.1 Economic Overview

- (i) Mike Zegarac, General Manager of Finance & Corporate Services, introduced Andrew Grantham, Executive Director and Senior Economist, Capital Markets, CIBC who provided Committee with a presentation on the Economic Overview.

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

(ii) (Tadeson/Beattie)

That the presentation respecting the Economic Overview, be received.

CARRIED

7.2 & Mayor's Memorandum - 2026 Proposed Tax Budget

7.3 FCS26001

2026 Tax Budget Overview (City Wide)

(i) Marnie Cluckie, City Manager, provided opening remarks and introduced Mike Zegarac, General Manager of Finance & Corporate Services, who provided the Committee with a presentation respecting Report FSC26001, 2026 Tax Budget Overview.

(ii) (Kroetsch/Spadafora)

That the General Issues Committee (Budget) recess for 31 minutes until 1:27 p.m.

CARRIED

(iii) Mayor's Memorandum - 2026 Proposed Tax Budget (Item 7.2)

(Hwang/Cassar)

That the Mayor's Memorandum - 2026 Proposed Tax Budget (Item 7.2), be received.

Result: MOTION on Item 7.2, DEFEATED by a vote of 5 to 11, as follows:

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

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

(iv) **FCS26001**
2026 Tax Budget Overview (City Wide) (Item 7.3)

(Hwang/Cassar)

That Report FCS26001, and the staff presentation respecting the 2026 Tax Budget Overview (Item 7.3), be received.

Result: MOTION on Item 7.3, DEFEATED by a vote of 6 to 10, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
No	-	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 Rob Cooper
No	-	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
No	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

8. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

There were no Items for Consideration.

9. MOTIONS

There were no Motions.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no Notices of Motions.

11. PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

There were no Private & Confidential Items.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the General Issues Committee (Budget) adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Angela McRae
Legislative Coordinator

Councillor Maureen Wilson
Chair, General Issues Committee (Budget)