



**GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
(OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET)
MINUTES GICB 26-007**

9:30 a.m.

Friday, February 6, 2026
Council Chambers, City Hall, 2nd Floor
71 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario

Present: Mayor A. Horwath
Councillors M. Wilson (Chair), J. Beattie, C. Cassar, B. Clark, R. Cooper,
M. Francis, T. Hwang, 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

(Kroetsch/Pauls)

That the agenda for the February 6, 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

(a) (Cassar/Francis)

That the following minutes of the General Issues Committee (Budget), be adopted, as presented:

Please refer to the February 19, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

**5.1 GICB 26-005
January 29, 2026**

**5.2 GICB 26-006
January 30, 2026**

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 Operating Budget

(Nann/Francis)

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

- 6.1(a) Mark Daly
- 6.1(b) Heino Doessing
- 6.1(c) David Ashby
- 6.1(d) Antoinette Fiorino
- 6.1(e) Nella Pietrantuono
- 6.1(f) Connor Bramwell
- 6.1(g) Joey Gazzola
- 6.1(h) Anna Chlebowska
- 6.1(i) Christine Hamilton
- 6.1(j) Nitu Jhuty
- 6.1(k) Daryl Kay
- 6.1(l) Roy De Matos
- 6.1(m) Renata Radikovic
- 6.1(n) Sean & Lorraine Callaghan
- 6.1(o) Nick Diorio
- 6.1(p) Christine Durham
- 6.1(q) Trina Sager
- 6.1(r) Rob Diemer
- 6.1(s) Kristina Marinucci
- 6.1(t) Robert Wagner
- 6.1(u) Amy Canton
- 6.1(v) Viv Saunders
- 6.1(w) Alex Smith
- 6.1(x) A&S Saunders
- 6.1(y) Brent Hashimoto
- 6.1(z) Katherine Kupis
- 6.1(aa) Steve Collura
- 6.1(ab) Joey Spadafora
- 6.1(ac) Rebekah Roy

Please refer to the February 19, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

6.1(ad)	Kristine Banakiewicz
6.1(ae)	Jillian Lamanes
6.1(af)	Alex Guthro
6.1(ag)	Laurie Whitely
6.1(ah)	James Quinn
6.1(ai)	Lyn Folkes
6.1(aj)	Jess Atkinson
6.1(ak)	Alison Pipe
6.1(al)	John Alexander
6.1(am)	Melissa Casimirri
6.1(an)	David Hitchcock
6.1(ao)	Alissa Harvey
6.1(ap)	Steve Chalastra
6.1(aq)	Deborah Turner
6.1(ar)	Ian DiFeo
6.1(as)	Erin Shacklette
6.1(at)	Andrea Phair
6.1(au)	Kim Madden
6.1(av)	Jon Davey
6.1(aw)	Erin Culhane
6.1(ax)	Ilana Alice
6.1(ay)	Mark Anderson
6.1(az)	Miriam Sager
6.1(ba)	John O'Connor
6.1(bb)	Ellen Wall
6.1(bc)	Doris Sanchez
6.1(bd)	Jill Tonini Relton
6.1(be)	Stephanie Weiler, Ottawa Street BIA
6.1(bf)	Susan Pennie, Waterdown Village BIA
6.1(bg)	Heather Peter, Ancaster Village BIA
6.1(bh)	Jared Aultman
6.1(bi)	Susie Braithwaite, International Village BIA
6.1(bj)	Emily Walsh, Downtown Hamilton BIA
6.1(bk)	Sarah Van Berkel
6.1(bl)	Jen Baker, Hamilton Naturalists' Club
6.1(bm)	Dave Tayler, Downtown Dundas BIA
6.1(bn)	Nadine Ubl, Barton Village BIA
6.1(bo)	Bethany Miller & Scott Davidson
6.1(bp)	Andrew Vermeer
6.1(bq)	Tracy MacKinnon, Westdale Village BIA, Stoney Creek BIA, and Locke Street BIA
6.1(br)	Claud Spadafora
6.1(bs)	Dave Carson
6.1(bt)	Sarah Wakefield
6.1(bu)	Lee DiFeo
6.1(bv)	Peter Appleton
6.1(bw)	Tamara Bootsma
6.1(bx)	Pauline Prowse

Please refer to the February 19, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

6.1(by)	Valerie Cousens
6.1(bz)	Lois Corey
6.1(ca)	Colina Phillips
6.1(cb)	Seth Floyd
6.1(cc)	Jean Jacobs
6.1(cd)	Anne Washington
6.1(ce)	Bill Kurelek
6.1(cf)	Neal Bonnor
6.1(cg)	Mary Love
6.1(ch)	Arielle Lessard
6.1(ci)	Margaret Trembly
6.1(cj)	Gail Faveri
6.1(ck)	Sue Markey
6.1(cl)	Claudia Wong
6.1(cm)	Peter Elmer
6.1(cn)	Lyn Mallay
6.1(co)	Areeb Iqbal
6.1(cp)	Alyssa Mawji
6.1(cq)	Fauve Luca
6.1(cr)	Rose Janson
6.1(cs)	Tracie Daigle
6.1(ct)	Mark Chamberlain
6.1(cu)	Meaghan Davis
6.1(cv)	Emily Gwynn-Batth
6.1(cw)	Alyssa Francella
6.1(cx)	Richard Carter
6.1(cy)	Hilary Lyttle
6.1(cz)	Alexandra Sanderson
6.1(da)	Michaela Roy
6.1(db)	Ethan Patterson
6.1(dc)	David Krysko
6.1(dd)	Kayla Carmichael
6.1(de)	Howard Cole
6.1(df)	Robin Cameron
6.1(dg)	Verena Walter
6.1(dh)	Alexandra Smith

CARRIED

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

**7.1 Correspondence from Pamela Byrne and Paul Takala, Hamilton
Public Library - REVISED**

(Kroetsch/McMeekin)

That the Correspondence from Pamela Byrne and Paul Takala, Hamilton
Public Library - REVISED, be received.

CARRIED

Please refer to the February 19, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

**7.2 FCS26034
Service Mitigation Measures (City Wide)**

(i) (Kroetsch/Hwang)

- (a) That Memorandum FCS26034, respecting Service Mitigation Measures (City Wide), be received; and
- (b) That Confidential Appendix “B” to Memorandum FCS26034, respecting Service Mitigation Measures (City Wide) (Item 11.1), be received and remain confidential.

(ii) (Clark/Beattie)

That consideration of Memorandum FCS26034, respecting Service Mitigation Measures (City Wide) (Item 7.2) and Confidential Appendix “B” to Memorandum FCS26034, respecting Service Mitigation Measures (City Wide) (Item 11.1), be DEFERRED until after Closed Session.

CARRIED

8. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

There were no Items for Consideration.

9. MOTIONS

9.1 Contingency Allocations for 2026 Public Works Tax Levy Funded Capital Projects - REVISED

(Tadeson/Beattie)

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton includes contingency allowances within capital project budgets to manage delivery risk and cost uncertainty;

WHEREAS, staff have reviewed the 2026 Public Works tax-funded capital program budget and confirmed that a 3% contingency reduction for projects valued between \$100,000 and \$2,000,000 is technically feasible within the current budget framework;

WHEREAS, Public Works Report PW25088, including Appendix “A”, was prepared in response to a motion brought forward by Councillor Tadeson on February 12, 2025, and presents an analysis of applied versus actual contingency usage for completed Public Works capital projects based on available 2024 and first-half 2025 financial data;

WHEREAS, Appendix “A” of Report PW25088 indicates that for Public Works capital projects with contract values of \$100,001 to \$300,000, the average applied contingency rate was 12%, while the average actual contingency rate spent was 3%;

Please refer to the February 19, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

WHEREAS, Appendix “A” of Report PW25088 indicates that for Public Works capital projects with contract values of \$300,001 to \$1,000,000, the average applied contingency rate was 10%, while the average actual contingency rate spent was 4%;

WHEREAS, Appendix “A” of Report PW25088 indicates that for Public Works capital projects with contract values of \$1,000,001 to \$2,000,000, the average applied contingency rate was 12%, while the average actual contingency rate spent was 1%;

WHEREAS, Appendix “A” of Report PW25088 demonstrates that actual contingency usage for completed Public Works capital projects was consistently much lower than applied contingency rates across multiple project value ranges; and

WHEREAS, applying a 3% contingency reduction to eligible 2026 Public Works tax-funded capital projects is estimated to generate approximately \$593,000 in available funding capacity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Proposed 2026 Tax Budget BE AMENDED as follows:
 - (i) That staff BE DIRECTED to implement a 3% reduction in contingency allocations for 2026 Public Works tax levy funded capital projects valued between \$100,000 and \$2,000,000;
 - (ii) That the proposed 2026 Tax Capital Levy **BE REDUCED** by \$593,000;
 - (iii) That staff **BE DIRECTED** to monitor and report on average actual contingency usage, including comparison against historical usage patterns identified in Public Works Report PW25088; and,
 - (iv) That staff **BE DIRECTED** to report back to Council by Q3 2026 on realized financial impacts, material cost trends, and any operational considerations arising from implementation.

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

Please refer to the February 19, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

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

9.2 Extension of Non-Residential Blue Box Collection

(Kroetsch/Nann)

WHEREAS, the Province of Ontario's new Blue Box Regulation (O. Reg. 391/21) establishes updated eligibility criteria for properties receiving blue box collection services;

WHEREAS, under the transition to the new producer responsibility Blue Box Program, certain property types such as industrial, commercial, institutional, are considered non-eligible and do not qualify for coordinated blue box collection under Blue Box Regulation (O. Reg. 391/21);

WHEREAS, the Province's decision to deem certain property types as non-eligible has meant the costs of collecting commercial recycling are being downloaded directly to business owners at a time when many are struggling financially and cannot take on additional costs, especially not without adequate notice and a robust transition program;

WHEREAS, through Report PW25046, City Council approved the continued collection of blue box materials from noneligible properties as defined under Blue Box Regulation (O. Reg. 391/21) for the period of January 1, 2026, to March 31, 2026, with the program funded through Waste Management Reserve #112270 at an estimated cost of \$706,000;

WHEREAS, through Report PW25046 City Council approved that the annual funding requirement for 2026 for the continued collection of blue box materials from non-eligible properties as defined under Blue Box Regulation (O. Reg. 391/21), in the amount of \$2,824,000, be considered as part of the 2026 Tax Budget and aligned with the City's current waste collection contract, which remains in effect until March 31, 2029;

WHEREAS, the continuation of blue box collection services for noneligible properties for the time period of April 1 to December 31, 2026, was identified and submitted by staff as a budget mitigation item for Council's consideration totalling \$2,118,000;

Please refer to the February 19, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

WHEREAS, adding this cost to the tax levy would see an increase of 0.17%, which would raise the current average residential tax impact from 4.25% to 4.42%;

WHEREAS, using the Tax Stabilization Reserve to allow for a transition through 2026 would not directly impact the tax levy;

WHEREAS, By-law No. 20-221, Provide for and Regulate a Waste Management System for the City of Hamilton establishes the procedures, responsibilities, and standards for residents, businesses, and institutions to participate in approved waste management programs;

WHEREAS, when the Province made the decision to deem certain property types ineligible it forbid the mingling of commercial and residential recycling;

WHEREAS, the impact of not being able to collect both commercial and residential recycling together in the same collection vehicle drove the cost to collect commercial recycling up by nearly six times, from approximately \$473k to \$2.824m;

WHEREAS, City staff continue to work with other municipalities and industry associations to advocate for changes to the regulation as it relates to non-eligible sources;

WHEREAS, the approximately 2,500 commercial properties that depend on this service will not have adequate time to procure private collection or work together in groups to secure more favourable pricing as this will be an additional unanticipated cost into the future; and

WHEREAS, providing these commercial properties additional time through the remainder of this year to work with City staff, others in the business community, and private recycling providers is a fiscally responsible way to address the impacts of the Province's decision to increase the costs of this service.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Proposed 2026 Tax Supported Budget **BE AMENDED** as follows:
 - (i) That blue box collection services provided by the City of Hamilton for non-eligible properties currently receiving this service **BE CONTINUED** starting April 1, 2026, until December 31, 2026, at an estimated cost of \$2,118,000;
 - (ii) That funding to continue blue box collections services as outlined in (a) come from the Tax Stabilization Reserve

Please refer to the February 19, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

(110046) and that the 2026-2027 Reserve Financing Strategy, Appendix E to Report FSC26001, **BE AMENDED** to reflect this change; and

- (iii) That staff **BE DIRECTED** to develop a robust plan, including appropriate tools and supports, to assist non-eligible properties to successfully transition to private blue box collection services beginning January 1, 2027.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 14 to 1, 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
No	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Absent	-	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

9.3 Adjustment to the Hamilton Public Library Board of Directors Budget

(Kroetsch/McMeekin)

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Public Library submitted an overall budget increase of \$1,967,784;

WHEREAS, the Mayoral Directive on the budget to cap the increase at 4.25% or \$1,594,734;

WHEREAS, the additional \$373,050 requested by the Hamilton Public Library Board of Directors, and approved at its most recent meeting, will enable us the Hamilton Public Library to maintain its current service levels while it continues to face social pressures impacting its operations; and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Public Library has decreased its full time staffing complement since amalgamation, with a net increase of only one FTE in 2026, which is being done to add resources to help with procurement and financial oversight.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

Please refer to the February 19, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

- (a) That the Proposed 2026 Tax Budget **BE AMENDED** as follows:
- (i) That the proposed Hamilton Public Library budget **BE AMENDED** to add an additional \$373,050 from the levy, bringing the Hamilton Public Library budget to \$39,449,273 representing a (5.25%) increase.

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

No	-	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
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
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

9.4 Adjustment to the Hamilton Farmers' Market Board of Directors Budget

(Kroetsch/Hwang)

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Farmers' Market submitted an overall budget increase of \$58,640;

WHEREAS, the increase of \$58,640 will allow the Hamilton Farmers' Market's to meet its current challenges including additional security, employee costs related to increased programming and marketing, and capital improvements to meet its Council approved vision;

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Farmers' Market has continued to work with the Hamilton Public Library to cost share for expenses related to additional security;

WHEREAS, costing for additional security was not available at the time of budget submission and is projected to be higher than originally projected by \$25,000; and

WHEREAS, adding this cost to the tax levy would see an increase of 0.002%, which would keep the current average residential tax impact at 4.25%.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Proposed 2026 Tax Budget **BE AMENDED** as follows:
 - (i) That the proposed Hamilton Farmers' Market budget **BE AMENDED** to add an additional \$25,000 from the levy, bringing the Hamilton Farmer's Market budget to \$426,260, representing a (24.4%) increase.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 15 to 1, 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
No	-	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

9.5 Deferral of Bike Facilities Crossing Red Hill Valley Parkway Project

(Francis/Pauls)

WHEREAS, the General Issues Committee on September 11, 2025, received Report FCS25036 – 2026 Budget and Financing Plan Outlook;

WHEREAS, members of Council may propose amendments to the Proposed 2026 Tax Supported Budget;

WHEREAS, the implementation of bike lanes on King Street between Potruff and Glencarry (approx.) across the Red Hill Valley Parkway was initially identified in the 2018 Cycling Master Plan to address an existing gap in the network;

Please refer to the February 19, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

WHEREAS, a feasibility study and functional design has been prepared for this project and based on current implementation plans, the project is scheduled for delivery in 2027;

WHEREAS, as part of the 2025 Tax Capital Budget \$706,580 was forecasted for 2026 to support implementation (Project ID 466240404 Bike Facilities Crossing RHVP); and

WHEREAS, given that the project has not advanced to the tender stage and there are no contractual impacts of deferring the project implementation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Proposed 2026 Tax Budget **BE AMENDED** as follows:
 - (i) That the 2026 Capital Levy **BE REDUCED** by \$706,580, to reflect the deferral of Project ID 4662420404 Bike Facilities Crossing RHVP to the 2027 budget process.

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

9.6 Grass Cutting Mitigation Measures

- (i) **(Jackson/Clark)**
WHEREAS, Appendix H to Report FCS26001 included a mitigation measure related to grass cutting urban right of way representing a levy reduction of \$105,000; and

Please refer to the February 19, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

WHEREAS, Appendix H to Report FCS26001 included a mitigation measure related to grass cutting on City Owned and Non-City Owned lands representing a levy reduction of \$250,000.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Proposed 2026 Tax Budget **BE AMENDED** as follows:
 - (i) That the proposed 2026 Tax Budget **BE AMENDED** to add an additional \$105,000 from the levy, to reinstate the urban right of way maintenance;
 - (ii) That staff **BE DIRECTED** to document occurrences in the 2026 season when scheduled grass cutting in the urban right-of-way was not technically required as a result of slow growth or dormancy, to support analysis of potential budget mitigation opportunities for the 2027 budget process;
 - (iii) That the proposed 2026 Tax Budget **BE AMENDED** to add an additional \$250,000 for grass cutting on City Owned and Non-City Own Lands; and
 - (iv) That staff **BE DIRECTED** to review opportunities for ecological restoration in areas currently mowed with each Ward Councillor, to be brought forward for potential savings during the 2027 budget process.
- (ii) **(Tadeson/M. Wilson)**
That the Motion respecting Grass Cutting Mitigation Measures, BE DEFERRED to the February 13, 2026 General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting for consideration.

Result: DEFERRAL MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 9 to 7, 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 Rob Cooper
No	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
No	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson

Please refer to the February 19, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

Yes - Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes - Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
No - Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes - Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

9.7 Increase to the City Enrichment Fund Budget

(i) (Kroetsch/Nann)

WHEREAS, the City Enrichment Fund (CEF) is the overall name for the City of Hamilton's investment in a wide range of areas that support the City's strategic plan and Council Priorities;

WHEREAS, organizations funded by CEF deliver resident services and programs across all wards that make a noticeable difference in our city;

WHEREAS, in 2023, Council approved an 8% increase to the overall City Enrichment Fund in an effort to meet the community need and increasing requests;

WHEREAS, at that same time, Council directed staff to bring forward proposed increases for consideration for the years 2024 to 2028 with a goal of reaching a total CEF budget of \$9,661,430 by 2028;

WHEREAS, since 2023 community need continues to increase with CEF applications and total requests increasing by 38% and 44%, respectively;

WHEREAS, in 2024, Council approved the Council Referred Item (CRI), an 8% increase of \$526,033 as part of the 2024 Tax Budget;

WHEREAS, in 2025, Council approved the CRI, an 9.4% increase of \$668,143 as part of the 2025 Tax Budget;

WHEREAS, the 2026 Proposed Tax Budget included a CEF budget at the same 2025 level of \$6,769,531;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

(a) That the Proposed 2026 Tax Budget **BE AMENDED** as follows:

(i) That the Proposed 2026 City Enrichment Fund budget **BE INCREASED** by \$541,562, bringing the City Enrichment Fund budget to \$7,311,093.

- (ii) **(Clark/Cooper)**
That the Question be Called.

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 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
No	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

(iii) Motion Results

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

No	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
No	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	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 Rob Cooper
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

Please refer to the February 19, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

9.8 No More Free Lunches For The Council

(i) (Clark/Cooper)

WHEREAS, the city funded lunch/meal program for elected members and the senior leadership team continues for the Planning Committee, General Issues Committee and Council;

WHEREAS, only four Councillors have voluntarily opted out;

WHEREAS, the city of Hamilton employs over 9,000 staff who bring or buy their own meals; and

WHEREAS, elected members and the senior leadership team are all on the sunshine list earning six figures.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

(a) That the Proposed 2026 Tax Budget **BE AMENDED** as follows:

(i) That the proposed Legislative budget **BE REDUCED** by \$25,780, reflecting the cessation of funding of meals for elected members and the senior leadership team during Committee and Council meeting, reducing the Legislative Department budget to \$7,922,526.

(ii) (Horwath/Jackson)

That the Motion respecting No More Free Lunches For The Council, BE DEFERRED to the February 13, 2026 General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting for consideration to allow staff to prepare a report for Council regarding impacts of such a change including but not limited to potential scheduling changes necessary for Committee and Council meetings to incorporate breaks for meals, productivity implications, and any other relevant information to assist in our decision making, including costing where applicable.

(iii) (Clark/Cooper)

That DEFERRAL Motion, **be amended**, to include further direction to staff, as follows:

That staff include in their report back how the 9,000 employees work an 8 hour day and still manage to get lunch.

Result: AMENDMENT TO THE DEFERRAL MOTION, DEFEATED by a vote of 3 to 13, as follows:

No - Mayor Andrea Horwath
No - Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson

Please refer to the February 19, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

No	-	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
Yes	-	Ward 7	Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8	Councillor Rob Cooper
Yes	-	Ward 9	Councillor Brad Clark
No	-	Ward 10	Councillor Jeff Beattie
No	-	Ward 11	Councillor Mark Tadeson
No	-	Ward 12	Councillor Craig Cassar
No	-	Ward 13	Councillor Alex Wilson
No	-	Ward 14	Councillor Mike Spadafora
No	-	Ward 15	Councillor Ted McMeekin

Result: MAIN DEFERRAL 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
Yes	-	Ward 5	Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6	Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7	Councillor Esther Pauls
No	-	Ward 8	Councillor Rob Cooper
No	-	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
Yes	-	Ward 14	Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15	Councillor Ted McMeekin

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no Notices of Motion.

(a) (Cooper/Pauls)

That the General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting recess for 32 minutes until 1:30 p.m.

CARRIED

The General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Please refer to the February 19, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

11. PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

(i) (Nann/Tadeson)

That Committee move into Closed Session for Item 11.1 at 1:30 p.m. pursuant to Section 9.3, Sub-Section (d) of the City's Procedural By-law 21-021, as amended, and Section 239(2), Sub-section (d) of the *Ontario Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended, as the subject matter pertains to labour relations or employee negotiations.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 13 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
Absent	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Absent	-	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
Absent	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

The General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting reconvened in Open Session at 2:07 p.m.

7.1 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

7.2 & FCS26034

11.1 Service Mitigation Measures (City Wide)

(Hwang/Francis)

- (a) That Report FCS26034, respecting Service Mitigation Measures (City Wide) (Item 7.2), be received; and
- (b) That Confidential Appendix "B" to Report FCS26034, respecting Service Mitigation Measures (City Wide) (Item 11.1), be received and remain confidential.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 15 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson

Please refer to the February 19, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

Absent	-	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

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the General Issues Committee (Budget) adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Trennum
City Clerk

Councillor Maureen Wilson
Chair, General Issues Committee (Budget)