

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

General Issues Committee (Budget): February 13, 2026

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR C. CASSAR.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR.....

2026 Tax Budget Amendments - Discretionary Development Charge Exemptions

WHEREAS, Council recognizes affordability concerns in the community;

WHEREAS, the Mayor directed staff through MDI-2025-01 to prepare a proposed Hold the Line tax budget targeting a maximum increase of 4.25%, ensuring that critical infrastructure investments (like roads, transit, and water/wastewater), community safety and well-being priorities (like public safety initiatives, recreation centers and programming, parks, sports fields and housing), and the service levels Hamiltonians rely on, are not compromised; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton Taxpayers remain burdened with a shortfall in historical discretionary tax supported development charge exemptions incurred from 2013 to 2020 and the proposed 2026 Tax Budget recommends the continuation of a multi-year phase-in strategy to cover the shortfall;

WHEREAS, Hamilton taxpayers are also burdened with historical underfunding in our capital assets that have left many of them - such as our roads - in an unsatisfactory state of disrepair;

WHEREAS, the Corporate Asset Management office estimates the 10-year spending gap for our asset management plan at \$5.2B and Council has adopted a capital investment plan to close the spending gap over 10 years for core assets and 25 years for non-core assets;

WHEREAS, there may be opportunities to delay, cancel, or otherwise remove funding from asset management plans, tangible capital projects, or program reserves that could reduce the tax burden but would impact the lives of residents or the ability of the city to achieve its corporate goals; and,

WHEREAS, amending the time horizon to complete funding for unfunded DC exemptions would reduce the burden on the 2026 tax levy without affecting services or capital investment plans,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposed 2026 Capital Levy **BE REDUCED** by \$3 million, reflecting a deferral of the funding of historical Development Charge exemptions to the 2027 budget process.