



GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE MINUTES - GIC 26-004

9:30 a.m.

March 25, 2026

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

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

Absent: Councillor M. Spadafora - Personal

1. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor J. Beattie called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES

There were no ceremonial activities.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

(McMeekin/Pauls)

That the agenda for the March 25, 2026 General Issues Committee 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 GIC 26-004 February 25, 2026

(Cooper/Kroetsch)

That the February 25, 2026 minutes of the General Issues Committee, be adopted, as presented.

CARRIED

Please refer to the April 1, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

6. DELEGATIONS

6.1 Dr. Zobia Jawed, Clean Air Hamilton, to present the 2022 and 2023 Progress report for Clean Air Hamilton (Virtually)

The delegate was not present when called upon.

6.2 Aynur Izzettin, Beef Farmers of Ontario, respecting how Ontario's beef farmers are advancing environmental sustainability through responsible land stewardship, innovation, and climate-smart practices (In-Person)

Aynur Izzettin and Jennifer Kyle, Beef Farmers of Ontario, addressed the Committee respecting how Ontario's beef farmers are advancing environmental sustainability through responsible land stewardship, innovation, and climate-smart practices.

6.3 Kelly Oucharek, respecting the City's emergency warming strategy (In-Person)

(i) Kelly Oucharek, addressed the Committee respecting the City's emergency warming strategy.

(ii) **(Pauls/Cooper)**

That the delegate be provided with an additional 2.5 minutes to complete their delegation.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 12 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
Absent	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Absent	-	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
Absent	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

Please refer to the April 1, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

(i) (Kroetsch/Pauls)

That the following delegations, be received:

- (1)** Aynur Izzettin and Jennifer Kyle, Beef Farmers of Ontario, respecting how Ontario's beef farmers are advancing environmental sustainability through responsible land stewardship, innovation, and climate-smart practices (Item 6.2).
- (2)** Kelly Oucharek, respecting the City's emergency warming strategy (Item 6.3)

CARRIED

6.4 Lori-Anne Gagne, Victoria Park Community Homes respecting Report HSC26016, Removal of Certain Consents for Part VII.1 Housing Providers (City Wide) (Item 8.8) (In-Person)

- (i)** Lori-Anne Gagne, Victoria Park Community Homes, addressed the Committee respecting Report HSC26016, Removal of Certain Consents for Part VII.1 Housing Providers (City Wide) (Item 8.8).
- (ii) (Horwath/M. Wilson)**
That the delegation from Lori-Anne Gagne, Victoria Park Community Homes respecting Report HSC26016, Removal of Certain Consents for Part VII.1 Housing Providers (City Wide) (Item 8.8), be received.

CARRIED

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

7.1 Climate Change Advisory Committee Annual Update

- (i)** Beatrice Ekwa Ekoko, Project Manager, Climate Change Initiatives introduced Ian Borsuk and Gaby Kalapos, Co-Chairs of the Climate Change Advisory Committee who provided Committee with a presentation respecting the Climate Change Advisory Committee Annual Update.
- (ii) (Cassar/Kroetsch)**
That the Climate Change Advisory Committee Annual Update, be received.

CARRIED

(i) (A. Wilson/Pauls)

That the following Items for Information, be received:

- 7.2 CCAC 25-010
Climate Change Advisory Committee Minutes - December 9, 2026**

Please refer to the April 1, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

**7.3 TARC 26-001
Transit Area Rating Review Sub-Committee - No Quorum Minutes -
March 2, 2026**

CARRIED

**7.4 HSC26022
Health Impacts of Exposure to Elevated Total Reduced Sulphur
Compounds (Ward 9)**

(Clark/Beattie)

That Report HSC26022, respecting Health Impacts of Exposure to Elevated Total Reduced Sulphur Compounds (Ward 9), be received.

CARRIED

**7.5 PED26035
Draft Waterfall Destination Master Plan (City Wide)**

(i) Lisa Abbott, Director, Tourism and Culture introduced Tamara McCarthy and Drew Wensley, from MT Planners who provided Committee with a presentation respecting Report PED26035, Draft Waterfall Destination Master Plan (City Wide).

(ii) (A. Wilson/Cooper)

That Report PED26035, Draft Waterfall Destination Master Plan (City Wide), and the accompanying presentation, be received.

CARRIED

**7.6 FCS26014
2025 Assessment Growth (City Wide)**

(Clark/Jackson)

That Report FCS26014, respecting 2025 Assessment Growth (City Wide), be received.

CARRIED

**7.7 HSC26023
Emergency Warming Centre Operation at Bennetto Community Centre
(City Wide)**

(i) (Kroetsch/Pauls)

That Report HSC26023, respecting Emergency Warming Centre Operation at Bennetto Community Centre (City Wide), be received.

(ii) Deputy Mayor J. Beattie recessed the meeting at 12:54 p.m. until 1:24 p.m.

The General Issues Committee reconvened at 1:24 p.m.

Please refer to the April 1, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

- (iii) That Report HSC26023, respecting Emergency Warming Centre Operation at Bennetto Community Centre (City Wide), be received.

CARRIED

7.7(a) Correspondence respecting Report HSC26023, Emergency Warming Centre Operation at Bennetto Community Centre (City Wide) (Item 7.7)

(Nann/Kroetsch)

That the following correspondence respecting Report HSC26023, Emergency Warming Centre Operation at Bennetto Community Centre (City Wide) (Item 7.7), be received:

- 7.7(a)(i) Chris Merkus

CARRIED

8. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

8.1 Business Improvement Areas 2026 Budget and Schedule of Payments

(Nann/Kroetsch)

That Items 8.1(a) through 8.1(c), 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 8.9 and 8.10 be approved, as follows:

**(i) PED26023
Westdale Village Business Improvement Area 2026 Budget and Schedule of Payments (Ward 1) (Item 8.1(a))**

That Report PED26023, dated March 25, 2026, respecting Westdale Village Business Improvement Area 2026 Budget and Schedule of Payments (Ward 1), be received and the following recommendations be approved:

- (a) That the 2026 proposed budget of the Westdale Village Business Improvement Area, attached as Appendix A to Report PED25258, in the amount of \$179,603 BE APPROVED;
- (b) That the levy portion of the 2026 proposed budget of the Westdale Village Business Improvement Area, in the amount of \$179,603, BE APPROVED;
- (c) That the General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services BE AUTHORIZED and DIRECTED to prepare the requisite By-law pursuant to Section 208, the Municipal Act, 2001 (the "Act"), to authorize the levy on qualifying properties within the Westdale Business Improvement Area, as referenced in Recommendation of Report PED25258; and

Please refer to the April 1, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

(d) That the following schedule of payments to the Westdale Village Business Improvement Area, representing the levy amount for 2026 BE APPROVED:

- (1) April: \$89,801.50;
- (2) June: \$89,801.50.

**(ii) PED26040
Locke Street Business Improvement Area 2026 Budget and Schedule of Payments (Ward 1) (Item 8.1(b))**

That Report PED26040, dated March 25, 2026, respecting Locke Street Business Improvement Area 2026 Budget and Schedule of Payments (Ward 1), be received and the following recommendations be approved:

- (a) That the 2026 proposed budget of the Locke Street Business Improvement Area, attached as Appendix A to Report PED26040, in the amount of \$113,283 BE APPROVED;
- (b) That the levy portion of the 2026 proposed budget of the Locke Street Business Improvement Area, in the amount of \$51,783, BE APPROVED;
- (c) That the General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services be hereby authorized and directed to prepare the requisite By-law pursuant to Section 208, the Municipal Act, 2001 (the Act), to authorize the levy on qualifying properties within the Locke Street Business Improvement Area, as referenced in Recommendation of Report PED26040; and
- (d) That the following schedule of payments to the Locke Street Business Improvement Area, representing the levy amount for 2026 BE APPROVED:
 - (1) April: \$25,891.50;
 - (2) June: \$25,891.50.

**(iii) PED26064
Dundas Business Improvement Area 2026 Budget and Schedule of Payments (Ward 13) (Item 8.1(c))**

That Report PED26064, dated March 25, 2026, respecting Dundas Business Improvement Area 2026 Budget and Schedule of Payments (Ward 13), be received and the following recommendations be approved:

- (a) That the 2026 proposed budget of the Dundas Business Improvement Area, attached as Appendix "A" to Report PED26064, in the amount of \$250,600 BE APPROVED;

Please refer to the April 1, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

- (b) That the levy portion of the 2026 proposed budget of the Dundas Business Improvement Area, in the amount of \$189,000, BE APPROVED;
- (c) That the General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services be hereby authorized and directed to prepare the requisite By-law pursuant to Section 208, the Municipal Act, 2001 (the Act), to authorize the levy on qualifying properties within the Dundas Business Improvement Area, as referenced in Recommendation of Report PED26064; and
- (d) That the following schedule of payments to the Dundas Business Improvement Area, representing the levy amount for 2026 BE APPROVED:
 - (1) April: \$94,500;
 - (2) June: \$94,500.

**(iv) DSCC 26-001
Downtown Sub-Committee Minutes - March 2, 2026 (Item 8.3)**

That the Downtown Sub-Committee Minutes DSCC 26-001 - March 2, 2026 be received and the recommendations contained therein, be approved.

**(v) SBPC 26-001
School Board Properties Sub-Committee Minutes - March 9, 2026
(Item 8.5)**

That the School Board Properties Sub-Committee Minutes SBPC 26-001 - March 9, 2026 be received and the recommendations contained therein, be approved.

**(vi) BIAC 26-003
Business Improvement Area Sub-Committee Minutes - March 10,
2026 (Item 8.6)**

That the Business Improvement Area Sub-Committee Minutes BIAC 26-003 - March 10, 2026 be received and the recommendations contained therein, be approved.

Please refer to the April 1, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

**(vii) EHSC 26-001
Expanding Housing and Support Services for Women, Non-Binary
and Transgender Community Sub-Committee Minutes - March 12,
2026 (Item 8.9)**

That the Expanding Housing and Support Services for Women, Non-Binary and Transgender Community Sub-Committee Minutes EHSC 26-001 - March 12, 2026 be received and the recommendations contained therein, be approved.

**(viii) ACPD 26-003
Accessibility Committee for Persons with Disabilities Minutes -
March 10, 2026 (Item 8.10)**

That the Accessibility Committee for Persons with Disabilities Minutes ACPD 26-003 - March 10, 2026 be received and the recommendations contained therein, be approved.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:

Absent	-	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
Absent	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	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
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

**8.2 PED20139(a)
Environmental Remediation and Site Enhancement Redevelopment Grant
Application (ERG-18-08), 115 and 121 Vansitmart Avenue (Ward 4)**

(Hwang/Nann)

That Report PED20139(a), dated March 25, 2026, respecting Environmental Remediation and Site Enhancement Redevelopment Grant Application (ERG-18-08), 115 and 121 Vansitmart Avenue (Ward 4), be received and the following recommendations be approved:

Please refer to the April 1, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

- (a) That Environmental Remediation and Site Enhancement Redevelopment Grant Application (ERG-08-18), submitted by 1349010 Ontario Inc. (John Kemp, Douglas Kemp, Ronald Kemp, Thomas Kemp, and William Kemp), owner of the properties at 115 and 121 Vansitmart Avenue, Hamilton BE APPROVED for an Environmental Remediation and Site Enhancement Redevelopment Grant, not to exceed \$562,244, for estimated eligible remediation costs, to be provided over a maximum of 10 years, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Environmental Remediation and Site Enhancement Redevelopment Agreement;
- (b) That the General Manager of the Planning and Economic Development Department BE DIRECTED to execute the Environmental Remediation and Site Enhancement Redevelopment Agreement together with any ancillary documentation required, to give effect to the Environmental Remediation and Site Enhancement Redevelopment Grant for 1349010 Ontario Inc., owner of the properties at 115 and 121 Vansitmart Avenue, Hamilton in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor; and
- (c) That the General Manager of the Planning and Economic Development Department BE DIRECTED to administer the Grant and Grant Agreement including but not limited to: Deciding on actions to take in respect of events of default and executing any Grant Amending Agreements, together with any ancillary amending documentation, if required, provided that the terms and conditions of the Environmental Remediation and Site Enhancement Redevelopment Grant, as approved by City Council, are maintained and that any applicable Grant Amending Agreements are undertaken in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:

Absent	-	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
Absent	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	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
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

Please refer to the April 1, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

**8.4 PED26015
Climate Change Advisory Committee’s Transition to a Community Liaison Group (City Wide)**

- (i) Beatrice Ekwa Ekoko, Project Manager, Climate Change Initiatives provided Committee with a presentation respecting Report PED26015, Climate Change Advisory Committee’s Transition to a Community Liaison Group (City Wide).

- (ii) **(Cassar/Nann)**
That Report PED26015, dated March 25, 2026, respecting Climate Change Advisory Committee’s Transition to a Community Liaison Group (City Wide), and the accompanying presentation be received and the following recommendation be approved:
 - (a) That the Climate Change Advisory Committee continue to meet and operate according to their established Terms of Reference as a Volunteer Advisory Committee until their last meeting in September 2026, in alignment with this current Term of Council, BE APPROVED; and

 - (b) That the transition of the Climate Change Advisory Committee to the Climate Change Community Liaison Group be effective October 1, 2026, BE APPROVED.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 11 to 1, as follows:

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

Please refer to the April 1, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

**8.7 PED26070
Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant Application (RHTIG 03/24) and
Downtown and Barton/Kenilworth Housing Opportunities Program
Application (DBKHO 02/24), 299 Main Street East, Hamilton (Ward 3)**

(Nann/Hwang)

That Report PED26070, dated March 25, 2026, respecting Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant Application (RHTIG 03/24) and Downtown and Barton/Kenilworth Housing Opportunities Program Application (DBKHO 02/24), 299 Main Street East, Hamilton (Ward 3), be received and the following recommendations be approved:

- (a) That a Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant Program Application RHTIG 3/24 submitted by Adhiba Hamilton Limited (Sumaiya Sadiq and Muhammad Rakib Hasan) for the property at 299 Main Street East, Hamilton, estimated to total \$93,960.92 over a maximum of four years based on the incremental tax increase attributable to the redevelopment of 299 Main Street East, Hamilton, BE APPROVED in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant Program;
- (b) That the General Manager of the Planning and Economic Development Department BE AUTHORIZED and DIRECTED to execute a Grant Agreement together with any ancillary documentation required, to give effect to the Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant for Adhiba Hamilton Limited (Sumaiya Sadiq and Muhammad Rakib Hasan) for the property at 299 Main Street East, Hamilton, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor;
- (c) That the General Manager of the Planning and Economic Development Department BE AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED to administer the Grant and Grant Agreement including, but not limited to, deciding on actions to take in respect of events of default and executing any Grant Amending Agreements, together with any ancillary amending documentation, if required, provided that the terms and conditions of the Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant Program, as approved by City Council, are maintained and that any applicable Grant Amending Agreements are undertaken in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor;
- (d) That a Downtown and Barton/Kenilworth Housing Opportunities Program Application DBKHO 02/24, submitted by Adhiba Hamilton Limited (Sumaiya Sadiq and Muhammad Rakib Hasan), the registered owner of the subject site at 299 Main Street East, Hamilton, BE APPROVED for a Downtown and Barton/Kenilworth Housing Opportunities Loan not to exceed \$1,790,000, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Downtown and Barton/Kenilworth Housing Opportunities Program conditional upon the receipt of updated financing terms from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to meet the 25% equity requirement;

Please refer to the April 1, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

- (e) That the General Manager of the Planning and Economic Development Department BE AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED to execute a Loan Agreement together with any ancillary documentation required, to effect the Downtown and Barton/Kenilworth Housing Opportunities Loan, to Adhiba Hamilton Limited (Sumaiya Sadiq and Muhammad Rakib Hasan), the registered owner of the subject site at 299 Main Street East, Hamilton, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor; and
- (f) That the General Manager of the Planning and Economic Development Department BE AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED to administer the Loan and Loan Agreement including but not limited to: Deciding on actions to take in respect of events of default and executing any Loan Amending Agreements, together with any ancillary amending documentation, if required, provided that the terms and conditions of the Downtown and Barton/Kenilworth Housing Opportunities Program are maintained and that any applicable Loan Amending Agreements are undertaken in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:

Absent	-	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
Absent	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	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
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

8.8 HSC26016

Removal of Certain Consents for Part VII.1 Housing Providers (City Wide)

(Jackson/Cassar)

That Report HSC26016, dated March 25, 2026, respecting Removal of Certain Consents for Part VII.1 Housing Providers (City Wide), be received and the following recommendations be approved:

- (a) That the City ENTER INTO Part VII.1 Housing Services Act, 2011, Service Agreements with Housing Providers who satisfy the criteria set

Please refer to the April 1, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

out in Appendix “A” to HSC26016 as determined by the General Manager of Healthy and Safe Communities or designate, with such terms and conditions as contained in Appendix “B” to HSC26016, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor and that the General Manager be authorized and directed to execute such Agreements and any ancillary agreements or documents;

- (b) That the General Manager of Healthy and Safe Communities or designate BE DELEGATED the authority to amend the matrix in Appendix A so long as it supports the long-term sustainability of the social housing portfolio at End of Agreement/End of Mortgage; and
- (c) That upon request by a Housing Provider who meets the criteria in Appendix “A” to HSC26016, as determined by the General Manager of Healthy and Safe Communities, and who is an existing Part VII.1 Housing Services Act, 2011 Service Agreement with the City that their Service Agreement BE AMENDED to contain such terms and conditions provided for in Appendix “B” to Report HSC26016.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:

Absent	-	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
Absent	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	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
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

**8.11 FCS26024
2026 Tax Policies and Area Rating (City Wide)**

(Jackson/Pauls)

That Report FCS26024, dated March 25, 2026, respecting 2026 Tax Policies and Area Rating (City Wide), be received and the following recommendations be approved:

- (a) That the following optional property classes BE APPROVED for the 2026 taxation year:

Please refer to the April 1, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

- (i) Parking Lot and Vacant Land; and,
 - (ii) Large Industrial;
- (b) That the following final tax ratios for the 2026 taxation year BE APPROVED:

RTC Description	Tax Ratio
Residential	1.0000
Multi-Residential	2.0000
Multi-Residential: Farmland Awaiting Development	0.7500
New Multi-Residential	1.0000
Commercial	1.9800
Commercial: Farmland Awaiting Development	0.7500
Office Building	1.9800
Shopping Centre	1.9800
Parking Lot	1.9800
Industrial	2.8570
Large Industrial	3.3500
Pipeline	1.7947
Landfill	2.9696
Farm	0.1767
Managed Forests	0.2500
Aggregate Extraction	2.4465

- (c) That the following tax reductions for the 2026 taxation year BE APPROVED:
- (i) Farmland awaiting development (1st Subclass) 25%
 - (ii) Farmland awaiting development (2nd Subclass) 0%
 - (iii) Excess land Subclass (Residual Commercial) 0%
 - (iv) Excess land Subclass (Residual Industrial) 0%
 - (v) Vacant land Subclass (Residual Industrial) 0%
 - (vi) Excess land Subclass (Large Industrial) 0%
- (d) That the General Levy and the Area Rated Levies as identified in Appendix “A” Schedule 1 to Report FCS26024, BE APPROVED”;
- (e) That the Draft By-law “To Set and Levy the Rates of Taxation for the Year 2026” as identified in Appendix “A” to Report FCS26024, BE APPROVED
- (f) That the Draft By-law “To Set Optional Property Classes Within the City of Hamilton for the Year 2026” as identified in Appendix “B” to Report FCS26024, BE APPROVED;

Please refer to the April 1, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

- (g) That the Draft By-law “To Establish Tax Ratios and Tax Reductions for the Year 2026” as identified in Appendix “C” to Report FCS26024, BE APPROVED;
- (h) That the Draft By-law “To Levy a Special Charge Upon the Rateable Property in the Business Improvement Areas for the Year 2026”, BE APPROVED;
- (i) That the continuation of the Deferral of Tax Increases for Seniors and Low-Income Persons with Disabilities Program (Deferral of Tax Increases Program) for 2026 BE APPROVED;
- (j) That the continuation of the Full Tax Deferral Program for Seniors and Low-Income Persons with Disabilities Program (Full Tax Deferral Program) for 2026 BE APPROVED;
- (k) That the continuation of the Seniors’ (65+) Tax Rebate Program for 2026 BE APPROVED; and
- (l) That the continuation of the 40% Tax Rebate for eligible charities and similar organizations for 2026 BE APPROVED.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:

Absent	-	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
Absent	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	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
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

9. MOTIONS

9.1 Strategic Workforce Capacity and Consultant Utilization Review

Councillor Tadeson WITHDREW the motion.

Please refer to the April 1, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

9.2 Review of Housing-Related Services Governance and Reporting Structures

(Jackson/Francis)

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton delivers housing-related services, programs, and strategic oversight through two separate entities: the Housing Secretariat and the Housing Services Division;

WHEREAS, the Housing Secretariat was created in April of 2023 when Council adopted the Housing Sustainability & Investment Roadmap (HSIR) with an explicit mandate of leading the implementation of the Roadmap and coordinating cross-departmental affordable housing endeavours throughout the City of Hamilton;

WHEREAS, the original rationale of the Housing Secretariat remains important, and it is desirable to focus on mandate clarity, governance alignment and organizational effectiveness within the City of Hamilton's programs and services;

WHEREAS, municipalities serve as Housing Service Managers, responsible for administering social housing programs, meeting housing-related legislative requirements, and stewarding housing resources within their service areas – a mandate which is already being fulfilled by the Housing Services Division; and,

WHEREAS, both the Housing Secretariat and the Housing Services Division work with residents and community partners on housing programs and initiatives, and a review of governance alignment and reporting structure will provide clarity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the City Manager BE REQUESTED to review Housing-Related Services and report back to the General Issues Committee on the following:

- (a) Assess role differentiation, accountability, and reporting relationships between the Housing Secretariat and Housing Services Division;
- (b) Evaluate options to optimize strategic and operation alignment;
- (c) Review the financial, operational implications of any potential structural adjustments;
- (d) Assess the opportunities and risks associated with structural change, including impacts on residents, community partners and service continuity; and,
- (e) Prioritize service continuity and community stability.

Please refer to the April 1, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:

Absent	-	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
Absent	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	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
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillor Kroetsch introduced the following Notices of Motion:

10.1 Review of Contract Work by The City of Hamilton

That staff BE DIRECTED to conduct a corporation-wide analysis of contract work undertaken since amalgamation, and report back to the General Issues Committee by Q3 2026, with the following:

- (a) An overview of how contractors are engaged, the service areas in which contract staff are utilized, and the circumstances under which contractors are retained;
- (b) A cost-benefit analysis to determine whether the use of contractors is more advantageous than utilizing City staff; and,
- (c) A time-efficiency analysis, including the time required to procure and engage contractors, compared to the time required to recruit and onboard City staff.

10.2 Winter Response for People Living Unsheltered in the City of Hamilton

WHEREAS, as of December 2025, the number of unhoused people living in the City of Hamilton is approximately 1980;

WHEREAS, of those 1980, approximately 338 are unsheltered, meaning they are not staying in emergency shelters or other temporary accommodations;

Please refer to the April 1, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton provides, operates, and partners with community agencies to offer several drop-in, shelter, and warming spaces for individuals who are unsheltered, with expanded services during winter months;

WHEREAS, drop-ins offer temporary accommodation, access to basic necessities, as well as supports both onsite and in the community to meet immediate and longer-term needs related to overall health, wellbeing, and the ability to acquire housing.

WHEREAS, the current homeless serving system, including winter response overnight drop in and warming spaces, are not sufficient to meet the needs of all people living unsheltered;

WHEREAS, people with pets and couples are not accommodated in the current drop-ins.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff be directed to bring forward a report to General Issues Committee in Q2 2026 outlining a winter response strategy for the 2026/27 winter season that addresses any service gaps in the current system, and details the funding required to operationalize the enhanced service; and
- (b) That the report include, but not be limited to:
 - (i) An assessment of service quality and capacity to meet the City's evolving needs;
 - (ii) Best practices and models from other municipalities; and,
 - (iii) A cost analysis of funding required to operationalize a comprehensive winter response strategy.

10.3 Municipal Price Index (City Wide)

WHEREAS, a Municipal Price Index provides a tool for measuring the effects of inflation on the cost of providing municipal services;

WHEREAS, a Municipal Price Index differs from the Consumer Price Index (CPI) because it measures the cost increases to a representative basket of expenditures such as asphalt, steel and cement, that a municipality makes compared with that of the CPI which measures the prices that consumers face when buying a basket of goods for their household;

WHEREAS, municipalities such as Ottawa and Milton have utilized MPI as one tool that helps inform the City's budgetary process of external economic conditions that the City will face;

Please refer to the April 1, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

WHEREAS, the development of municipal price indexes can assist in creating an understanding of how the patterns of local government spending can be different than those of the average household;

WHEREAS, a Municipal Price Index can be used to explain increases in annual budget expenditures attributable to inflation; and

WHEREAS, a Municipal Price Index can aid in the more accurate development of current and multi-year City budgeting forecasts;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff BE DIRECTED to determine the feasibility of developing a Municipal Price Index for the City of Hamilton for incorporation into the Annual Budget Process and report back to the General Issues Committee no later than Q3 2026.

11. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

- (i) Committee determined that discussion of Item 11.1 was not required in Closed Session; therefore, the matter was addressed in Open Session, as follows:

11.1 GIC 26-004 - February 25, 2026 - Closed Session Minutes

(Tadeson/Kroetsch)

That the Closed Session Minutes of the February 25, 2026 General Issues Committee meeting, be adopted and remain confidential.

CARRIED

- (ii) **(Clark/Jackson)**

That Committee move into Closed Session for Items 11.2, 11.3 and 11.4 pursuant to Section 9.3, Sub-Sections (b), (c), (e), and (f) of the City's Procedural By-law 21-021, as amended, and Section 239(2), Sub-sections (b), (c), (e), and (f) of the *Ontario Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended, as the subject matter pertains to personal matters about identifiable individuals, including City or local board employees; a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land for City or a local board purposes; litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the city or a local board; and the receiving of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:

Absent	-	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

Please refer to the April 1, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

Absent	-	Ward 5	Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6	Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	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
Absent	-	Ward 14	Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15	Councillor Ted McMeekin

The General Issues Committee resolved into Closed Session at 2:53 p.m.

The General Issues Committee meeting reconvened in Open Session at 4:07 p.m.

**11.2 PED19141(a)
Acquisition of Land (Ward 15)**

(McMeekin/Tadeson)

- (a) That the directions provided to staff in Closed Session respecting Report PED19141(a), Acquisition of Land (Ward 15) BE APPROVED AND REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL unless made public as the City's position before the Ontario Land Tribunal as necessary to secure the claimant's withdrawal pursuant to Minutes of Settlement; and
- (b) That the balance of Report PED19141(a), Acquisition of Land (Ward 15) and all appendices REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:

Absent	-	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
Absent	-	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 April 1, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

**11.3 LS25015(a)
GFL Legal Strategy Update (Ward 9)**

(Clark/Beattie)

- (a) That Report LS25015(a), respecting GLF Legal Strategy Update (Ward 9), BE RECEIVED AND REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL; and,
- (b) That staff proceed as directed respecting the GFL Legal Strategy.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:

Absent	-	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
Absent	-	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

**11.4 HSC26024
Emergency Warming Centre Health and Safety Implications for City Staff
(City Wide)**

(Jackson/Pauls)

- (a) That the Confidential Memo HSC26024, Emergency Warming Centre Health and Safety Implications for City Staff (City Wide), BE RECEIVED AND REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:

Absent	-	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
Absent	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls

Please refer to the April 1, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the General Issues Committee adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela McRae
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk

Deputy Mayor Jeff Beattie
Chair, General Issues Committee