



## GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE MINUTES - GIC 26-006

9:30 a.m.

April 15, 2026

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

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

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor M. Tadeson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

### 2. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES

There were no ceremonial activities.

### 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**(Hwang/Cassar)**

That the agenda for the April 15, 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 26-005 March 25, 2026

**(Hwang/McMeekin)**

That the March 25, 2026 minutes of the General Issues Committee, **BE ADOPTED**, as presented.

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

CARRIED

## 6. DELEGATIONS

### 6.1 Delegations respecting Report PED24163(e), Final 10-Year Downtown Hamilton Revitalization Strategy (City Wide) (Item 8.6)

- (i) The following delegates addressed the Committee respecting Report PED24163(e), Final 10-Year Downtown Hamilton Revitalization Strategy (City Wide) (Item 8.6):
  - (a) Susie Braithwaite, International Village BIA (In-Person) (Item 6.1(a))
  - (b) Emily Walsh, Downtown Hamilton BIA (In-Person) (Item 6.1(b))
  - (c) Greg Dunnett, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce (In-Person) (Item 6.1(c))
  - (d) David Hudson, Hamilton Arts Council (In-Person) (Item 6.1(d))
  
- (ii) **(McMeekin/Hwang)**  
That the following delegations respecting Report PED24163(e), Final 10-Year Downtown Hamilton Revitalization Strategy (City Wide) (Item 8.6), **BE RECEIVED:**
  - (a) Susie Braithwaite, International Village BIA (In-Person) (Item 6.1(a))
  - (b) Emily Walsh, Downtown Hamilton BIA (In-Person) (Item 6.1(b))
  - (c) Greg Dunnett, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce (In-Person) (Item 6.1(c))
  - (d) David Hudson, Hamilton Arts Council (In-Person) (Item 6.1(d))

CARRIED

### 6.2 Andrew Selman, respecting a call on Council to provide a transparent accounting of the full financial cost of the 2024 cyberattack and its downstream costs and impacts (In-Person)

- (i) Andrew Selman addressed the Committee respecting a call on Council to provide a transparent accounting of the full financial cost of the 2024 cyberattack and its downstream costs and impacts.
  
- (ii) **(McMeekin/Hwang)**  
That the delegation from Andrew Selman, respecting a call on Council to provide a transparent accounting of the full financial cost of the 2024 cyberattack and its downstream costs and impacts, **BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

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

Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

This Item was withdrawn.

**6.4 Jennifer Bonner, The HUB, respecting unsheltered homelessness (In-Person)**

**(i) (Jackson/McMeekin)**

That the delegate **BE PROVIDED** with an additional 5 minutes to complete their delegation.

**Result: MOTION, DEFEATED by a vote of 7 to 7, as follows:**

Absent	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
No	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
No	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Absent	-	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
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
No	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
No	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

**(ii)** Jennifer Bonner, The HUB, addressed the Committee respecting unsheltered homelessness.

**(iii) (McMeekin/A. Wilson)**

That the delegation from Jennifer Bonner, The HUB, respecting unsheltered homelessness, **BE RECEIVED**.

**CARRIED**

**6.5 Jovan Popovic, Break First Entertainment Inc., respecting the Route 905 Festival, a large-scale 2-day country music event, at the Ancaster Fairgrounds on July 24-25, 2026 (In-Person)**

**(i)** Jovan Popovic, Break First Entertainment Inc., addressed the Committee respecting the Route 905 Festival, a large-scale 2-day country music event, at the Ancaster Fairgrounds on July 24-25, 2026.

**(ii) (Cassar/McMeekin)**

That the delegation from Jovan Popovic, Break First Entertainment Inc., respecting the Route 905 Festival, a large-scale 2-day country music

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

event, at the Ancaster Fairgrounds on July 24-25, 2026 (In-Person), **BE RECEIVED.**

**CARRIED**

**6.6 Paul Takala, Chief Executive Officer, Hamilton Public Library; Gagan Batra, Board Chair, Hamilton Public Library; and Sue Phipps, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Mental Health Association, Hamilton Branch; respecting the Opioid Crisis and the Hamilton Public Library (In-Person)**

(i) Paul Takala, Chief Executive Officer, Hamilton Public Library; Gagan Batra, Board Chair, Hamilton Public Library; and Sue Phipps, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Mental Health Association, Hamilton Branch; addressed the Committee respecting the Opioid Crisis and the Hamilton Public Library.

(ii) **(Jackson/McMeekin)**  
That the delegate **BE PROVIDED** with an additional 3 minutes to complete their delegation.

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 8 to 6, as follows:**

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
No	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
No	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Absent	-	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
Absent	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
No	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
No	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

(iii) **(Kroetsch/Nann)**  
That the delegation from Paul Takala, Chief Executive Officer, Hamilton Public Library; Gagan Batra, Board Chair, Hamilton Public Library; and Sue Phipps, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Mental Health Association, Hamilton Branch; respecting the Opioid Crisis and the Hamilton Public Library, **BE RECEIVED.**

**CARRIED**

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

**6.7 Delegations respecting Item 9.5, Supporting the Role of Trustees in Maintaining an Accountable and Transparent Education System**

(i) The following delegates addressed the Committee respecting Item 9.5, Supporting the Role of Trustees in Maintaining an Accountable and Transparent Education System:

- (a) Abby Zaitley (In-Person) (Item 6.7(a))
- (b) Amanda Fehrman, HWDSB Trustee (In-Person) (Item 6.7(b))

**(ii) (Hwang/Beattie)**

That the following delegations respecting Item 9.5 - Supporting the Role of Trustees in Maintaining an Accountable and Transparent Education System, **BE RECEIVED**:

- (a) Abby Zaitley (In-Person) (Item 6.7(a))
- (b) Amanda Fehrman, HWDSB Trustee (In-Person) (Item 6.7(b))

**CARRIED**

**6.8 Chris McLaughlin, Bay Area Restoration Council, respecting Report PED26082, Biodiversity Action Plan Agreement and Progress (Item 8.4) (In-Person)**

(i) Chris McLaughlin, Bay Area Restoration Council, addressed the Committee respecting Report PED26082, Biodiversity Action Plan Agreement and Progress (Item 8.4).

**(ii) (Kroetsch/A. Wilson)**

That the delegation from Chris McLaughlin, Bay Area Restoration Council, respecting Report PED26082, Biodiversity Action Plan Agreement and Progress (Item 8.4), **BE RECEIVED**.

**CARRIED**

**6.9 Delegations respecting the Opioid Crisis and the Hamilton Public Library (Item 6.6)**

(i) The following delegates addressed the Committee respecting the Opioid Crisis and the Hamilton Public Library (Item 6.6):

- (a) Kelly Oucharek (In-Person) (Item 6.9(a))
- (b) Greg Voisin (In-Person) (Item 6.9(b))

**(ii) (Kroetsch/A. Wilson)**

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

That the following delegations respecting the Opioid Crisis and the Hamilton Public Library (Item 6.6), **BE RECEIVED**:

- (a) Kelly Oucharek (In-Person) (Item 6.9(a))
- (b) Greg Voisin (In-Person) (Item 6.9(b))

**CARRIED**

**6.10 Delegations respecting Item 9.3, Winter Response for People Living Unsheltered in the City of Hamilton**

(i) The following delegate addressed the Committee respecting Item 9.3, Winter Response for People Living Unsheltered in the City of Hamilton, from the following individuals:

- (a) Evan Ubene (In-Person) (Item 6.10(a))

(ii) The following delegate was not present when called upon:

- (b) Jahmal Pierre, Keeping Six (In-Person) (Item 6.10(b))

(iii) **(McMeekin/Kroetsch)**

That the following delegation respecting Item 9.3, Winter Response for People Living Unsheltered in the City of Hamilton, **BE RECEIVED**:

- (a) Evan Ubene (In-Person) (Item 6.10(a))

**CARRIED**

(i) **(Kroetsch/Hwang)**

That the General Issues Committee **RECESS** at 1:00 p.m. until 1:40 p.m.

**CARRIED**

The General Issues Committee reconvened at 1:40 p.m.

**7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**7.1 HSC26029**

**User Fee Framework Project Update and Current State Analysis (City Wide)**

**(Cooper/Clark)**

That Report HSC26029, respecting User Fee Framework Project Update and Current State Analysis (City Wide), **BE RECEIVED**.

**CARRIED**

**7.1(a) Correspondence from Viv Saunders, respecting Report HSC26029, User Fee Framework Update and Current State Analysis (City Wide) (Item 7.1)**

**(Cooper/Jackson)**

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

That the Correspondence from Viv Saunders, respecting Report HSC26029, User Fee Framework Update and Current State Analysis (City Wide) (Item 7.1), **BE RECEIVED**.

**CARRIED**

**7.2 HSC23076(b)  
2025 Ending Chronic Homelessness Performance Update (City Wide)  
(Outstanding Business List Item)**

**(Kroetsch/Cassar)**

(a) That Report HSC23076(b), respecting 2025 Ending Chronic Homelessness Performance Update and attached appendices **BE RECEIVED** for information; and,

(b) That the Outstanding Business List Item GIC-11/20/24-10.4, respecting the number of individuals that have transitioned out of tent encampments to social housing, residential care facilities, transitional housing, and shelter beds **BE CONSIDERED COMPLETE** and **REMOVED** from the listing.

**CARRIED**

**7.3 HUR26006  
Labour Relations Activity Report and Analysis – 2021-2025 (City Wide)**

**(Cassar/Cooper)**

That Report HUR26006, respecting Labour Relations Activity Report and Analysis – 2021-2025 (City Wide), **BE RECEIVED**.

**CARRIED**

**7.4 PED26018(a)  
Ensuring Pedestrian Access at Jackson Street West and MacNab Street  
South (Ward 2)**

**(Kroetsch/Hwang)**

That Report PED26018(a), respecting Ensuring Pedestrian Access at Jackson Street West and MacNab Street South (Ward 2), **BE RECEIVED**.

**CARRIED**

**7.5 FCS26023  
2026 Municipal Election and Municipal Use of Resources Policy (City Wide)**

**(Kroetsch/Hwang)**

That Report FCS26023, respecting 2026 Municipal Election and Municipal Use of Resources Policy (City Wide), **BE RECEIVED**.

**CARRIED**

**8. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**8.1 PED26078**

Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.

**A By-Law to Authorize the Imposition of a Special Charge under the Better Homes Hamilton Pilot Program – Batch 2 (City Wide)**

**(Jackson/Hwang)**

That Report PED26078, dated April 15, 2026, respecting A By-Law to Authorize the Imposition of a Special Charge under the Better Homes Hamilton Pilot Program – Batch 2 (City Wide), **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

- (a) That the by-law attached as Appendix A to Report PED26078, being a by-law to authorize the imposition of a special charge under the Better Homes Hamilton Pilot Program, **BE APPROVED**.

**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

**8.2 LRTC 26-001  
Light Rail Transit Sub-Committee Minutes - March 31, 2026**

**(Nann/Clark)**

That the Light Rail Transit Sub-Committee Minutes LRTC 26-001 - March 31, 2026 **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein, **BE APPROVED**.

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

**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

**8.3 HSC26020  
Housing Focused Community Liaison Group (City Wide)**

**(Cassar/Horwath)**

That Report HSC26020, dated April 15, 2026, respecting Housing Focused Community Liaison Group (City Wide), **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation be approved:

- (a) That the Housing and Homelessness Advisory **COMMITTEE BE DISSOLVED** and;
- (b) That the Housing Services Division and the Housing Secretariat **BE DIRECTED** to continue community engagement through existing City-led community tables.

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

**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
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
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

**8.4 PED26082  
Biodiversity Action Plan Agreement and Progress (City Wide)**

**(Hwang/Cooper)**

That Report PED26082, dated April 15, 2026, respecting Biodiversity Action Plan Agreement and Progress (City Wide), **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

- (a) That the General Managers of Planning and Economic Development and Public Works, or the designate of either General Manager, **BE AUTHORIZED** and directed to:
  - (i) **EXECUTE**, on behalf of the City of Hamilton, the Biodiversity Action Plan Implementation Agreement (the “BAP Implementation Agreement”) in substantially the form attached as Appendix A to this Report, which includes the Terms of Reference in substantially the form attached as Schedule “A” to the BAP Implementation Agreement;
  - (ii) **NEGOTIATE**, enter into, and **EXECUTE**, on behalf of the City of Hamilton, all agreements, amendments, extensions, renewals, applications, letters, City led or Collaborating Agency led grant applications, or any other documents ancillary to or respecting the BAP Implementation Agreement, the Biodiversity Action Plan (“BAP”), or any BAP related actions, including but not limited to permissions to authorize BAP related work on City owned lands, letters of support, and grant applications and agreements, provided same are on terms satisfactory to the General Managers of

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

Planning and Economic Development and Public Works and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor; and,

- (iii) **APPOINT** and **PROVIDE DIRECTION** to the City of Hamilton's member for the Management Committee and the Steering Committee as required by the BAP Implementation Agreement.

**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

**8.5 PBLC 26-001  
Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Liaison Committee Minutes -  
April 2, 2026**

**(Beattie/Hwang)**

That the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Liaison Committee Minutes PBLC 26-001 - April 2, 2026 **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein, **BE APPROVED**.

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

**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

**8.6 PED24163(e)  
Final 10-Year Downtown Hamilton Revitalization Strategy (City Wide)**

**(i) (Kroetsch/Horwath)**

That Report PED24163(e), dated April 15, 2026, respecting the Final 10-Year Downtown Hamilton Revitalization Strategy (City Wide), **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

- (a) That the 10-Year Downtown Hamilton Revitalization Strategy, contained in Appendix “A” to Report PED24163(e) **BE APPROVED**;
- (b) That staff **BE DIRECTED** to incorporate the directions and actions of the 10-Year Downtown Hamilton Revitalization into all applicable City departmental and divisional work plans;
- (c) That the City Manager or designate **BE REQUESTED** to complete a governance review of departmental roles and responsibilities respecting the Downtown and West Harbour and report back to General Issues Committee by the end of Q1 2027 with recommendations for any organizational structural improvements or refinements to roles and responsibilities needed to support the efficient and timely implementation of the 10-Year Downtown Hamilton Revitalization Strategy, and that this review **BE FUNDED** from Economic Development Initiatives Project 3621708900 to a maximum of \$75,000;
- (d) That until such time as a Downtown and West Harbour governance review is completed, the Economic Development Division **BE**

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

**DIRECTED** to continue as the interim coordination and implementation planning lead for the 10-Year Downtown Hamilton Revitalization Strategy across all City departments;

- (e) That the General Manager of Public Works **BE DIRECTED** to identify existing response times for service requests within Downtown public rights-of-way and parks, and where deemed insufficient, identify potential opportunities to improve response times benchmarked against those achieved for Downtowns in comparable municipalities, and report back in advance of the 2027 budget process on any budget pressures that would result from achieving those improved standards;
- (f) That the Economic Development Division, in collaboration with identified departments/divisions, **BE DIRECTED** to undertake the following initiatives to support downtown revitalization, commencing in 2026, and funded entirely through existing departmental/divisional resources:
  - (i) Explore and implement a pilot project for permanent infrastructure improvements on James Street North between York Boulevard and the West Harbour GO Station that would better enable recurring and cost-effective temporary street closures for festivals and events in collaboration with the Transportation Division, Transportation Planning and Parking Division, Transit (Hamilton Street Railway), Hamilton Police Services, and the Tourism and Culture Division;
  - (ii) Identify and implement improvements to John-Rebecca Park that would better enable greater public use of the park including through placemaking events and activations, public art and other temporary amenities in collaboration with the Tourism and Culture Division and Environmental Services Division;
  - (iii) Develop and implement a Wayfinding Strategy, including updated pedestrian, active transportation and vehicular directional signage to strategic destinations, parking amenities, transit, and other visitor focused needs in alignment with the City Wide 2024-2028 Tourism Strategy and in collaboration with the Tourism and Culture, Transportation Planning and Parking, and Transportation Divisions;
  - (iv) Identify and implement pilot projects that will support street-level activation on York Boulevard to increase vibrancy and

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

pedestrian activity in collaboration with the Hamilton Farmer's Market, Tourism and Culture Division and Transportation Division;

- (v) Investigate the current state of use and physical condition of Commonwealth Square and report back to General Issues Committee in Q1 2027 respecting potential next steps to address the future/role function of the Square;
- (vi) That the Public Works, Healthy and Safe Communities, and Planning and Economic Development Departments **BE DIRECTED** to jointly undertake a comprehensive audit of Downtown lighting and other safety-related conditions within public rights-of-way, public parks, and municipal parking lots, and to develop and implement a work plan that expedites interim and permanent improvements and/or mitigation measures to enhance overall safety in the Downtown;
- (g) That the Planning Division **BE DIRECTED** to prepare a Precinct Plan for the area around TD Coliseum, identified as an area to leverage in the 10-Year Downtown Hamilton Revitalization Strategy, to develop a framework for coordinating future development, infrastructure and urban design needs required to achieve an identifiable and vibrant entertainment district within Downtown;
- (h) That the Tourism and Culture Division **BE DIRECTED** to engage the Downtown Business Improvement Area as the on-going operator of the King William Summer Pedestrianization Program to support continued and uninterrupted activation and placemaking with such costs limited to \$50,000 annually, with annual increases tied to inflation, and with such agreement to be executed by the General Manager of the Planning and Economic Development Department including such terms and conditions as determined by the General Manager of the Planning and Economic Development Department and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor;
- (i) That the Economic Development Division **BE DIRECTED** to provide annual updates on the status of implementing the 10-Year Downtown Hamilton Revitalization Strategy through Economic Development's annual State of the Downtown reporting to the General Issues Committee over the duration of the Strategy's implementation; and,
- (j) That Clerks **BE DIRECTED** to remove Outstanding Business List Item GIC-12/04/24-10.5.

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

(ii) **(Clark/Cooper)**

That sub-section (a) to Report PED24163(e), Final 10-Year Downtown Hamilton Revitalization Strategy (City Wide), **be amended**, as follows:

- (a) That the 10-Year Downtown Hamilton Revitalization Strategy, contained in Appendix “A” to Report PED24163(e) **BE APPROVED in principle and costs for 2027 and beyond be referred to future budget year(s) processes;**

**Result: AMENDMENT, CARRIED by a vote of 13 to 3, as follows:**

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
No	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	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
No	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

(iii) Main Motion, **As Amended**, to read as follows:

- (a) That the 10-Year Downtown Hamilton Revitalization Strategy, contained in Appendix “A” to Report PED24163(e) **BE APPROVED in principle and costs for 2027 and beyond be referred to future budget year(s) processes;**
- (b) That staff **BE DIRECTED** to incorporate the directions and actions of the 10-Year Downtown Hamilton Revitalization into all applicable City departmental and divisional work plans;
- (c) That the City Manager or designate **BE REQUESTED** to complete a governance review of departmental roles and responsibilities respecting the Downtown and West Harbour and report back to General Issues Committee by the end of Q1 2027 with recommendations for any organizational structural improvements or refinements to roles and responsibilities needed to support the efficient and timely implementation of the 10-Year Downtown Hamilton Revitalization Strategy, and that this review **BE FUNDED**

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

from Economic Development Initiatives Project 3621708900 to a maximum of \$75,000;

- (d) That until such time as a Downtown and West Harbour governance review is completed, the Economic Development Division **BE DIRECTED** to continue as the interim coordination and implementation planning lead for the 10-Year Downtown Hamilton Revitalization Strategy across all City departments;
- (e) That the General Manager of Public Works **BE DIRECTED** to identify existing response times for service requests within Downtown public rights-of-way and parks, and where deemed insufficient, identify potential opportunities to improve response times benchmarked against those achieved for Downtowns in comparable municipalities, and report back in advance of the 2027 budget process on any budget pressures that would result from achieving those improved standards;
- (f) That the Economic Development Division, in collaboration with identified departments/divisions, **BE DIRECTED** to undertake the following initiatives to support downtown revitalization, commencing in 2026, and funded entirely through existing departmental/divisional resources:
  - (ii) Explore and implement a pilot project for permanent infrastructure improvements on James Street North between York Boulevard and the West Harbour GO Station that would better enable recurring and cost-effective temporary street closures for festivals and events in collaboration with the Transportation Division, Transportation Planning and Parking Division, Transit (Hamilton Street Railway), Hamilton Police Services, and the Tourism and Culture Division;
  - (iii) Identify and implement improvements to John-Rebecca Park that would better enable greater public use of the park including through placemaking events and activations, public art and other temporary amenities in collaboration with the Tourism and Culture Division and Environmental Services Division;
  - (iv) Develop and implement a Wayfinding Strategy, including updated pedestrian, active transportation and vehicular directional signage to strategic destinations, parking amenities, transit, and other visitor focused needs in alignment with the City Wide 2024-2028 Tourism Strategy and in collaboration with the Tourism and Culture,

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

Transportation Planning and Parking, and Transportation Divisions;

- (v) Identify and implement pilot projects that will support street-level activation on York Boulevard to increase vibrancy and pedestrian activity in collaboration with the Hamilton Farmer's Market, Tourism and Culture Division and Transportation Division;
- (vi) Investigate the current state of use and physical condition of Commonwealth Square and report back to General Issues Committee in Q1 2027 respecting potential next steps to address the future/role function of the Square;
- (vii) That the Public Works, Healthy and Safe Communities, and Planning and Economic Development Departments **BE DIRECTED** to jointly undertake a comprehensive audit of Downtown lighting and other safety-related conditions within public rights-of-way, public parks, and municipal parking lots, and to develop and implement a work plan that expedites interim and permanent improvements and/or mitigation measures to enhance overall safety in the Downtown;
- (g) That the Planning Division **BE DIRECTED** to prepare a Precinct Plan for the area around TD Coliseum, identified as an area to leverage in the 10-Year Downtown Hamilton Revitalization Strategy, to develop a framework for coordinating future development, infrastructure and urban design needs required to achieve an identifiable and vibrant entertainment district within Downtown;
- (h) That the Tourism and Culture Division **BE DIRECTED** to engage the Downtown Business Improvement Area as the on-going operator of the King William Summer Pedestrianization Program to support continued and uninterrupted activation and placemaking with such costs limited to \$50,000 annually, with annual increases tied to inflation, and with such agreement to be executed by the General Manager of the Planning and Economic Development Department including such terms and conditions as determined by the General Manager of the Planning and Economic Development Department and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor;
- (i) That the Economic Development Division **BE DIRECTED** to provide annual updates on the status of implementing the 10-Year Downtown Hamilton Revitalization Strategy through Economic Development's annual State of the Downtown reporting to the

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

General Issues Committee over the duration of the Strategy’s implementation; and,

- (j) That Clerks **BE DIRECTED** to remove Outstanding Business List Item GIC-12/04/24-10.5.

**Result: MAIN MOTION, AS AMENDED, 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. MOTIONS

### 9.2 Review of Contract Work

#### (i) (Kroetsch/Tadeson)

WHEREAS, contracting work to third parties has the potential to increase costs and lengthen delivery time due to procurement processes, internal review, and market competition;

WHEREAS, Council, through the Public Works Committee, starting in 2015, began to contract out some Public Works services with the intention of reporting back with more information on whether or not the program achieves the goals it set, including things like costs and benefits, but also on whether or not it would ultimately erode front line unionized work; and,

WHEREAS, there is work done, routinely, by the City that could be performed internally if there was an exploration of the advantages and disadvantages of this work and a cost-benefit analysis for the Public Works Committee to consider.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

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.

(ii) Councillor Kroetsch WITHDREW the motion.

### 9.3 Winter Response for People Living Unsheltered in the City of Hamilton

**(Kroetsch/A. Wilson)**

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;

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; and,

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

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

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.

The Deputy Mayor, mover and seconder of the Motion accepted the following friendly amendment:

That Clause (a) of the Motion **BE AMENDED** to read as follows:

- a) That staff **BE DIRECTED** to bring forward a report to General Issues Committee in ~~Q2~~ **early Q3** 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

**Result: MOTION, as amended, 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

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

#### 9.4 Municipal Price Index

**(Kroetsch/Cassar)**

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;

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.

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 10 to 5, as follows:**

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Absent	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
No	-	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
No	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	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

Councillor Clark assumed the Chair

## 9.1 Strategic Workforce Capacity and Consultant Utilization Review

### (i) (Tadeson/Beattie)

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton has initiated a review of consultant utilization to identify opportunities for operational efficiencies and cost containment;

WHEREAS, strengthening internal workforce capacity supports long-term fiscal sustainability, organizational resilience, and service delivery continuity; and,

WHEREAS, Council requires defined timelines and measurable reporting to ensure progress toward optimizing internal capabilities and capacity, and reducing reliance on external consultants where feasible.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff **BE DIRECTED** to provide an update on the Recruitment and Retention Strategy presented to Council in 2023 including any progress made to attract and retain talent and report back to the General Issues Committee no later than Q3 2026;
- (b) That staff **BE DIRECTED** to prepare a Report that provides an outline of the time, resources and methodology that will be required to conduct a comprehensive Skills Gap Analysis which may inform strategies related to competency and or capacity as it's related to the dependency of external consultants , in

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

collaboration with Human Resources, Finance and operating departments, with the objective of assessing current workforce competencies against current and projected service delivery needs, and report back to the General Issues Committee no later than Q4 2026 with an outline;

- (c) That staff **BE DIRECTED** to provide a consolidated report no later than Q4 2026 outlining:
  - (i) current consultant utilization trends and associated expenditures;
  - (ii) areas of sustained external consultant reliance;
- (d) That Staff **BE DIRECTED** to include Senior Leadership Team (SLT) management action plans as presented in the 2017 Calendar year, for addressing the implementation of the Audit report recommendations #1 – 12, to Appendix “A” of Report AUD17008, respecting the Use of External Consultants Performance Audit, on a future General Issues Committee agenda as an Item for Information by June 2026; and,
- (e) That staff **PROVIDED** an update on the current status and future plans of the implementation of recommendations #1 – 12, as attached in Report AUD17008 Appendix A to the General Issues Committee by Q4 2026.

The Deputy Mayor, mover and seconder of the Motion accepted the following friendly amendment:

That Clause (c) of the Motion **BE AMENDED** to read as follows:

- (c) That staff **BE DIRECTED** to provide a consolidated report no later than ~~Q4 2026~~ **Q2 2027** outlining:
  - (ii) **(McMeekin/Hwang)**  
That the General Issues Committee meeting of April 15, 2026, be permitted to extend past the 5:30 p.m. curfew, up to 6:40 p.m.

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a 2/3's majority vote of 13 to 0, as follows:**

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Absent	-	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
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

(iii) At the request of Committee, sub-section (a) to the Motion respecting Strategic Workforce Capacity and Consultant Utilization Review, was voted on separately, as follows:

(a) That staff **BE DIRECTED** to provide an update on the Recruitment and Retention Strategy presented to Council in 2023 including any progress made to attract and retain talent and report back to the General Issues Committee no later than Q3 2026;

**Result: Sub-Section (a) to MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 11 to 2, as follows:**

No	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Absent	-	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
No	-	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
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

(iv) At the request of Committee, sub-section (b) to the Motion respecting Strategic Workforce Capacity and Consultant Utilization Review, was voted on separately, as follows:

(b) That staff **BE DIRECTED** to prepare a Report that provides an outline of the time, resources and methodology that will be required to conduct a comprehensive Skills Gap Analysis which may inform strategies related to competency and or capacity as it's related to the dependency of external consultants , in collaboration with Human Resources, Finance and operating departments, with the objective of assessing current workforce competencies against current and projected service delivery needs, and report back to the General Issues Committee no later than Q4 2026 with an outline;

**Result: Sub-Section (b) to MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 11 to 2, as follows:**

No	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Absent	-	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
No	-	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
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

(v) At the request of Committee, sub-section (c) to the Motion respecting Strategic Workforce Capacity and Consultant Utilization Review, was voted on separately, as follows:

(c) That staff **BE DIRECTED** to provide a consolidated report no later than **Q2 2027** outlining:

- (i) current consultant utilization trends and associated expenditures;
- (ii) areas of sustained external consultant reliance;

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

**Result: Sub-Section (c) to MOTION, as amended, DEFEATED by a vote of 6 to 7, as follows:**

No	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
No	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Absent	-	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
No	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
No	-	Ward 8 Councillor Rob Cooper
No	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
No	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
No	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

(vi) At the request of Committee, sub-section (d) to the Motion respecting Strategic Workforce Capacity and Consultant Utilization Review, was voted on separately, as follows:

(d) That Staff **BE DIRECTED** to include Senior Leadership Team (SLT) management action plans as presented in the 2017 Calendar year, for addressing the implementation of the Audit report recommendations #1 – 12, to Appendix “A” of Report AUD17008, respecting the Use of External Consultants Performance Audit, on a future General Issues Committee agenda as an Item for Information by June 2026; and,

**Result: Sub-Section (d) to MOTION, DEFEATED by a vote of 5 to 8, as follows:**

No	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
No	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Absent	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
No	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Absent	-	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
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
No	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

Absent - Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora  
No - Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

(vii) At the request of Committee, sub-section (e) to the Motion respecting Strategic Workforce Capacity and Consultant Utilization Review, was voted on separately, as follows:

(d) That Staff **BE DIRECTED** to include Senior Leadership Team (SLT) management action plans as presented in the 2017 Calendar year, for addressing the implementation of the Audit report recommendations #1 – 12, to Appendix “A” of Report AUD17008, respecting the Use of External Consultants Performance Audit, on a future General Issues Committee agenda as an Item for Information by June 2026; and

**Result: Sub-Section (e) to MOTION, DEFEATED by a vote of 6 to 7, as follows:**

No - Mayor Andrea Horwath  
No - Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson  
Absent - 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  
No - Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls  
No - Ward 8 Councillor Rob Cooper  
No - Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark  
Yes - Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie  
Yes - Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson  
No - Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar  
Yes - Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson  
Absent - Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora  
No - Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

Councillor Tadeson assumed the Chair.

(i) **(Nann/Cooper)**

(a) That the following Items **BE REFERRED** to Council on April 22, 2026, for consideration:

- (i) Supporting the Role of Trustees in Maintaining an Accountable and Transparent Education System – REVISED (Item 9.5)
- (ii) PED26066  
Acquisition of Property (City Wide) – REVISED (Item 11.2)

(b) That the following Item **BE DEFERRED** to the May 6, 2026 General Issues Committee meeting, for consideration:

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

(i) GIC 26-005 - March 25, 2026 - Closed Session Minutes

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 11 to 0, as follows:**

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

**9.5 Supporting the Role of Trustees in Maintaining an Accountable and Transparent Education System - REVISED**

This Item was referred to Council meeting being held on Wednesday, April 22, 2026.

**9.6 Food Security**

**(McMeekin/Hwang)**

WHEREAS; there is a substantial growth to the need for food caused by financial insecurity related to food costs, high housing costs and inadequate Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Supports;

WHEREAS; the Flamborough Food Bank (Carlisle) and Food with Grace (Waterdown) continue to struggle to meet the food security needs of the local community; and,

WHEREAS; the Tastebuds nutritious lunch program at Waterdown District High School has had a dramatic increase in students participating in the program.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That a grant **BE PROVIDED** to the Flamborough Food Bank and funded from the Ward 15 Non Property Tax Revenue Account (3301609615) at an upset limit, including contingency, not to exceed \$12,000;

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

- (b) That a grant **BE PROVIDED** to Food with Grace and funded from the Ward 15 Non Property Tax Revenue Account (3301609615) at an upset limit, including contingency, not to exceed \$12,000;
- (c) That a grant **BE PROVIDED** to the Waterdown District High School Tastebuds Student Lunch Program and funded from the Ward 15 Non Property Tax Revenue Account (3301609615) at an upset limit, including contingency, not to exceed \$5000; and,
- (d) That the Mayor and City Clerk **BE AUTHORIZED** and **DIRECTED** to approve and execute all required agreements and ancillary documents, with such terms and conditions in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 11 to 0, as follows:**

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

## **9.7 Flamborough Connects**

### **(McMeekin/Tadeson)**

WHEREAS, Flamborough Connects is a registered charity proudly providing free and low-cost Seniors Service and Community Service to residents of Flamborough. We serve residents who may be geographically isolated, socially isolated, vulnerable, physically challenged, financially disadvantaged or new to Flamborough, encouraging them to be engaged, active and empowered;

WHEREAS, the Flamborough Connects' free Income Tax Program supports low income Flamborough residents by providing no-cost tax preparation and filing for individuals earning under \$40,000 and couples under \$55,000 with simple tax situations;

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

WHEREAS; many of the people served rely solely on Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and Old Age Security (OAS), often living on less than \$20,000 annually – some on under \$10,000 – making the cost and complexity of filing a significant barrier;

WHEREAS, by partnering with the Canada Revenue Agency's Community Volunteer Income Tax Program, we help residents remain compliant while ensuring they can access critical benefits such as GST and Trillium rebates, the Guaranteed Income Supplement, the Canadian Dental Care Plan, and maintain eligibility for subsidized housing;

WHEREAS, with the average Canadian expending \$130 annually to file taxes, this program removes a financial and technological barrier for vulnerable residents, many of whom do not have internet access or the ability to file independently;

WHEREAS, the program is entirely offered by trained volunteers;

WHEREAS, the program value to low-income Flamborough residents is estimated at 200 returns costing an average of \$130 saving the residents \$26,000 and the total benefits claimed by clients are estimated at \$688,595.75; and,

WHEREAS, the Ward 15 Community Council has reviewed and unanimously supported grant funding for this project.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That a grant **BE PROVIDED** to Flamborough Connects for their Income tax Program and funded from the Ward 15 Non Property Tax Revenue Account (3301609615) at an upset limit, including contingency, not to exceed \$11,500 to support this clinic; and,
- (b) That the Mayor and City Clerk **BE AUTHORIZED** and **DIRECTED** to approve and execute all required agreements and ancillary documents, with such terms and conditions in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 11 to 0, as follows:**

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

#### **9.8 HEART - Healthy Youth Network**

##### **(McMeekin/Tadeson)**

WHEREAS, the Healthy Education About Relationship project at Waterdown District High School continues to attract a lot of students' attention;

WHEREAS, the Program has continued to focus on value-based engagement to promote healthy nongender violence and awareness of youth dating violence;  
WHEREAS, engaging young males has historically been a challenge;

WHEREAS, McMaster Social Psychology department students have evaluated male engagement in the HEART program determining the need for a targeted Pilot entitled GUYS WITH HEART;

WHEREAS, this pilot will sponsor monthly Lunch and Learn sessions featuring key influencers identified by W.D.H.S. students;

WHEREAS, the curriculum will move beyond gender-based violence talks to include a focus on Healthy Masculinity, Mental Health and a Business Base for healthy relationships (while building strong connections and enhance success);  
and,

WHEREAS, the overall objective is to create a safe male space to explore and discuss the root causes of gender-based violence.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

- (a) That a grant **BE PROVIDED** to Healthy Youth Network (HEART) in support of Guys with Heart and funded from the Ward 15 Non-Property Tax Revenue Account (3301609615) at an upset limit, including contingency, not to exceed \$10,000; and,
- (b) That the Mayor and City Clerk **BE AUTHORIZED** and **DIRECTED** to approve and execute all required agreements and ancillary documents, with such terms and conditions in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 11 to 0, as follows:**

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

## **9.9 Souharissen Trail**

### **(McMeekin/M. Wilson)**

WHEREAS, the Waterdown District High School (W.D.H.S.) continues to collaborate with Indigenous partners through Ontario’s only high school Treaty Study Program,

WHEREAS, this partnership finds expression in two major led projects, namely; the Museum of Hope and the Souharissen Natural Area, a nationally recognized 55-acre space established in Waterdown by the Mississauga’s of the Credit Nation and students from W.D,H.S.,

WHEREAS, the natural was originally dedicated by Chief Byran Laforme and Lieutenant Governor David C. Onkey on August 21st, 2014 and has once been visited by many dignitaries, including Chiefs and Lieutenant Governors,

WHEREAS, the previous “Ponds Program” enhanced the historical significance of the Trail and was re-dedicated by Chief Sult and Ontario’s Lieutenant Governor the Honourable Edith Dumont,

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

WHEREAS, the W.D.H.S. students are continuing to work collaboratively through the Treaties Studies Program, Rick Hill Sr. (aabbwad) 6 Nations and the Mississauga's of the New Credit, desire to create a sit down gathering please for reflection and ongoing dialogue,

WHEREAS, this Gathering Space will be facilitated by the placement of four directional benches; and,

WHEREAS, the Ward 15 Community Council continues to endorse the importance of this historic and sacred spaces.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That a grant **BE PROVIDED** to support the installation of four (4) benches through the City of Hamilton Bench Program funded from the Ward 15 Non-Property Tax Revenue Account (3301609615) at an upset limit of \$12,000, including contingency; and,
- (b) That the Mayor and City Clerk **BE AUTHORIZED** and **DIRECTED** to approve and execute all required agreements and ancillary documents, with such terms and conditions in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 11 to 0, as follows:**

Absent	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Absent	-	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
Absent	-	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 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

**9.10 The Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society – Flamborough Archives**

**(McMeekin/Jackson)**

WHEREAS, the Flamborough Archives, a voluntary group, continues to provide a valuable service to the people of Ward 15 and beyond;

WHEREAS, the Archives is managed by a full-time volunteer professional archivist;

WHEREAS, the Community is wanting to continue the existing partnership relationship with the Waterdown District High School student sponsors of the award-winning Museum of Hope (a veteran's memorial);

WHEREAS, it is of continuing importance to affirm the ongoing and developing interests in local history in both the student and broader community;

WHEREAS, the reduction in the provision of Federal grants is placing additional challenges to the ongoing work of the Archives making the provision of important and necessary archival work with student support even more important;

WHEREAS, infrastructure changes are impacting the phone and computer services previously available causing unanticipated fiscal pressures on both Flamborough Connects and Flamborough Archives;

WHEREAS, that acquisition of two new computers to replace the two units and monitors owned by the library and to provide for the installation of new Bell Canada services as well as an upgrade to the Windows 11 Pro system is necessary to enable the ongoing work of the Archives; and,

WHEREAS, the hiring of the traditional student summer employee is pivotal to the catch-up archival work of Flamborough Archives.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That a grant **BE PROVIDED** to The Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society for the Flamborough Archives and funded from the Ward 15 Non-Property Tax Revenue Account (3301609615) at an upset limit, including contingency, not to exceed \$15,000 and,
- (b) That the Mayor and City Clerk **BE AUTHORIZED** and **DIRECTED** to approve and execute all agreement and ancillary documents, with such terms and conditions in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 11 to 0, as follows:**

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

**9.11 Jurisdictional Scan on Emergency Shelter Access and Inter-Municipal Coordination**

This Item was Withdrawn.

**9.12 Breakfast on the Farm Sponsorship - WITHDRAWN**

This Item was Withdrawn.

**10. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**10.1 Opposition to Provincial Consolidation of Conservation Authorities – REVISED**

**(i) (Clark/Cassar)**

That the Rules of Order **BE SUSPENDED** to allow for the introduction of a Motion respecting Opposition to Provincial Consolidation of Conservation Authorities – REVISED.

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a 2/3's vote of 11 to 0, as follows:**

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

(ii) WHEREAS, Conservation Authorities are locally governed, watershed-based organizations that play a critical role in flood management, erosion control, natural heritage protection, source water protection, and climate resilience;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton is currently served by multiple Conservation Authorities, including Conservation Halton, Hamilton Conservation Authority, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, and Grand River Conservation Authority, each with jurisdiction over different watershed areas that collectively reflect Hamilton's diverse geography;

WHEREAS, these Conservation Authorities provide significant benefits to Hamilton residents, including stewardship of conservation lands, protection of environmentally sensitive areas, management of flood and erosion risks, watershed planning, environmental monitoring, and public education;

WHEREAS, these organizations bring decades of local expertise and scientific knowledge related to Hamilton's unique natural features, including the Niagara Escarpment, Lake Ontario shoreline, urban and rural watersheds, agricultural lands, and provincially significant wetlands;

WHEREAS, Conservation Authorities are key partners in municipal planning and infrastructure decisions, providing technical review and guidance to ensure development occurs safely and responsibly, reducing long-term risks to residents, property, and municipal infrastructure;

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario enacted Bill 68, the *Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2025*, which received Royal Assent on November 27, 2025, and amended the *Conservation Authorities Act* to establish the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency;

WHEREAS, the Province has introduced Bill 97, the *Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2026*, currently at Second Reading, which proposes further amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, including the amalgamation of existing Conservation Authorities into a smaller number of regional entities and the establishment of transition committees to implement those changes;

WHEREAS, the proposed amalgamation of Conservation Authorities represents a significant restructuring of Ontario's watershed-based governance model, with potential implications for local decision-making, service delivery, and the ability to respond to the unique environmental and planning needs of communities such as Hamilton; and,

WHEREAS, changes of this scale require meaningful consultation with Conservation Authorities, municipalities, and other stakeholders to ensure that local knowledge, governance structures, and service delivery impacts are fully understood and considered prior to implementation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the City of Hamilton formally **EXPRESS** its opposition to the proposed consolidation of Conservation Authorities as outlined in Schedule 3 of Bill 97, the *Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2026*;
- (b) That the City of Hamilton **URGE** the Province of Ontario to undertake meaningful consultation with Conservation Authorities, municipalities, and sector partners prior to advancing any consolidation or restructuring of the Conservation Authority system;
- (c) That the Province **BE REQUESTED** to ensure that any changes to the Conservation Authority framework preserve local representation, watershed-based decision-making, and the ability to respond to local environmental and planning needs; and,
- (d) That a copy of this motion **BE SENT** to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local Members of Provincial Parliament, and the Chairs and Chief Administrative Officers of Conservation Halton, Hamilton Conservation Authority, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, and Grand River Conservation Authority.

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 11 to 0, as follows:**

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

**10.2 Feasibility of a 50-Metre Pool in the City of Hamilton**

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton is committed to supporting the health, wellness, and recreational needs of residents through the provision of high-quality community recreation infrastructure;

WHEREAS, swimming is consistently identified as one of the most desired recreational and sport activities in Canada, with strong public demand for increased access to aquatic facilities;

WHEREAS, 25-metre pools are not sufficient to meet the needs of competitive aquatic sport, limiting opportunities for training, competition, and sport development;

WHEREAS, Ontario is experiencing a significant infrastructure gap, with only 19 50-metre pools across the province, and only a small number constructed in the 21st century;

WHEREAS, six of the seven largest cities in Canada without a 50-metre pool are located in Ontario, demonstrating a disproportionate lack of access to this critical infrastructure;

WHEREAS, there are currently no publicly accessible 50-metre pools west of the Greater Toronto Area, with the exception of McMaster University's pool, which was constructed in the 1960s and is approaching end-of-life;

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

WHEREAS, Hamilton has a strong legacy of excellence in aquatic sport, having produced notable athletes including Olympian Joanne Malar, Jimmy Thompson, Patty Thompson, and Jack McCormick;

WHEREAS, investment in a 50-metre pool has the potential to significantly expand programming capacity, support learn-to-swim initiatives, improve community health outcomes, and position Hamilton to attract sport tourism and regional competitions;

WHEREAS, the Aquatic Sport Council of Ontario has identified the need for regionally significant aquatic facilities anchored by 50-metre pools, supported through partnerships across municipalities, institutions, and other sectors; and

WHEREAS, other Ontario municipalities, including the Cities of Mississauga and Waterloo, are actively exploring the feasibility of developing 50-metre aquatic facilities and seeking senior government support for such infrastructure.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff **BE DIRECTED** to report back to the General Issues Committee on the feasibility of developing a 50-metre aquatic facility in the City of Hamilton, including:
  - (i) capital and operating considerations;
  - (ii) potential locations, including integration into existing or planned recreation facilities;
  - (iii) a scan of other municipalities to identify best practices and emerging opportunities; and,
  - (iv) potential partnership models, including with neighbouring municipalities, post-secondary institutions, and other partners;
- (b) That the Mayor **BE REQUESTED** to communicate Hamilton's interest in advancing regionally significant aquatic infrastructure to the Province of Ontario and Government of Canada, including the need for dedicated funding to support such facilities.

## **11. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

### **11.1 GIC 26-005 - March 25, 2026 - Closed Session Minutes**

This Item was deferred to the Council meeting being held on Wednesday, April 22, 2026.

### **11.2 PED26066 Acquisition of Property (City Wide) – REVISED**

This Item was referred to the Council meeting being held on Wednesday, April 22, 2026.

**Please refer to the April 22, 2026 Council minutes for the disposition of these matters.**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the General Issues Committee adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Angela McRae  
Legislative Coordinator  
Office of the City Clerk

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Deputy Mayor Mark Tadeson  
Chair, General Issues Committee