



**General Issues Committee
REPORT 11-005
9:30 a.m.
Thursday, February 3, 2011
Council Chambers
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West**

Present: Deputy Mayor S. Duvall (Chair)
Mayor B. Bratina
Councillors B. Clark C. Collins, J. Farr, L. Ferguson, T. Jackson,
B. Johnson, B. McHattie, S. Merulla, B. Morelli, J. Partridge,
R. Pasuta, M. Pearson, R. Powers, T. Whitehead

Absent: Councillor R. Powers – City Business

Also Present: C. Murray, City Manager
R. Rossini, General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services
G. Davis, General Manager, Public Works
T. McCabe, General Manager, Economic Development & Planning
J. A. Priel, General Manager, Community Services
Dr. E. Richardson, Medical Officer of Health
H. Hale Tomasik, Executive Director, Human Resources &
Organizational Development
B. Browett, Director, EMS/Deputy
D. Cunliffe, Director, Fire Operations/Deputy Chief
C. Biggs, Co-ordinator, Committee Services/Council/Budgets

**THE GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 11-005 AND
RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:**

1. Operating Budget Principle

That City Council set a goal of 0% increase on the levy, with no service cuts, while utilizing attrition, department reorganizations and the elimination of annual gapping.

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Clerk advised that Councillor B. Clark will bring forward a motion respecting Operating Budget Principle. This was introduced as a Notice of Motion at the January 21, 2011 General Issues Committee meeting.

On a motion (Collins/Partridge) the agenda was approved, as amended.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

None

(c) APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

On a motion (Pearson/Ferguson) the Minutes of the January 11 and January 13 and 21 meetings of the General Issues Committee were approved as presented.

(d) STAFF PRESENTATIONS**2011 Tax-Supported Operating Budget (FCS11023) (City Wide) (Item 7.1)**

Staff provided a power point presentation, which included the following:

- 2011 Draft Gross Tax Operating Budget - \$1.3 billion
- 2011 Draft Gross Expenditures by Cost Category - \$1.3 billion
- 2011 Draft Gross Revenues by Category - \$1.3 billion
- Where do the average person's taxes go
- Fairness to Hamilton
- Council-approved Guidelines
- 2011 "Draft" Budget, including:
 - 2011 Total Draft Tax Impact
 - 2011 Draft Levy Change by Department
 - 2011 Draft Levy Change (Other)
 - 2011 Base Budget Savings
 - 2011 Recommended Savings Options
 - Significant Budget Items
 - 2011 Provincial Impacts
 - 2011 Tax Complement
 - Risks and Assumptions
 - Council-referred and Other Items
 - 2011 Council-referred Enhancements
 - Reduce the Tax Impact
 - Process

On a motion (Collins/Johnson) the presentation respecting the 2011 Tax Supported Operating Budget, was received.

On a motion (Clark/Merulla) the following was put forward:

That the City of Hamilton hold the line on the 2011 budget by not exceeding the actual 2010 expenditures with no service cuts while utilizing attrition, departmental reorganizations and the elimination of annual gapping.

On a motion (Clark/Merulla) the following amendment was put forward:

That the motion be amended by deleting “the City of Hamilton hold the line on the 2011 budget by not exceeding the actual 2010 expenditures” and replace it with “Council set a goal of 0% increase on the tax levy”.

The Motion, as amended, **CARRIED** on the following Standing Recorded Vote:

Yeas:	Bratina, Duvall, Whitehead, Jackson, Collins, Merulla, Farr, McHattie, Clark, Pearson, Johnson, Partridge
Total Yeas:	12
Total Nays:	0
Absent:	Morelli, Ferguson, Powers, Pasuta
Total Absent:	4

The following staff directions and/or additional information was requested of staff:

- (i) Detailed organizational charts for all divisions
- (ii) Direction to staff to put breaks on not filling non-essential services; staff responded that they are currently working on a report to address this issue
- (iii) Details of dollar amounts spent on items such as consulting, contractual work, including outside contracts, travel, overtime, stand-by, studies, advertising, etc. by cost categories and by department
- (iv) Comprehensive list of services that the City currently provides; staff responded that this information was previously presented in a report in October, 2010; however, the list of services will be posted on the City's website
- (v) Return on investment with respect to energy initiatives/conservation (hydro, gas, etc.) – what was budgeted in 2010, the 2010 actual and what is being budgeted for 2011
- (vi) List of items where there were cost savings e.g., salt

- (vii) Number of employees being paid through the rate budget and through the tax levy
- (viii) Number of employees in Public Health Services that are 100% funded through provincial/federal monies and through the tax levy
- (ix) 5.08 FTE's in Parking and By-law Services – are costs being front-loaded
- (x) 3 FTE's for Pan Am – how are costs funded; staff will confirm that the costs are covered by the City and if this is the case, staff to investigate why this cost is not being covered otherwise
- (xi) Bring forward a report that will assist with understanding what happens regarding social services – net transfers in and out – how many have gone to other communities, or have come to the City; ODSP/Ontario Works waiting lists
- (xii) Total cost for grievances and arbitrations – comparative from year to year on what is being spent
- (xiii) Will the City be implementing point-of-sale system at City museums to be able to track who is attending, what days; difficult to justify openings relative to demand
- (xiv) List of 2008, 2009 and 2010 positions – what was budgeted for in terms of wages and what was actual paid out
- (xv) Data on contracting out – how many contracts exist e.g., waste management, snow plowing, sidewalk clearing – what are contracts worth and how much is paid in-house

(e) NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor B. Clark introduced the following Notice of Motion:

That the Mayor be requested to forward a letter to the Federal Government requesting \$200,000 to support the archaeological dig at Smith Knoll in Stoney Creek.

(f) PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

On a motion (Clark/Collins) the Closed Session Minutes of the General Issues Committee meetings held on January 11 and 13, 2011 were approved as presented. These Minutes will remain confidential and restricted from public disclosure in accordance with the exemptions provided in the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Councillor S. Duvall, Deputy Mayor
General Issues Committee

Carolyn Biggs, Co-ordinator
Committee Services/Council/Budgets
February 3, 2011