



**General Issues Committee
MINUTES
9:30 a.m.
Friday, February 25, 2011
Council Chambers
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West**

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

**Absent with
Regrets:** Councillor S. Duvall – Bereavement
Councillor B. McHattie – Vacation
Councillor R. Powers – City Business

Also Present: A. Zuidema, A/City Manager
R. Rossini, General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services
G. Davis, General Manager, Public Works
C. Biggs, Co-ordinator, Committee Services/Council/Budgets

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REPORTED TO THE GENERAL ISSUES
COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION:**

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

(Farr/Morelli)

That the agenda be adopted, as presented.

CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

None

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS/DELEGATIONS

The Committee entertained the following Boards and Agencies with respect to the 2011 Budget:

9:40 a.m. Hamilton Beach Rescue Unit

The delegation addressed the Committee and provided highlights of the following:

- Mark Dean, Deputy Chief and Board Member of the Rescue Unit, together with Chief, Captain and two members
- Able to follow guidelines
- Outlined area covered by Rescue Unit
- Deployed and activated by Police, Fire Department. EMS or Coast Guard; also activated by Burlington Lift Bridge
- Participated in Emergency Day at Bayfront Park in 2008
- Provided power point presentation of the various pieces of equipment deployed by the Rescue Unit

A copy of the comments and power point presentation were submitted to the City Clerk for the public record.

(Pearson/Ferguson)

That the presentation be received.

CARRIED

10:00 a.m. Festival of Friends

The delegation addressed the Committee and provided highlights of the following:

- Loren Leiberman
- Outlined successful activities/events throughout 2010; developing market in Western New York
- Festival's relationship with the City over the years has had good and bad times; however, working relationship now has never been better
- Letter within handout from Board Member of Festival in terms of work that has been done to date
- Enthusiastic about the future of event at Ancaster Fair Grounds
- Appreciative of support received from the City
- Response has been overwhelmingly favourable and looking forward to new and improved venue for the Festival
- Success of last year coupled with need for expansion
- Looking forward to almost weather-proofing the Festival

- Festival of Friends will start resembling CNE; allows the ability to partner with other organizations; working with City staff to figure out all different options around HSR e.g., shuttle service
- Look forward to increasing tourism impact and representing this region to all who attend the Festival

A copy of the presentation was submitted to the City Clerk for the public record.

(Pearson/Ferguson)

That the presentation be received.

CARRIED

10:20 a.m. Opera Hamilton

The delegation addressed the Committee and provided highlights of the following:

- Stephen Bye, Executive Director
- New Season, New Home – Dofasco Centre for the Arts
- Hiring services of HPO – 4 performances for patrons (Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday matinee and evening)
- Subscription Renewal Campaign
- Operating budget for 2011/2012
- Committee requested most recent Financial Audited Statement for Opera Hamilton; requested information was received and forwarded to the Committee on February 28, 2011

A copy of the presentation was submitted to the City Clerk for the public record.

(Johnson/Pasuta)

That the presentation be received.

CARRIED

10:40 a.m. Boris Brott Music Festival

The delegation addressed the Committee and provided highlights of the following:

- Jackie Templeton-Muir, Director of Development
- Brott Music Festival is entering its 24th season with no deficit
- Ticket prices are some of the least expensive in Southern Ontario ranging from \$6 to \$40 and \$50 for special fund-raisers
- Performed 11 concerts as free outreach into the community in 2010; hired 27 local artists in addition to 91 local choir members
- Created a blog and Facebook fan page in 2007

- Showed DVD

A copy of the presentation was submitted to the City Clerk for the public record.

(Pearson/Ferguson)

That the presentation be received.

CARRIED

11:00 a.m. Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra

The delegation addressed the Committee and provided highlights of the following:

- Annalise Pederson
- HPO has been an important and integral part of the community for over 60 years
- Outlined "Mission" and "Vision" and "Quick Facts"
- Highlighted accomplishments in 2010
- Addressed economic and community impacts brought to the City
- Distributed a revised financial statement; funding request is the same as in 2010
- Committee requested a deficit reduction plan which was received and circulated to the Committee members

A copy of the presentation has been submitted to the City Clerk for the public record.

CARRIED

(Jackson/Pearson)

That the presentation be received.

CARRIED

11:20 a.m. Royal Botanical Gardens

The delegation addressed the Committee and provided highlights of the following:

- Mark Runciman
- Provided 2011 Business Plan, including Financials (operating expenditures, projected revenues and funding requirements); assumptions to budget and forecast numbers; programs and activities
- Confirmed Halton's contribution for their 2011 portion
- Projecting another positive year for 2011

A copy of the presentation was submitted to the City Clerk for the public record.

(Morelli/Pearson)

That the presentation be received.

CARRIED

11:40 a.m. Art Gallery of Hamilton

The delegation addressed the Committee and provided highlights of the following:

- Louise Dompierre
- Over 7,000 students visiting from kindergarten to post secondary
- Focused on accessibility for visitors, including individuals with vision loss
- Hired new Director of Commercial Activities in 2010
- Have film crews looking to borrow art works for film shoots
- 25 full-time and 70 on contract (short term)
- Art Gallery is very supportive of the Art Crawl; work with Marchese Pharmacy space and show video projects; presented films during Super Crawl; staff are in attendance and open to collaborations
- First Friday of each month is free at Art Gallery; Art Crawl is second Friday of each month
- Ask staff to meet with AGH to reach out to community to have a united front in terms of advocating for an appropriate and equitable level of funding

The Committee recessed at 1:20 p.m.

(Pearson/Johnson)

That the presentation be received.

CARRIED

(Whitehead/Jackson)

That staff be directed to meet with Art Gallery staff regarding the storage of Hamilton's cultural inventory and report back to the appropriate Standing Committee.

CARRIED

The Committee Reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

Prior to entertaining the delegations, Steve Miazga, Chief Administrative Officer of the Hamilton Conservation Authority, provided an overview of the "Roles of a Conservation Authority" on behalf of the various Conservation Authorities presenting. The power point presentation included the jurisdictions of the four conservation authorities in the City of Hamilton, their Mandate, key powers and objectives of Authorities, including flooding and erosion protection and control, water quality monitoring, land use planning, protection of natural areas, ground water protection, land owner stewardship, land acquisition; outdoor education and outdoor recreation/trails.

1:00 p.m. Conservation Halton

The delegation addressed the Committee and provided highlights of the following:

- Brian Penman
- Brief introduction to Conservation Halton
- Summary of successes
- Details of 2011 budget, including major drivers, budget summary, funding comparison 2011 vs 2010; funding by source; expenditure comparison 2011 vs 2010, 2011 total expenditure by program; municipal funding and analysis, municipal apportionments
- Public Accountability Report 2010 itemizes accomplishments from the past, services and how they are funded

A copy of the presentation was submitted to the City Clerk for the public record.

(Partridge/Pasuta)

That the presentation be received.

CARRIED

1:20 p.m. Grand River Conservation Authority

The Committee was advised that written notification was received from the Grand River Conservation Authority advising that they would not be able to attend today's meeting; however, their budget submission has been circulated.

Noted for record that their increase is 1.6%.

1:40 p.m. Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

The delegation addressed the Committee and provided highlights of the following:

- Water management and land management programs
- Program/service expenditure changes
- 2011 preliminary budget revenue
- 2011 preliminary operating budget and levy apportionment
- 2011 preliminary capital budget and levy apportionment
- Hamilton levy summary
- provided photographs of Binbrook Conservation Area, on-going capital improvements i.e., new pavilion
- Met budget target as set by the City at 1.2%

A copy of the presentation was provided to the City Clerk for the public record.

(Whitehead/Jackson)

That the presentation be received.

CARRIED

2:00 p.m.

Hamilton Conservation Authority

The delegation addressed the Committee and provided highlights of the following:

- Steve Miazga, Chief Administrative Officer
- Requesting 2% increase in levy
- Components of budget consists of lands managed on behalf of Hamilton, being Confederation Park and Westfield Heritage Village – no levy request for these two entities
- Overall request is for own conservation
- Figures in hundreds of thousands of dollars
- Levy amount includes Hamilton and Township of Puslinch, which is minor
- Breakdown of how operations are conducted
- Amount of provincial funding has decreased over the last 15 years
- Confederation Park is very active and is one of the best known parks; funding request of \$369,000 (same as 2010); projecting deficit of \$400,000
- Westfield Heritage Village is very successful; funding request of \$547,000 (same as 2010)
- Summary – seeking total increase of 1.6% increase inclusive of all entities
- Councillor Whitehead suggested that the issue of downloading to Conservation Authorities be forwarded to the to Fairness to Hamilton Committee for consideration

A copy of the presentation was submitted to the City Clerk for the public record.

(Johnson/Pearson)/

That the presentation be received.

CARRIED

(Ferguson/Whitehead)

That the Hamilton Police Services Budget be re-scheduled to a future meeting of the General Issues Committee.

The motion was **DEFEATED** on the following vote:

Yeas:	Ferguson, Whitehead, Pasuta, Farr
Total Yeas:	4
Nays:	Collins, Partridge, Pearson, Morelli Jackson,
Total Nays:	5

2:20 p.m. Hamilton Public Library

The delegation addressed the Committee and provided highlights of the following:

- Santina Moccio, Chair of the Board
- Presented 2011 Operating Budget – Expenses and Revenues
- Major Drivers – Negotiated salary adjustments and staff complement
- Before and after photos of the Central Library first floor, renovations at Sherwood, Barton and Red Hill libraries
- Circulation trends
- Major initiatives

A copy of the presentation was provided to the City Clerk for the public record.

(Jackson/Pearson)

That the presentation be received.

CARRIED

2:50 p.m. HECFI

The delegation addressed the Committee and provided highlights of the following:

- Marcel Mongeon, Chair, John Hertel, CAO and Rick DiFilippo, Corporate Controller
- Difficulties faced by HECFI in 2010 in terms of entertainment, hospitality and sports operations
- HECFI's response respecting implementation steps and additional steps in the 2011 budget
- Effect of staffing actions on the 2011 budget
- 2011 budget analysis
- Summary of 2011 HECFI Operating Budget
- Municipal contribution from 1986 to present
- 2010 entertainment highlights
- Hospitality highlights – 2010 convention-type activity

A copy of the presentation was submitted to the City Clerk for the public record.

(Bratina/Partridge)

That the presentation be received.

CARRIED

3:10 p.m. Hamilton Police Services

The delegation addressed the Committee and provided highlights of the following:

- Chief Glenn DeCaire
- Hamilton Police Service (HPS) is a people-based service
- Budget addresses public safety, matches plans for growth and puts people in right places at the right time
- This is reason why police service has spent considerable time in 2010 conducting full organizational review
- Very lean organization and holding selves accountable for all activities that serve the public
- Supports direction of corporate strategic plan developed in consultation with communities
- HPS has 787 sworn and 280 civilian members and 283 vehicle fleet across 1200 square km
- 2010 Crime Statistics Report Highlights
- 4.97% increase
- Staff (Economic Development) to provide accurate population statistics
- Provided a detailed presentation on the 2011 budget request

A copy of the presentation was submitted to the City Clerk for the public record.

(Ferguson/Johnson)

That the presentation be received.

CARRIED

5. DISCUSSION AGENDA

(Morelli/Farr)

That the recommendations contained in Report FCS11023(i) respecting the 2011 Tax Supported Operating Budget – Boards and Agencies, be referred to a future budget meeting for deliberations.

CARRIED

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Councillor C. Collins, Deputy Mayor
General Issues Committee