



**General Issues Committee
MINUTES
9:30 a.m.
Monday, March 28, 2011
Council Chambers
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West**

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

**Absent with
Regrets:** Councillor B. Morelli – Bereavement

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

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REPORTED TO CITY COUNCIL FOR
CONSIDERATION:**

**1. 2011 Tax Supported Operating Budget – Boards & Agencies (FCS11023i)
(City Wide) (Item 8.1)**

(Jackson/Pearson)

- (a) That the 2011 net operating levy for Hamilton Public Library of
\$27,635,281 be approved. **CARRIED**

(Pearson/Powers)

- (b) That the 2011 net operating levy for Other Boards and Agencies of
\$13,403,267, as amended, be approved. **CARRIED as amended**

(Powers/Johnson)

(c) That the 2011 net operating levy for Community Partnerships of \$3,285,686 be approved. **CARRIED**

(d) That the 2011 Requested Program Enhancement in the amount of \$150,000 pertaining to the operation and maintenance of Waterfront Pier 8 Rink, as per Appendix One to Report FCS11023(i), be approved.

**CARRIED as amended
Motion as amended CARRIED**

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

None

(Merulla/Collins)

That the agenda be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

None

(c) APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (Item 3)

(Partridge/Powers)

That the Minutes of the February 24 and 25, 2011 meetings of the General Issues Committee be approved as presented.

CARRIED

(d) DELEGATION REQUESTS

None

(e) STAFF PRESENTATIONS (Item 7)

(i) Update on 2011 Corporate Budget (Item 7.1)

Rob Rossini provided an update on the 2011 Corporate Budget, which included the following:

- Starting point of the draft 2011 budget submission
- Reduction process
- Potential reductions for Committee Review resulting from March 3 General Issues Committee meeting

- Potential levy as presented at the March 3 meeting
- Draft Year-end 2010 Variance
- Further reductions for Committee Review resulting from March 28 meeting
- Increase in fuel budget from \$0.87/L to \$0.92/L
- Potential levy as updated a March 28 GIC meeting
- Draft (current position) vs potential (March 3 and 28 reductions), by Department
- Potential tax impact by levy
- Annual City-wide Residential Tax Impacts
- 2011 Municipal Comparison (excludes Education)
- Process/Timelines

The presentation handout also included a sheet showing the 2011 tax operating budget adjustments pending approval by the Standing Committees.

Mr. Rossini pointed out that when the draft budget was released on February 3, the overall tax increase on residential was at 2.4%. Since that time, and at the direction of the Committee, staff has reviewed their respective Departmental budgets and reduced the overall levy from 2.8% to 1.7%, resulting in a total average residential tax impact from 1.6% as at March 3 to 1.0% as at March 28.

With respect to the non-union compensation funds, Mr. Rossini advised that SMT is recommending that the two allocations of funds be combined and split in half, which results in a reduction of \$1.2 million. Staff will be reporting back explaining how the remaining balance is to be allocated.

Councillor Jackson requested that in a future presentation, staff make a distinction between what is a legislated enhancement, Council-referred items (\$2.8 million) and staff enhancements (\$5 million).

Councillor Whitehead stated that the allocation of the provincial monies coming to the City should be discussed at the General Issues Committee rather than at the Emergency and Community Services Committee. Staff recommended that discussions be withheld pending receipt of confirmation from the Minister, as well as announcement of the provincial budget, at which time a report will be brought forward.

With respect to HECFI, the Committee expressed concern with their deficit elimination plan and facility loan and the need to get an understanding on how HECFI will control their costs to lower the deficit i.e., need to know exactly where/what is being eliminated and the numbers involved.

(Ferguson/Johnson)

That the update on the 2011 Corporate Budget presentation be received.

CARRIED

(f) DISCUSSION AGENDA

(i) 2011 Tax Supported Operating Budget – Board and Agencies (FCS11023(i)) (City Wide)

(Jackson/Clark)

That sub-section 8.1(c) be amended by reducing the budget by \$9,990 from \$16,660,357 to \$16,650,407 from the Hamilton Conservation Authority budget to match their budget request. **Amendment CARRIED**

(Ferguson/Johnson)

That sub-section 8.1(a) of Report FCS11023(i) respecting the 2011 net operating levy for the Hamilton Police Services in the amount of \$129,826,620, be referred back to the Police Services Board requesting further review and consideration of their budget to meet the City's target and to report back by April 14.

The referral motion **CARRIED** on the following standing recorded vote:

Yeas: Clark, Farr, Ferguson, Johnson, Partridge, Pasuta, Pearson, Powers

Total Yeas: 8

Nays: Bratina, Collins, Duvall, Jackson, McHattie, Merulla, Whitehead

Total Nays: 7

Absent: Morelli

Total Absent: 1

Item 8.1 was split for voting purposes.

Sub-section 8.1(b) **CARRIED**.

(Johnson/Clark)

That sub-section 8.1(c) be further amended by deferring the HECFI budget in the amount of \$3,247,140 until April 14, 2011.

Amendment CARRIED

Sub-section 8.1(d) **CARRIED**.

(Ferguson/Powers)

That sub-section 8.1(e) be amended by deleting the words, "and Restaurant", to read as follows:

- (e) That the 2011 Requested Program Enhancements in the amount of \$150,000 pertaining to the operation and maintenance of Waterfront Pier 8 Rink, as per Appendix One to Report FCS11023(i), be approved. **Amendment CARRIED**

(Ferguson/Bratina)

- (a) That sub-section 8.1(e), as amended, be referred back to staff pending receipt of additional information, including who operates the restaurant, what is the revenue generated by the restaurant, is this a one-time grant or multi-year commitment, cost of operating of the rink, including the costs of operating the ice rink at Dundas Driving Park in Dundas;
- (b) That future funding be subject to representatives of the Waterfront Trust providing a presentation to the General Issues Committee.

Motion WITHDRAWN

(ii) Operation and Maintenance of Waterfront Pier 8 Rink

(Ferguson/Bratina)

- (a) That funding for future years for the operation and maintenance of Waterfront Pier 8 Rink be subject to staff providing a report back to the General Issues Committee addressing the following issues:
- (i) is this a one-time grant or multi-year commitment
 - (ii) who operates the restaurant
 - (iii) what is the revenue generated by the restaurant and where is that money going
 - (iv) status of the management/operations agreement
 - (v) cost of operating all City ice rinks
 - (vi) information respecting the restaurant bid.
- (b) That representatives of the Waterfront Trust be requested to attend the meeting of the General Issues Committee at which the above-noted information is provided to respond to questions of the Committee. **CARRIED**

(g) MOTIONS

None

(h) GENERAL INFORMATION/OTHER BUSINESS

None

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Councillor J. Farr, Deputy Mayor
General Issues Committee

Carolyn Biggs, Co-ordinator
Committee Services/Council/Budgets
March 28, 2011