



**General Issues Committee
MINUTES (BUDGET)**

9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Council Chambers

Hamilton City Hall

71 Main Street West

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

Absent: Councillor S. Merulla – Personal 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
C. Biggs, Co-ordinator, Committee Services/Council/Budgets

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REPORTED TO CITY COUNCIL FOR INFORMATION:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Clerk advised that there are no changes to the agenda.

(Collins/Farr)

That the agenda be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

None

(c) APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

(d) STAFF PRESENTATIONS

2012 Tax-Supported Operating Budget (City Wide) (Item 4.1)

Chris Murray provided an introduction to the budget presentation and indicated that the presentation would cover the following areas: the Council-approved guidelines, specifically focusing on what was approved in 2011; where we are now in terms of the Operating Budget and what is being worked on throughout the budget cycle and the remainder of the year in order to achieve goals; and information about the workforce and where we are with respect to people who are becoming eligible to retire. Human Resources staff will provide additional information with respect to retirements and the City's obligations in terms of benefits, etc.

In response to whether there are any "sacred cows" that are definitely "off the table" during the budget considerations, e.g., golf courses, retirement homes, front-line public services, et al, staff responded that Council previously provided clear direction that programs in these areas are not to be touched. The Committee requested that staff circulate a memo to remind them of what is not open for further discussion.

Councillor Whitehead suggested that the list of "untouchables" be revisited each year.

Staff provided a power point presentation respecting the 2012 Preliminary Tax Operating Budget Corporate Overview, which included the following:

- 2011 Council Recommendations – Sustainable Savings Strategy (2011)
- 2012 Council-approved guidelines
- 2012 preliminary tax impact
- What are we working on: Service delivery review; employee suggestion program; audit services enhancements
- Retirement statistics

Rob Rossini, General Manager, Corporate Services

- 2012 Gross Tax Operating Budget by Service
- 2012 Gross Tax Revenues and Expenditures by Type
- Comparing Levy per Capita – Hamilton's Spending on Par
- 2011 Cost for Municipal Services for average home
- Comparing Social Services Costs – 2010
- Comparing 2012 Upload Benefit (Shortfall)
- Where to get to 0%
- 2012 Preliminary Budget

- Significant mitigation since original outlook – September 2011
 - 2012 preliminary tax impact on average home
 - 2012 preliminary budget by Department
 - Significant budget items – City Departments
 - 2012 base budget savings
 - 2012 preliminary budget – Boards and Agencies/Other
 - 2012 tax complement
 - Risks and assumptions
 - Historical tax increases
 - 2012 average municipal tax impacts
- Council Referred and Other Items
 - 2011 Council-referred enhancements
 - 2012 requested enhancements
 - Process
 - Reducing the tax impact

(Collins/Jackson)

That the presentation respecting the 2012 Tax Supported Operating Budget, be received. **CARRIED**

The Committee was distributed with the power point presentation, together with 2012 Outstanding Committee Requests – Various Account Analysis. Both documents have been retained in the public record and can be viewed on the City of Hamilton website.

Within the discussions following the presentation, Committee requested that they be provided with the following information/material:

- (a) Options and alternatives as related to where the City is a member i.e., associations, organizations, to provide Council with an opportunity to understand the benefit or value to the City, and whether they should be maintained in terms of benefits gained over the years
- (b) How a building permit translates into tax revenue
- (c) Investigate other sources of revenue opportunities available through authority by the Province, review City of Toronto Act and similar legislation for the City of Vancouver for consideration during this term of Council
- (d) Want to see matrix that determines that the City is at the provincial average in terms of tax ratio
- (e) Investigate and report back on how the City might institute, within contracts, other ways of getting value for dollars i.e., snow clearing
- (f) 2002-2003 statistics of Ontario Works clients; 2005-2006 review of social services
- (g) Want to see total see total expenditure at the end of each line for end of the year – per division, per classification (i.e., advertising)
- (h) Show breakdown by Ward rather than by former municipalities from the beginning of the process

- (i) Request same data from all municipalities that have been used for comparison purposes in presentation with respect to provision of social services

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Councillor R. Powers, Deputy Mayor
General Issues Committee

Carolyn Biggs, Co-ordinator
Committee Services/Council/Budgets
January 24, 2012