



**General Issues Committee
MINUTES (BUDGET DELIBERATIONS)**

9:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Council Chambers

Hamilton City Hall

71 Main Street West

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

Absent with Regrets: Councillor J. Partridge – City Business
Councillor B. Clark – Personal
Councillor L. Ferguson – Vacation

Also Present: C. Murray, City Manager
R. Rossini, General Manager, Finance and Corporate
Services
G. Davis, General Manager, Public Works
T. McCabe, General Manager, Planning & Economic
Development
J. A. Priel, General Manager, Community Services
R. Hall, Director, Health Protection, Public Health Services
P. Barkwell, City Solicitor
C. Biggs, Legislative Co-ordinator

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

The Clerk advised of the following changes:

PRESENTATION

- (i) Budget Update – Rob Rossini, General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services

NOTICES OF MOTION

- (ii) Funding Agreement with the Hamilton Conservation Authority for the purpose of supporting the Cootes to Escarpment Eco-Park area (Added Item 6.1)

- (iii) Funding Request for Supercrawl (Added Item 6.2)

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

- (iv) City of Hamilton v Metcalfe & Mansfield (Added Item 7.1) (No Copy)

(Pearson/Morelli)

That the agenda be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

(Pearson/Collins)

That the following Minutes be approved, as presented:

- (a) March 2, 2012 (Item 3.1)

- (b) March 6, 2012 (Item 3.2)

CARRIED

4. PRESENTATIONS

Rob Rossini provided a power point presentation updating the Committee on the status of the 2012 operating budget in terms of percentage increase to date. Comments included, but were not limited to, the following:

- Bit of progress since last meeting in terms of reducing the budget impact
- 1.3% increase as of previous meeting
- Recommending to additional budget amendments i.e., reduction to Employer Health Benefits Cost (\$650,000) and funding the Addiction Services from the Ontario Works Stabilization Reserve (\$143,000)
- \$800,000 in reductions would bring overall tax impact down to 1.2% level
- if approved, overall tax impact would be at \$42 per average household, (assessed at \$258,000)
- To get to 1%, would require another \$1.9 million in reductions and \$3.5 million to get to 0.8% as last year
- Items outstanding on today's agenda include: street tree trimming, roads and sidewalks, stormwater facility maintenance, horticultural roundabouts

Within the budget information handout, the Committee was provided with:

- (i) an up-to-date Appendix "A" reflective of proposed reductions
- (ii) 2012 total residential tax impacts – Urban by former area municipality and by Ward
- (iii) 2012 total residential tax impacts – Rural by former area municipality and by Ward
- (iv) 2012 total residential tax impacts – Urban with Rural Fire by former area municipality and by Ward
- (v) 2012 total residential tax impacts – Rural with Urban Fire by former area municipality and by Ward
- (vi) 2011 Growth for 2012 Taxation.

Councillor Powers requested information respecting comparables over the 2011 figures relative to the 2011 growth for 2012 taxation.

Further Reductions

(Farr/Powers)

- (a) That the presentation updating the 2012 Operating Budget be received;
- (b) That the following budget amendments be approved:
 - (i) Reduction to Employer Health Benefits Cost in the amount of (\$650,000)
 - (ii) Fund Addiction Services from the Ontario Works (OW) Stabilization Reserve in the amount of (\$143,000)
 - (iii) That the 2012 Planning budget not be adjusted for the potential loss in revenue from reductions to Licencing fees of approximately \$412,000 (PED11040(e)) and the potential variance be funded first from Departmental surplus, then corporate surplus and then tax stabilization reserve, if required;
 - (iv) That the 2012 Planning budget not be adjusted for the loss in revenue from the elimination of parking meters in Stoney Creek and Flamborough of approximately \$176,000 and the potential variance be funded first from Departmental surplus, then corporate surplus and then tax stabilization reserve, if required;
- (c) That the above-noted budget amendments be reflected in the final dollar figures that will be provided within the overall budget report to Council.

CARRIED

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 Outstanding 2012 Budget Items

(Pearson/Duvall)

That the following items be tabled to the March 27, 2012 General Issues Committee budget meeting:

- (a) Forestry and Horticulture – Street Tree Trimming (PW05015(a) and (b)) – Deferral recommended of \$1.32 million, including 2012 and deferred amounts from 2010 and 2011 – DEFERRED (February 29 GIC)
- (b) Roads – Road and Sidewalk Safety Maintenance (PW11017) – address deficiencies; sidewalk (\$600K); road surface (\$500K); Minimum Maintenance Standards compliance – TABLED (February 29 GIC)
- (c) Roads – Storm Water Facilities Maintenance (2011 Budget); Catch basin inspection and 3 cleaning cycle (\$300K); Catch basin repairs (\$150K); Storm Water Pont Maintenance (\$650K); Culvert and outfall inspection and maintenance (\$270K) – TABLED (February 29 GIC)
- (d) Horticulture – Maintenance of new traffic roundabouts (\$161,400) – PARKED (March 2 GIC)
- (e) Recommendation (l) of Report FCS12014 respecting the 2012 tax levy and preparation of the necessary by-law

List of Traffic Islands requiring Beautification

(Jackson/Duvall)

That staff be directed to provide a list of outstanding traffic islands in the City that require beautification to assist the Committee during discussions of the horticulture – maintenance of new traffic roundabouts. **CARRIED**

Allocation of Capital Budget Enhancement for Roads and Sidewalks

(Collins/Jackson)

That staff be directed to bring a report to the Public Works Committee presenting options and alternatives on the allocation of the \$3 million enhancement for Roads and Sidewalks during the 2012 construction season, which was approved through the Capital Budget. **CARRIED**

6. NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor B. McHattie introduced the following Notice of Motion:

6.1 Funding Agreement with the Hamilton Conservation Authority for the purpose of supporting the Cootes to Escarpment Eco-Park area

Whereas, Hamilton City Council has endorsed the Cootes to Escarpment Eco-Park Strategy and the City of Hamilton has a seat on the project steering committee, and;

And Whereas, the Cootes to Escarpment Eco-Park area from Dundas to Burlington connecting the Cootes Paradise Marsh and the Grindstone Creek Estuary to the Niagara Escarpment is one of the richest biological areas in Canada, and represents the only location on the north side of Lake Ontario where the Niagara Escarpment is connected to the Great Lakes without being interrupted by a 400 series highway, and;

And Whereas, this corridor faces intense pressures from the surrounding urbanized portions of Hamilton and Burlington, and major transportation arteries such as Highways 403 and 6, and;

And Whereas, since 2009, the City of Hamilton has supported the concept of acquisition of natural areas through the establishment of a Natural Areas Acquisition Fund.

Therefore, be it resolved:

- (a) That the City of Hamilton enter into a funding agreement with the Hamilton Conservation Authority for the purpose of supporting land acquisition in the Cootes to Escarpment Eco-Park area;
- (b) That said funding agreement total \$250,000 for 2012 and be funded from the following sources:
 - (i) \$50,000 from the Unallocated Capital Reserve (108020) that was approved through the 2012 capital budget process for the purpose of the Cootes Paradise to Escarpment land acquisition project
 - (ii) \$100,000 through closing and transferring the uncommitted and unspent funding from capital project 8121159100 Natural Areas Acquisition Fund; and
 - (iii) \$100,000 through the 2011 tax supported operating surplus.

Notice of Motion will be placed on the March 27 GIC agenda as a Motion.

Councillor Farr introduced the following Notice of Motion:

6.2 Funding Request for 2012 Supercrawl

Whereas the approximate total direct Gross Domestic Product impact on Hamilton from Supercrawl was \$1.5 million;

And Whereas based on the survey results taken on the street at the time of the 2011 event, and the responses to questions about where the attendees came from and what they spent, the Ontario government's Tourism Regional Impact Model concludes that the largest sector benefit was to the Food and Beverage industry, at \$283,000, the second largest sector benefit was to Retail Trade, at \$272,000, followed by Accommodation at \$114,000;

And Whereas this same model estimates that the total impact on Ontario's economy, when spin-off benefits and sales tax are included, was \$3.9 million. This number takes into account the money spent getting to Hamilton, and the benefit to the 'downstream producers' such as farmers, manufacturers and shipping and storage, amongst others;

And Whereas Supercrawl organizers have, in a short time, proven that this event is a major festival with respect to draw (approximate attendance of 50,000), and have done so for the most part at their own expense;

And Whereas the event is community based and features thousands of hours in community volunteer time;

And Whereas the 2012 Festival will have considerably more content, with a much larger street closure area than 2011;

And Whereas the organizers of this event are looking to continue to expand and create an event that will be a showcase for Hamilton for the Pan Am Games in 2015.

Therefore Be It Resolved:

That one-time funding in the amount of \$60,000 for the 2012 James Street North Supercrawl be approved, and that this amount be funded from the Economic Development Department 2012 Operating Budget.

(Merulla/Collins)

That the Rules of Order be waived to allow for the introduction of a Motion with respect to Funding Request for Super Crawl. **CARRIED**

Funding Request for 2012 Supercrawl

(Farr/Merulla)

That one-time funding in the amount of \$60,000 for the 2012 James Street North Supercrawl be approved, and that this amount be funded from the Economic Development Department 2012 Operating Budget or, if required, the 2012 City surplus or the Tax Stabilization Reserve. **CARRIED**

7. PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

(Pearson/Collins)

That the Committee move into closed Session at 10:43 p.m. pursuant to sub-sections 8.1(e) and (f) of the City's Procedural By-law and Sections 239.2(e) and (f) of the Municipal Act as the subject matters pertain to:

- (e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the City
- (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose

respecting City of Hamilton v Metcalfe & Mansfield.

CARRIED

The Committee reconvened in Open Session at 11:05 p.m.

7.1 City of Hamilton v Metcalfe & Mansfield (Added)

Direction provided to staff In Camera.

8. ADJOURNMENT

(Powers/Bratina)

There being no further business, the Committee recessed at 11:10 a.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted

Councillor T. Whitehead
Acting Deputy Mayor

Carolyn Biggs
Legislative Co-ordinator
March 22, 2012