



GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

REPORT 12-024(a)

9:30 a.m.

Friday, September 28, 2012

Council Chambers

Hamilton City Hall

71 Main Street West

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

Absent with Regrets: Mayor R. Bratina – Illness
Councillor B. Clark – Personal
Councillor J. Farr – Personal
Councillor R. Powers – City Business

THE GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 12-024(a) AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

- 1. 2013 Tax Budget Guideline and Preliminary Outlook (FCS12065) (City Wide) (presentation was deferred from the September 19, 2012 General Issues Committee) (Item 4.1)**
 - (a) That 2013 user fees (excluding golf, transit and ice fees) be increased by an inflation rate of 2.3% (Ontario CPI), and that any user fee adjustments, other than inflationary, be forwarded for consideration with appropriate explanation;
 - (b) That Boards & Agencies be requested to submit a 2013 budget based on a guideline of 0% increase, and that any increase be forwarded for consideration with appropriate explanation;
 - (c) That, in an effort to achieve the goal of an overall tax impact of zero percent for City Services, all City departments target a 2013 budget guideline of 0% increase, and that any increase be forwarded for consideration with appropriate explanation.

2. Ontario Municipal Partnership Funding Reconciliation Funds

- (a) That the Mayor write a letter to the Government of Ontario requesting the Ontario Municipal Partnership Funding reconciliation funds as soon as possible, as were highlighted in the 2010 budget deliberations;
- (b) That when Hamilton Day takes place at the Provincial Legislature, the Fairness to Hamilton Sub-Committee pursue the OMPF reconciliation funds.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The agenda was approved as presented.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

None

(c) APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (Item 3)

The minutes from the September 13, 2012 meeting were approved.

(d) STAFF PRESENTATIONS (Item 4)

(i) 2013 Tax Budget Guideline and Preliminary Outlook (FCS12065) (City Wide) (presentation was deferred from the September 19, 2012 General Issues Committee) (Item 4.1)

Rob Rossini, General Manager, Finance & Corporate Services, addressed the Committee with the aid of a Power Point Presentation. A copy of the Power Point presentation was distributed to members of the Committee and is available for viewing on the City of Hamilton website.

Staff gave an overview of the 2013 Tax Budget Guideline and Preliminary Outlook. The presentation touched upon the following:

Mr. Rossini gave an overview of the preliminary outlook for the 2013 Budget and explained the budget with respect to the tax impact, compensation, provincial impacts, corporate costs, and social services.

The primary goals of the 2013 Budget deliberations were reiterated to the Committee.

Please refer to item 1 for disposition.

(ii) 2013 Capital Budget (no copy) (continued from September 13, 2012 General Issues Committee) (Item 4.2)

Mike Zegarac Director, Financial Planning and Policy, addressed the Committee with the aid of a Power Point Presentation. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was distributed and is available for viewing on the City of Hamilton website.

Mr. Zegarac spoke to the capital budget priorities, discretionary capital budgets, capital re-investment and the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund. Mr. Zegarac proceeded to explain the options available to Council.

Committee members asked several questions of clarification and provided the following direction to staff:

The Committee indicated that they are interested in obtaining more details with respect to what changes would occur to the recreation facilities budget priorities, prior to choosing one of the options put before the Committee at today's meeting.

The presentation respecting the 2013 Capital Budget was received.

(e) ADJOURNMENT (Item 5)

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Deputy Mayor, Judi Partridge
General Issues Committee

Christopher Newman
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk