



**General Issues Committee
MINUTES
Monday, January 28, 2013
9:30 a.m.
Council Chambers
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West**

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- Present:** Deputy Mayor M. Pearson (Chair)
Mayor B. Bratina
Councillors B. Clark, C. Collins, S. Duvall, J. Farr,
L. Ferguson, T. Jackson, B. McHattie, S. Merulla, B. Morelli,
J. Partridge, R. Pasuta, T. Whitehead
- Absent with Regrets:** Councillor R. Powers – Illness
Councillor B. Johnson – Personal

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

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

(Clark/Pasuta)

That the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

None

4. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

(a) 2013 Corporate Budget Overview (Item 4.1)

Chris Murray, City Manager, provided introductory comments with respect to the 2013 Tax-Supported Operating Budget and spoke to the following:

- Council-approved guidelines 2011 Council recommendation; 2013 budget guidelines
- Where we are now: 2013 preliminary tax impact; historical City-wide residential tax impacts; historical data – levy change; 2012 average municipal tax impacts

Mike Zegarac provided the presentation respecting the preliminary 2013 budget overview, and spoke to the following:

Context

- 2013 gross tax expenditures by type
- 2013 gross tax revenues by type
- Comparing levy per capita – Hamilton’s spending on par
- Comparing 2013 upload benefit (shortfall)
- 2012 cost for municipal services for average home
- Where to get to 0%

2013 Preliminary Budget

- Significant mitigation since original outlook – September 2012
- Assessment growth
- 2013 total preliminary impact for the average residential tax bill
- 2013 preliminary tax impact for the average home
- 2013 preliminary budget by Department
- Significant budget items for City Departments
- 2013 base budget savings
- 2013 preliminary budget – Boards and Agencies/Other
- 2013 tax complement
- Risks and assumptions
- Historical tax increase
- 2013 average total impacts
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Council Referred and Other Items (not included in preliminary budget totals)

- Council-referred enhancements
- Requested enhancements

Additional Information and Process

- Reducing the tax impact
- Stabilization Reserve Status
- Process
- 2013 Additional Information
- Process Dates

The Committee was distributed with the power point presentation, a copy of which has 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) What programs are mandatory and what is legislated; what level of service does the municipality need to provide to be in compliance
- (b) Indicate on the tax bills the portion of tax increase as a result of provincial downloading
- (c) Provide details of membership on the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation ie., Council representation? Is there an opportunity to have Council representation on MPAC
- (d) Provide previous year's reports with respect to "like housing" characteristics
- (e) Develop some type of policy e.g., Ontario Stabilization Reserve – with the reconciliation that the City receives from the Province, put 50% into one of the Reserves and the other 50% to general revenue so that the City's Reserves can be replenished
- (f) Want to see, from a departmental point of view, revenue streams which are meeting expectations and which ones are not e.g., museums, or any other areas of the City's operations that generate revenue
- (g) In context of the budget process, not everyone has a computer to be able to view documents that are being discussed and live-streaming of the meeting; at some point in time, have a broader discussion with the community and engaging them in this process on budget pressures, what is driving the impacts

(Clark/Partridge)

That the presentation respecting the 2013 Preliminary Tax Operating Budget – Corporate Overview, be received. **CARRIED**

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

6. MOTIONS

None

7. NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillor J. Farr introduced the following Notice of Motion:

Policing Costs for Hamilton Entertainment District

That discussion of Hamilton's Entertainment District be included in the investigation related to soaring paid-duty policing costs at festivals and events.

8. GENERAL INFORMATION/OTHER BUSINESS

None

9. PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

(Jackson/Partridge)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted

Councillor M. Pearson
Deputy Mayor

Carolyn Biggs
Legislative Co-ordinator
Office of the City Clerk