



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

9:30 a.m.

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Council Chambers

Hamilton City Hall

71 Main Street West

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

Absent with Regrets: Councillor B. Clark – Personal Business

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

The Clerk advised of the following change:

TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR

- (i) Item 4.1 – Presentation – should read “2013 Tax-Supported Operating Budget”

DELEGATION REQUEST

- (ii) Delegation Request from John Slobodzian, Ministry of Transportation, to provide an update on the Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment Study – Phase 1 (Added Item 8.1 under General Information/Other Business)

(Pearson/Farr)

That the agenda be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(Pearson/Johnson)

That the following Minutes of the General Issues Committee be approved, as presented:

- (a) January 24-25, 2013 (Board and Agencies)
- (b) January 28, 2013 (Corporate Overview)
- (c) January 30, 2013 (Departmental Overview – Public Works)
- (d) February 12, 2013 (Departmental Overview – Planning/Public Health)
- (e) February 14, 2013 (Budget Enhancements)
- (f) February 15, 2013 (Departmental Overview – Community Services/
Hamilton Emergency Services) **CARRIED**

4. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

4.1 2013 Tax-Supported Operating Budget Update (no copy)

Mike Zegarac provided a power point presentation with respect to the 2013 preliminary tax operating budget.

Presentation will also provide information with respect to the Assessment Growth Analysis and Reassessment Impacts (Items 5.4 and 5.5 on the agenda respectively).

2012 Assessment Growth (FCS13021)

- By Property Class
- Increases/Decreases
- By Ward
- Assessment Growth vs. Building Permits

2013 Reassessment (FCs13022)

- 2013 Changes in Assessment by Property Class
- Assessment Changes by Former Area Municipality
- 2013 Changes in Assessment by Ward - Residential
- 2013 Average Residential Values by Ward
- Changes in Assessment vs. Reassessment Tax Impacts
- Tax Shifts between Property Classes – Municipal Impact; Total Impact
- Mitigating Reassessment Tax Shifts: Not Recommended
- 2013 Residential Reassessment – Related Tax Impacts by Ward
- Area Rating Phase-in (Year 3 of four-year Phase In)

Budget Update and Proposed Reductions (FCS13010)

- Recommended Budget Amendments
- Proposed City Amendments – February 28
- Significant Mitigation Since Original Outlook – September, 2012
- 2013 Updated Budget Tax Impact Average Home
- 2013 Updated Budget by Department
- 2013 Average Total Impacts
- 2013 Council-referred Items
- Requested Enhancements
- Reducing the Tax Impact
- Process

(Farr/Pearson)

That the presentation respecting the 2013 Preliminary Tax-Operating Budget Update, be received. **CARRIED**

A copy of the power point presentation was submitted for the public record and can be viewed on the City of Hamilton website.

(Ferguson/Powers)

- (a) That staff be directed to report back at a future General Issues Committee meeting on the implications of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and fuel costs as it relates to transit rates, including the area rating implications and equitable balance of fare increases vs. levy;
- (b) That the report also include ridership numbers over the last three years, and show potential revenue generation that would result from incremental transit fare increases.

The Motion **CARRIED** on the following recorded vote:

Yeas: Pearson, Johnson, Ferguson, Powers, Partridge, Pasuta,
Whitehead, Duvall, Jackson, Collins, Merulla, Morelli
Total Yeas: 12
Nays: McHattie, Farr
Total Nays: 2
Absent: Bratina, Clark
Total Absent: 2

(Merulla/Morelli)

That staff be directed to bring a report back to the General Issues Committee which details the City's financial obligations as a result of downloading, reassessment, Heads and Beds and PILS to provide an understanding of how and why the budget starts in a deficit situation each and every year. **CARRIED**

(Collins/Jackson)

That staff be directed to bring a report back to the General Issues committee outlining what measures can be taken, both through internal staff resources, through AMO and inquiries of other municipalities, to address and challenge issues that are detrimental to municipalities with respect to restricting assessment growth through assessment appeals.

CARRIED

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 Volunteer Committee 2013 Budget Requests

(a) 2012 Budget Requests – Volunteer Advisory Committees (FCS12099) (City Wide) (Item 5.1.1(a) to (f))

(Jackson/Farr)

That the Volunteer Advisory Committee 2013 base budget submissions for the following Volunteer Advisory Committees, be approved:

- (i) Advisory Committee on Immigrants and Refugees in the amount of \$3,500
- (ii) Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Advisory Committee in the amount of \$3,890
- (iii) Aboriginal Advisory Committee in the amount of \$3,500
- (iv) Hamilton Mundialization Committee in the amount of \$5,890
- (v) Status of Women Committee in the amount of \$3,500
- (vi) Committee Against Racism in the amount of \$3,890

CARRIED

(b) Hamilton Cycling Committee (PW12098) (City Wide) (Item 5.1.2(a))

(Jackson/Farr)

(i) That the Hamilton Cycling Committee 2013 base budget submission in the amount of \$8,000, be approved;

(ii) That in addition to the base funding, that a one-time budget allocation for 2013 of \$2,000, funded by the Volunteer Committee Reserve, be approved.

CARRIED

(c) Clean City Liaison Committee (PW12095) (City Wide) (Item 5.1.2(b))

(Jackson/Farr)

That the Clean City Liaison Committee's 2013 base budget submission in the amount of \$18,250 be approved.

CARRIED

**(d) Hamilton Veterans Committee (PED12205) (City Wide)
(Item 5.1.3(a))**

(Jackson/Farr)

- (i) That the Hamilton Veterans Committee 2013 base budget submission in the amount of \$11,590 be approved;
- (ii) That in addition to the base funding, that a budget allocation of \$8,410, funded by an increase to the tax levy, be approved. **CARRIED**

**(e) Seniors Advisory Committee (FCS12091) (City Wide)
(Item 5.1.3(b))**

(Jackson/Farr)

That the Seniors Advisory Committee's 2013 base budget submission in the amount of \$1,500 be approved. **CARRIED**

**(f) Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee (HYAC) (CS12039) (City Wide)
(Item 5.1.3(c))**

(Jackson/Farr)

- (i) That the Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee (HYAC) 2013 base budget submission in the amount of \$3,890 be approved;
- (ii) That in addition to the base funding, that a one-time budget allocation of \$2,500 funded from the Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee Reserve, be approved. **CARRIED**

**(g) Food & Shelter Advisory Committee (CS12041) (City Wide)
(Item 5.1.3(d))**

(Jackson/Farr)

That the Food and Shelter Advisory Committee's 2013 base budget submission in the amount of \$500 be approved. **CARRIED**

**(h) Tenant Advisory Committee (CS12041) (City Wide)
(Item 5.1.3(e))**

(Jackson/Farr)

That the Tenant Advisory Committee's 2013 base budget submission in the amount of \$1,000 be approved. **CARRIED**

(i) **Arts Advisory Commission (AAC) (PED12217) (City Wide)**
(Item 5.1.4)

(Jackson/Farr)

- (i) That the Arts Advisory Commission's 2013 base budget submission in the amount of \$9,000 be approved;
- (ii) That in addition to base funding, that a one-time allocation of \$1,500 for 2013, funded from the Arts Advisory Commission Reserve, be approved. **CARRIED**

(j) **Hamilton Historical Board (HHB) (PED12216) (City Wide)**
(Item 5.1.5)

(Jackson/Farr)

- (i) That the Hamilton Historical Board's 2013 base budget submission in the amount of \$14,340 be approved;
- (ii) That in addition to the base funding, a one-time allocation of \$5,370 for 2013, funded from the Hamilton Historical Board Reserve, be approved. **CARRIED**

5.2 2013 Tax Supported Operating Budget – Boards and Agencies
(FCS13011) (City Wide)

(Jackson/Partridge)

- (a) That the budgets for the following Boards and Agencies be deferred to a future budget deliberations meeting:
 - (i) Hamilton Police Services \$140,219,590
 - (ii) H.E.C.F.I. \$ 3,247,140
 - (iii) Community Partnership Program \$ 3,212,200
- (b) That the 2013 net operating levies for Boards and Agencies in the amount of \$41,592,270, be approved as per Appendix "A", as amended. **CARRIED**

5.3 2013 Tax-Supported Operating Budget – Recommendations
(FCS13010) (City Wide)

(Collins/Merulla)

- (a) That Appendix "A" to Report FCS13010, being the 2013 Tax-Supported Operating Budget Amendments, be amended by removing Item A8 – Cancellation of Winterfest, in the amount of (\$36,000);
- (b) That the balance of the Items listed in Appendix "A" to Report FCS13010, as amended, with a net levy decrease of (\$5,240,793), be approved;

(Jackson/Whitehead)

(c) That the balance of the recommendations in Report FCS13010, inclusive of Appendix "B" – 2013 Council Referred Enhancements, and Appendix "C" – 2013 Requested Enhancements, be deferred to a future budget deliberations meeting.

5.4 2012 Assessment Growth (FCS13021) (City Wide)

(Jackson/Johnson)

That Report FCS13021 respecting 2012 Assessment Growth, be received. **CARRIED**

5.5 2013 Reassessment Impacts (FCS13022) (City Wide)

(Jackson/Whitehead)

That Report FCS13022 respecting 2013 Reassessment Impacts, be received. **CARRIED**

5.6 Reserve Funding and Contributions By Category (FCS13026) (City Wide)

(Farr/Johnson)

That Report FCS13026 respecting Reserve Funding and Contributions By Category, be received. **CARRIED**

5.7 Increase to the 2013 Community Partnership Program Budget (Item 6.2) (Referred from Audit Finance and Administration Committee on February 11, 2013)

(Jackson/Pearson)

That the following motion be deferred to a future budget deliberations meeting:

"That the 2013 Community Partnership Program budget be increased by 2%, in the amount of \$64,243, in order to fund the deficit in Special Events Police funding, to be funded from a source to be determined by Finance staff." **CARRIED**

6. MOTIONS

None

7. NOTICES OF MOTION

None

8. GENERAL INFORMATION/OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1 Delegation Request from John Slobodzian, Ministry of Transportation, to provide an update on the Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment Study – Phase 1**

(Partridge/Johnson)

That the delegation request from John Slobodzian, Ministry of Transportation, to present at the March 20, 2013 General issues Committee to provide an update on the Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment Study – Phase 1, be approved.

CARRIED

- 8.2 Cancellation of March 4 General Issues Committee Meeting – Budgets**

(Partridge/Pearson)

That the March 4, 2013 meeting of the General Issues Committee respecting budgets be cancelled.

CARRIED

9. PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

(Powers/Pearson)

There being no further business, the Committee recessed at 2:46 p.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted

Councillor R. Pasuta
Deputy Mayor

Carolyn Biggs
Legislative Co-ordinator
Office of the City Clerk