



GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

REPORT 13-025

9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, November 26 and Thursday, November 28, 2013

Council Chambers

Hamilton City Hall

71 Main Street West

November 26, 2013

Present: Deputy Mayor T. Jackson (Chair)
Mayor R. Bratina
Councillors B. Clark, M. Pearson, B. Johnson, R. Pasuta,
J. Partridge T. Whitehead, C. Collins, S. Merulla, J. Farr

Absent with Regrets: Councillors R. Powers, S. Duvall – City Business
Councillor B. Morelli – Illness
Councillors L. Ferguson, B. McHattie – Vacation

November 28, 2013

Present: Deputy Mayor T. Jackson (Chair)
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Councillor L. Ferguson – Vacation
Councillors B. Clark, B. Johnson – Personal

THE GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 13-025 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

- 1. Assessment Appeals Restricting Assessment Growth (FCS13080) (City Wide) (Item 5.1)**
 - (a) That Finance staff, through the General Manager's office, continue to work with the Regional Treasurers group and the Ministry of Finance in their Special Purpose Business Property Assessment Review;

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- (b) That recommended changes to legislation and processes outlined in Appendix "A" to FCS13080 be considered by the Ministry of Finance and the Minister of the Attorney General as a way of strengthening property valuations and processes for appeals on commercial, industrial and multi-residential properties;
- (c) That Finance staff continue to monitor major building permit activity and subdivision approvals to ensure that the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) is picking up the new values and placing them on the assessment rolls as quickly as possible;
- (d) That Finance staff continue to monitor the returned assessment roll and look at challenging assessment values as previously authorized under By-Law 13-064;
- (e) That Finance staff continue to monitor all outstanding assessment appeals filed for commercial and industrial properties and participate in such appeals so that all parties are aware of the municipalities' concerns in getting appeals settled quickly and fairly for all parties;
- (f) That Report FCS13080 be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Regional Treasurers group for their support and endorsement and to the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of the Attorney General.

2. Petitioning the Province of Ontario (New Business) (No Copy)

- (a) That the Province of Ontario be petitioned to change the legislation related to shifting successful industrial/commercial tax appeals to the residential sector;
- (b) That the Province of Ontario be petitioned to make changes to the tax capping system that artificially limits increases to the commercial/industrial sectors;
- (c) That staff prepare a comprehensive information package detailing these matters, and that the information be forwarded to the appropriate Provincial Ministries, Ontario's Ombudsman, all Leaders of Ontario's Provincial Parties, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all local M.P.P.s.

3. Hamilton Downtown Urban Growth Centre: Municipal Taxes for the Years 2008 to 2012 (FCS13091) (Wards 1, 2 and 3) (Item 5.2)

That Report FCS13091 respecting "Hamilton Downtown Urban Growth Centre: Municipal Taxes for the Years 2008 to 2012" be received.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

None

The agenda was approved as presented.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

None

(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 3)

None

(d) STAFF PRESENTATIONS

(i) 2014 Tax-Supported Operating Draft Budget – Corporate Overview (Item 4.1)

Chris Murray, City Manager, provided introductory remarks and historical context with respect to the 2014 Tax-Supported Operating Budget. With the assistance of a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Murray spoke to the following:

- ❖ Municipal Comparison – 2013 Average Total Tax Impacts
- ❖ 3-year average tax impacts
- ❖ Average residential tax increases since amalgamation
- ❖ Average residential tax impacts 2011 to 2013
- ❖ Additional Capital investments
- ❖ Communicating the Budget

Mike Zegarac, Acting General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services, acknowledged and thanked his staff for all of their efforts in working with all of the Departments to gather the information that is being presented at today's meeting.

With the assistance of a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Zegarac spoke to the following areas with respect to the 2014 draft tax operating budget:

- ❖ 2014 draft tax impact (per \$100,000 assessment)
- ❖ Residential property tax impact
- ❖ City Departments: Compensation pressures
- ❖ City Departments: Corporate pressures
- ❖ 2014 base budget savings (efficiencies, revenues and avoided costs)
- ❖ Boards and Agencies – draft
- ❖ Capital

- ❖ Council-referred items
- ❖ 2014 Budget schedule
- ❖ Additional information list.

The presentation from the City Manager and Acting General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services respecting the “2014 Draft Tax-Supported Operating Budget” was received.

(ii) Planning (Item 4.2)

Joe-Anne Priel, Acting General Manager of Planning and Economic Development, provided a PowerPoint presentation and spoke to the following:

- ❖ 2014 Budgeted Complement
- ❖ 2014 Net Operating Budget by Division
- ❖ Major Budget Drivers
- ❖ 2014 Operating Budget by Cost Category (expenditures/revenues)
- ❖ 2013 Budget Projected Variance.

The presentation from the Acting General Manager of Planning and Economic Development respecting the “2014 Draft Budget – Planning and Economic Development” was received.

(iii) Public Health (Item 4.3)

Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Medical Officer of Health, provided a PowerPoint presentation and spoke to the following:

- ❖ 2014 Budgeted Complement
- ❖ 2014 Operating Budget by Cost Category (expenditures/revenues)
- ❖ Major Budget Drivers
- ❖ Risks/Challenges
- ❖ Opportunities
- ❖ 2014 Net Operating Budget by Division
- ❖ 2013 Budgeted Projected Variance

The presentation from the Medical Officer of Health respecting the “2014 Draft Budget – Public Health Services” was received.

(iv) Community Services (Item 4.4)

Gillian Hendry, Director of Social Housing, provided a PowerPoint presentation and spoke to the following:

- ❖ 2014 Budgeted Complement
- ❖ 2014 net Operating Budget by Division

- ❖ Major Budget Drivers
- ❖ Risks/Challenges
- ❖ Opportunities
- ❖ 2014 Operating Budget by Cost Category (expenditures/revenues)
- ❖ 2013 Budgeted Projected Variance

The presentation from the Director of Social Housing respecting the “2014 Draft Budget – Community and Emergency Services” was received.

(v) Public Works (Item 4.5)

Gerry Davis, General Manager of Public Works, provided a PowerPoint presentation and spoke to the following:

- ❖ 2013 Accomplishments
- ❖ 2014 Budgeted complement
- ❖ 2014 Operating Budget by Cost Category (Expenditures)
- ❖ 2014 Major Expenditure Drivers
- ❖ 2014 Operating Budget by Cost Category (Revenues)
- ❖ 2014 Major Revenue Drivers
- ❖ 2014 Net Operating Budget
- ❖ 2014 Risks and Opportunities

The presentation from the General Manager of Public Works respecting the “2014 Draft Budget – Public Works” was received.

(vi) Corporate Services (Item 4.6)

Mike Zegarac, Acting General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services, provided a PowerPoint presentation and spoke to the following:

- ❖ 2014 Budgeted complement
- ❖ 2014 Net Operating Budget by Division
- ❖ Major Budget Drivers
- ❖ Risks/Challenges
- ❖ 2014 Gross Operating Expenditures by Division
- ❖ 2014 Gross Operating Revenues by Division
- ❖ 2014 Operating Budget by Cost Category (Expenditures/Revenues)
- ❖ 2013 Budget Projected Variance

The presentation from the Acting General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services respecting the “2014 Draft Budget – Corporate Services” was received.

(vii) City Manager's Office (Item 4.7)

Chris Murray, City Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation and spoke to the following:

- ❖ 2014 Budgeted complement
- ❖ 2014 Net Operating Budget by Division
- ❖ Major Budget Drivers
- ❖ 2014 Operating Budget by Cost Category (Expenditures/Revenues)
- ❖ 2013 Budget Projected Variance

The presentation from the City Manager respecting the "2014 Draft Budget – City Manager" was received.

Copies of the PowerPoint presentations for each of the above are available for viewing on the City of Hamilton website.

(e) ADJOURNMENT (Item 6)

The meeting recessed at 2:11 p.m., to be reconvened on Thursday, November 28, 2013 following the conclusion of the General Issues Committee meeting with respect to the 2014 Capital Budget.

The following items were deferred to the November 28 continuation of this meeting:

- (i) Presentation – Tax Assessment Appeals (Item 4.8)
- (ii) Assessment Appeals Restricting Assessment Growth (FCS13080) (City Wide) (Item 5.2)
- (iii) Hamilton Downtown Urban Growth Centre: Municipal Taxes for the Years 2008 to 2012 (FCS13091) (Wards 1, 2 and 3)

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Deputy Mayor T. Jackson reconvened the November 26, 2013 meeting of the General Issues Committee meeting at 12:40 p.m.

(c) STAFF PRESENTATIONS

(i) Tax Assessment and Appeals (Item 4.8)

Mike Zegarac, Acting General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services, provided a PowerPoint presentation respecting "Assessment Growth and Assessment Appeals" and spoke to the following:

- ❖ Assessment Growth
 - ❖ 2012 Assessment Growth by Property Class
 - ❖ Increases/Decreases
 - ❖ Assessment Growth vs Building Permits
- ❖ Assessment Appeals
 - ❖ What the City is doing
 - ❖ What can be done by the Province

A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was distributed and is available for viewing on the City of Hamilton website.

The presentation respecting “Tax Assessment and Appeals” was received.

The subject matter was identified as completed and removed from the Outstanding Business List.

(d) ADJOURNMENT (Item 6)

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 2:25 p.m. on November 28, 2013.

Respectfully submitted

Councillor T. Jackson
Deputy Mayor

Carolyn Biggs
Legislative Co-ordinator
Office of the City Clerk