



EMERGENCY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES 13-002

1:30 p.m.
Monday, February 11, 2013
Council Chambers
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West

Present: Councillor T. Whitehead, Chair
Councillor J. Farr, Vice-Chair
Councillors S. Duvall, T. Jackson, S. Merulla, B. Morelli, and
J. Partridge

**Absent
with regrets:** B. McHattie, City business

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REPORTED FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL:

- 1. Resignation from Carolyn Rosenthal from the Seniors Advisory Committee (Item 5.2)**
(Partridge/Farr)
That the resignation from Carolyn Rosenthal from the Seniors Advisory Committee be received.
CARRIED
- 2. Rental Rate of the Room above the Lions Outdoor Pool in Ancaster (CS13008) (Ward 12) (Outstanding Business List Item) (Item 5.3)**
(Partridge/Farr)
That Report CS13008 respecting Rental Rate of the Room above the Lions Outdoor Pool in Ancaster be received.
CARRIED
- 3. Ice Usage Lower Stoney Creek (CS13001) (Wards 9, 10 & 11) (Outstanding Business List Item) (Item 5.4)**
(Partridge/Farr)
That Report CS13001 respecting Ice Usage Lower Stoney Creek be received.
CARRIED

4. **Seniors Advisory Committee Report SAC13002 respecting achievements to date (Item 7.1)**

(Morelli/Jackson)

That the Seniors Advisory Committee Report SAC13002 respecting their Annual Presentation be received.

CARRIED

5. **Beginning the Dialogue: City of Hamilton's Response to the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario's Final Report – Brighter Prospects: Transforming Social Assistance in Ontario (CS13007) (City Wide) (Item 7.2)**

(Duvall/Farr)

That Appendix A, entitled *Beginning the Dialogue: City of Hamilton's Response to the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario's Final Report – Brighter Prospects: Transforming Social Assistance in Ontario*, attached to Report CS13007 be forwarded on to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

CARRIED

6. **Hamilton Veterans Committee Report 13-001 respecting Remembrance Day Ceremonies (Item 8.1)**

(Merulla/Morelli)

That appropriate City staff be directed to ensure that the annual Remembrance Day ceremonies always take place prior to the Santa Claus Parade and other civic Christmas decoration programs or activities

CARRIED

7. **Fairness to Hamilton Campaign Sub-Committee Report 13-001 (Item 8.2)**

(Farr/Duvall)

(a) Government Relations Strategy (CM13003) (Item 5.1)

- (i) That a Special Meeting of the General Issues Committee be held respecting Council's strategic priorities for 2013 and 2014 and that this meeting focus on the following issues:

1. Identifying strategic priorities and attaching precise government relations strategies to individual priorities.
2. Identifying upcoming strategic priorities to address opportunities that may become available over this time period.

3. Identify the involvement of the Office of the Mayor in relation to individual strategic priorities.
 - (ii) That staff be directed to prepare a briefing for the Special General Issues Committee meeting that outlines their recent, ongoing and anticipated discussions with the provincial and federal governments on strategic priorities.
 - (iii) That local advocacy groups, such as the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, be invited to attend and present at the Special General Issues Committee meeting.
 - (iv) That the Office of the Mayor be requested to provide a presentation at the Special General Issues Committee meeting that outlines their past and ongoing government relations.
 - (v) That Report CM13003 respecting Government Relations Strategy, attached hereto as Appendix b, be approved in principle and referred to the Special General Issues Committee meeting.

CARRIED

8. Outstanding Business List Item Referral

(Duvall/Morelli)

That the following Outstanding Business List Item respecting community facilities be referred to the Public Works Committee pursuant to the recent departmental restructuring changes:

Item B – Review and Update Option 4 - Strategic Renewal and New Construction Strategy (every 5 years)

CARRIED

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Committee Clerk advised of the following added delegation requests wishing to address Committee today:

- (i) Peter Hutton and Laura Cattari, from the Roundtable for Poverty Reduction respecting the Social Assistance Review Report (Added Item 4.1)
- (ii) Susan Muma, Hamilton Organizing for Poverty Elimination (H.O.P.E.) respecting the Social Assistance Review Report (Added Item 4.2)

- (iii) Dave Cherkewski, Hamilton resident, respecting the Social Assistance Review Report (Added Item 4.3.)

(Partridge/Merulla)

That the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

(Merulla/Partridge)

That the delegation requests be approved and the rules of order waived in order to allow the delegations to address Committee at today's meeting.

CARRIED

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

There were none declared.

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

(Jackson/Duvall)

That the Minutes of the January 17, 2013 meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED

(d) CONSENT (Item 5)

(i) VARIOUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (Item 5.1):

- 1. **Seniors Advisory Committee Minutes of November 2, 2012 meeting**

(Partridge/Farr)

That the Seniors Advisory Committee Minutes of December 7, 2012 be received.

CARRIED

(e) PRESENTATIONS (Item 7)

(i) Seniors Advisory Committee respecting achievements to date – (Item 7.1)

Ron Smithson, Chair of the Seniors Advisory Committee provided a verbal overview of the Committee's Report.

Ron Smithson and staff responded to questions from the Committee.

The Committee thanked Chair Smithson for his leadership and thanked staff for their assistance to this Committee.

(Morelli/Jackson)

That the presentation by Ron Smithson respecting the Seniors Advisory Committee achievements to date be received.

CARRIED

(ii) Beginning the Dialogue: City of Hamilton's Response to the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario's Final Report – Brighter Prospects: Transforming Social Assistance in Ontario (CS13007) (City Wide) (Item 7.2)

Joe-Anne Priel addressed Committee with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation and copies of the hand-out were distributed. The topics covered by Joe-Anne Priel included but were not limited to the following:

- Background;
- Report highlights;
- Our approach;
- Appendix Part 1: Setting the context;
- Appendix Part 2: Overview of recommendations;
- Six filters;
- 10 Key Thematic Areas;
- Our perspective on the recommendations;
- Next steps.

Joe-Anne Priel responded to questions from the Committee.

(Duvall/Farr)

That the staff presentation respecting Hamilton's response to the Social Assistance review be received.

CARRIED

(i) Peter Hutton and Laura Cattari, from the Roundtable for Poverty Reduction respecting the Social Assistance Review Report (Added Item 4.1)

Peter Hutton and Laura Cattari of the Roundtable addressed Committee.

Their comments included but were not limited to the following:

- They are part of a Roundtable working group that has been following the Province's review of Social Assistance for two years;

- They are awaiting the appointment of the new Minister of Community and Social Services;
- They agree with Joe-Anne Priel's assessment and support her comments;
- Even after two years of consultation, the public has not really been engaged;
- The working group has had assistance from City staff;
- They do not want the issue of the discretionary benefits to be lost in the shuffle;
- It is not only about asking for more money but finding a better way of providing social services;
- It is difficult to comment on all the 108 recommendations as there is not enough information provided;
- They are asking that Council and staff continue to engage all levels of government and to continue to dialogue with the Ministers;
- This issue should not be left up to the bureaucrats.

Committee thanked the presenters.

(Merulla/Farr)

That the delegation from Peter Hutton and Laura Cattari respecting the Social Assistance review be received.

CARRIED

(ii) Susan Muma, Hamilton Organizing for Poverty Elimination (H.O.P.E.) respecting the Social Assistance Review Report (Added Item 4.2)

Susan Muma from H.O.P.E. (Hamilton Organizing for Poverty Elimination) read from a prepared statement and a copy was submitted to the Clerk for the official record. A hand-out was distributed and a copy has been uploaded onto the City's web-site.

Her comments included but were not limited to the following:

- Members of H.O.P.E. support some aspects of the review and do not agree with other aspects. The members concentrated on the following areas:
 - Rates and determination of rates;
 - Benefits
 - Employment and supports
 - Accountability
 - Rising income inequality

Conclusion, in H.O.P.E.'s opinion, an attitudinal shift in the Ministry of Community and Social Services with respect to the punitive Social Assistance System is needed.

(Farr/Duvall)

That the delegation from Susan Muma respecting the Social Assistance review be received.

CARRIED

(iii) Dave Cherkewski, Hamilton resident, respecting the Social Assistance Review Report (Added Item 4.3.)

Dave Cherkewski addressed Committee explaining his hands on experience with the Social Assistance programs.

His comments included but were not limited to the following:

- In 2008, the Provincial government created the poverty reduction plan;
- Currently the childhood poverty reduction plan is not meeting its goals;
- Under the Act there will be opportunities to consult with the Province to create the next five year plan;
- The City needs to take an aggressive lead with the Province;
- The Federal Government also needs to contribute to poverty reduction.

(Farr/Duvall)

That the delegation from Dave Cherkewski respecting the Social Assistance review be received.

CARRIED

Committee approved the staff report as outlined in Item 5.

(f) GENERAL INFORMATION (Item 11)

Outstanding Business List

(Duvall/Morelli)

(i) That the following New Due Dates be approved:

- (i) Item "E" – Follow-up report re: HHS ABC Program pre and post conditions after one year
Due dated: March 25, 2013
Proposed New Due Date: June 10, 2013
- (ii) Item "F" – Report back re: CPR training for members of the community and the frequency of CPR performance

Due dated: February 11, 2013
Proposed New Due Date: March 25, 2013

- (iii) Item "G" – Neighbourhood Down Payment Assistance Program.
Due dated: February 11, 2013
Proposed New Due Date: June 10, 2013

CARRIED

(Duvall/Merulla)

- (ii) That the following items be identified as completed and removed from the Outstanding Business List:

Item "C" – Needs Assessment – Ice Rinks in the Stoney Creek Area

Item "I" – Staff to report back re: Letter from Jacks' & Jills' Co-operative Preschool Inc. respecting rental rate of the room above the Lions Outdoor Pool in Ancaster

CARRIED

(g) ADJOURNMENT

(Duvall/Morelli)

There being no further business that the Emergency & Community Services Committee meeting be adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor T. Whitehead, Chair
Emergency & Community Services Committee

Ida Bedioui
Legislative Co-ordinator
Office of the City Clerk