



**General Issues Committee
BUDGET MINUTES
9:30 a.m.
Thursday, April 7, 2011
Council Chambers
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West**

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

**Absent with
Regrets:** Councillors. B. Clark, B. Morelli – Personal

Also Present: C. Murray, City Manager
R. Rossini, General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services
G. Davis, General Manager, Public Works
T. McCabe, General Manager, Planning & Economic Development
J. A. Priel, General Manager, Community Services
Dr. E. Richardson, Medical Officer of Health
H. Hale Tomasik, Executive Director, Human Resources &
Organizational Development
C. Biggs, Co-ordinator, Committee Services/Council/Budgets

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REPORTED TO CITY COUNCIL FOR
CONSIDERATION:**

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

The Clerk advised of the following changes:

ADDED MOTION

9.2 Motion respecting Request for 2011 Provincial Funding

(Johnson/Duvall)

That the agenda be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(Johnson/McHattie)

That the April 1, 2011 Minutes of the General Issues Committee meetings be approved, as presented. **CARRIED**

4. DELEGATION REQUESTS

None

5. CONSENT ITEMS

None

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS/DELEGATIONS

None

7. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Update respecting Budget Process – Verbal (No copy)

Rob Rossini, General Manager of Corporate Services, provided a power point presentation outlining the following:

- Potential Levy as proposed at March 28th General Issues Committee meeting
- Departmental budgets based on 1% scenario (excluding potential Council-referred and staff requested enhancements)
- Residential tax impact by levy (2011 over 2010 change)
- Residential tax impact by Municipality
- Budget process

The Committee was also distributed with the following:

- Staff recommended budget adjustments to achieve 1.0% (\$11 million in reductions)
- Council-referred items (budget book submission)
- Council-referred items (referred during budget process); some have levy impact, some do not

- Staff requested program enhancements – each General Manager will provide an update with respect to their respective staff requested program enhancements as some have been withdrawn.

The “status” column on each of the tables also identifies what has been approved by the Committee to date.

Mr. Rossini also advised staff will “walk through” the Area Rating report at the Committee’s meeting on April 8. The report does not have any recommendations, but addresses four issues which Council requested responses.

Mr. Rossini indicated that a response had not been received from the Hamilton Police Service with respect to their 2011 budget which was sent back to the HPS for further review.

The Committee requested an update with respect to the \$8.1 million funding announcement by the Province and the non-announcement of \$4 million. Staff responded that \$8.15 million is in respect of OMPF reconciliation; this money has been received and deposited in the City’s account. Formal correspondence has not yet been received with respect to special funding assistance of \$4 million and \$1.1 million for ambulance.

The Emergency & Community Services Committee approved a recommendation for 50/50 allocation for the \$8.15 million, and will be discussing how their portion will be allocated. The other two requests remain outstanding and discussions are continuing.

The Committee asked if the Province gave any indication in terms of restrictions as to how this money could be used; staff responded that there have been no restrictions in any of the correspondence received to date.

(Johnson/Pearson)

That the presentation respecting the 2011 tax update be received.

CARRIED

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 2011 Tax Operating Budget Adjustments Pending Approval

(Bratina/Merulla)

That the 2011 Tax Operating Adjustments/Reductions in the amount of \$10,846,528, be approved.

CARRIED

8.2 2011 Council-Referred items

(a) Food Banks and Christmas Hamper Program – Christmas Hamper Program and Summer Shortfall

(Duvall/Farr)

- (i) That the \$350,000 funding required for Food Banks and Christmas Hamper Program – Christmas Hamper Program and Summer Shortfall be referred to the process established by the Emergency & Community Services Committee with the request a response be received by no later than the end of April;
- (ii) That In the interim, the \$350,000 be funded from the Tax Stabilization Reserve and if approved in the process, the Tax Stabilization Reserve will be reimbursed. **CARRIED**

(b) Street Tree Trimming Program

(McHattie/Pearson)

That \$350,000 for the Street Tree Trimming Program be included in the 2011 Operating Budget to enable the tree trimming program to reach a 12-year cycle.

The Motion was **DEFEATED** on the following Standing Recorded Vote:

Yeas: Farr, Johnson,McHattie, Merulla, Pearson, Powers
Total Yeas: 6
Nays: Bratina, Duvall, Ferguson, Jackson, Partridge, Whitehead
Total Nays: 6
Absent: Morelli, Collins, Clark, Pasuta
Total Absent: 4

(c) Food Service Workers – Compliance for Food Service Workers

(Jackson/Powers)

That \$125,000 for Food Service Workers – Compliance for Food Service Workers with the new Long-Term Care Home Act, be included in the 2011 Operating Budget. **CARRIED**

(Powers/Farr)

- (i) That up to \$50,000 be provided from non-levy impact funding for the 2012 program for the City of Hamilton Arts Aware program (expenditures for additional awards, event presentation, outreach/marketing and delivery);

- (ii) That the issue be referred to the Community Partnership Program for their review and that staff pursue additional options to reduce the cost to the municipality.

Councillor Powers **withdrew** his motion on the basis that funding requests for future years will be referred to staff for appropriate action.

(d) Rooming House Strategy – Per Completion of Rooming Housing Strategy

(McHattie/Partridge)

That one-time funding in the amount of \$64,869 for the Rooming House Strategy – Per Completion of Rooming Housing Strategy be funded from the Federal Homeless Partnering Strategy. **CARRIED**

(e) Affordable Transit Pass (ATP) Pilot Program

(McHattie/Johnson)

That staff be directed to report to the Emergency & Community Services Committee on the following:

- (i) extension of the ATP Pilot Program using current available funds from Social Services Initiatives and OW Stabilization funds;

- (ii) the financial implications of extending the APT Pilot Program to April, 2012. **CARRIED**

(Powers/Johnson)

That the balance of the items listed in the Community Services section of Item 8.2, Council-referred Items, be received. **CARRIED**

8.3 2011 Additional Items referred by Council during Budget Process

Tim McCabe, General Manager of Planning & Economic Development, advised that the \$100,000 for the Jobs Prosperity Collaborative should not be on the list as the funds are automatically funded.

(a) Emergency Shelter and Intensive Case Management Services

(Merulla/Whitehead)

That \$350,000 funding for Emergency Shelter and Intensive Case Management Services be referred to the public consultation process for the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund reconciliation funds and Social Services Initiatives Reserve and the balance of \$650,000 funding required be referred to the Fairness to Hamilton Committee.

CARRIED

(b) Rotary Mobility Cup

(Powers/Whitehead)

That the request of the Rotary Mobility Cup for funding in the amount of \$20,000 for the purpose of holding the Rotary Mobility Cup be funded from the Tax Stabilization Fund on a one-time basis.

CARRIED

8.4 2011 Requested Program Enhancements

Corporate Services

Rob Rossini, General Manager of Corporate Services, advised the Committee that the Wireless Network Expansion required for various City Departments (\$97,000 net impact) and Infrastructure sustenance required for transit-supported systems (no net levy impact) have been removed from the 2011 Requested Program Enhancements.

(a) Corporate Services Budget Reduction

(Collins/Whitehead)

That the Corporate Services budget be further reduced by \$87,000 from "Manage Office Printing and Supplies Contract." **CARRIED**

(b) AVL for EMS, Water and By-law Enforcemen

(Collins/Duvall)

That the 0.5 FTE required for the AVL for EMS, Water and By-law Enforcement be referred to staff with the direction that staff review the vacancy list and if a 0.5 FTE position is available, the vacancy be transferred to Corporate Services. **CARRIED**

Hamilton Emergency Services

(a) Funding for One Additional Ambulance and Paramedic – MUMC

(Bratina/Jackson)

- (i) That the amount of \$1,349,340 for the one additional ambulance and paramedic required when MUMC is converted to a paediatric only site, be tabled;
- (ii) That staff be directed to bring a report back before June 30, 2011 with additional information and statistics, including the actual results now that the ABC is finished, how much offloading funding will assist, etc. **CARRIED**

Public Health

(a) Prenatal Nutrition Program

(Partridge/Johnson)

That the provision of permanent funding for the Prenatal Nutrition Program, be approved, with no impact to the net levy. **CARRIED**

Community Services

(a) Annual Re-enactment of the Battle of Stoney Creek – funds required to build up the event to a tourism marquee standard

(Powers/Pearson)

That \$30,000 to fund the Annual Re-enactment of the Battle of Stoney Creek – funds required to build up the event to a tourism marquee standard, be approved. **CARRIED**

The Committee requested staff to provide additional information with respect to how much funding the City has provided to this event in the past.

Direction was provided to staff to invite the relevant staff to the next appropriate General Issues committee meeting to provide an update on the City's involvement in the upcoming Commemoration of the War of 1812 Program.

Joe-Anne Priel advised that the following programs are funded 100% by the Province:

- (i) Domicillary Hostel Program – Team Control Clerk and Program Manager
- (ii) Housing Programs Administration Staffing for Social Housing Renovation Retrofit Program
- (iii) Addictions Services Initiative
- (iv) RAI-MDS Electronic Resident Records mandated by MOHLTC – Macassa Lodge
- (v) RAI-MDS Electronic Resident Records mandated by MOHLC – Wentworth Lodge

(Powers/Pearson)

That the staff requested program enhancements for Community Services in the amount of \$498,143 (gross), \$0 (net), be approved. **CARRIED**

Public Works

(a) Road and Sidewalk Safety Maintenance – Roads Maintenance Activities

(Collins/Jackson)

That the \$100,000 and \$120,000 for Road and Sidewalk Safety Maintenance – Roads Maintenance Activities, and Stormwater Maintenance, respectively, be funded one time from the unallocated capital. **CARRIED**

(Johnson/Bratina)

That the balance of the items in the Public Works Staff Requested Enhancements, be received. **CARRIED**

8.5 Employee-Related Costs (HUR11002) (City Wide)

Concerns were expressed with respect to Report HUR11002 included, but were not limited to, the following:

- Job creep is not identified as one of the high level qualifiers; identify that job evaluation scope could be impacted by job creep
- Report has appropriately captured all concerns raised to date
- Would like information with respect to minimum and maximum of salary steps

Helen Hale Tomasik indicated that the issue of job creep would be looked at within the policy of staff evaluation. Staff is reviewing all of the policies that impact compensation; therefore, the appropriate time to address concerns respecting job evaluation would be within that process.

The Committee was advised that revised policies will be presented prior to the commencement of the consideration of the 2012 budget

Chris Murray also advised that he will be bringing back more information in terms of how policies will evolve/change.

(Whitehead/Collins) to receive

That Report HUR11002 respecting Employee-Related Costs, be received. **CARRIED**

9.1 Sustainable Savings Strategy (2011)

(Bratina/Collins)

That further to Council's 2011 operating budget principle to hold the line on the 2011 budget by achieving the goal of 0% tax change with no service cuts while utilizing attrition and departmental reorganizations, Senior Management be directed to:

- (i) Identify sustainable mechanisms and processes to reduce employee related costs during the current Council term on an on-going basis through the 2012, 2013, and 2014 budget processes;
- (ii) Identify other sustainable efficiencies and non-employee related cost saving measures for Council's consideration;
- (iii) Identify and implement cost reduction opportunities with a goal of up to \$1M by December 31, 2011, prior to the approval of the 2012 budget.

CARRIED

9.2 Request for 2011 Provincial Funding

(Whitehead/Duvall)

- (a) That the Mayor be directed to forward a letter to the Province of Ontario again, requesting \$4 million in special funding assistance;
- (b) That if the Province does not provide the \$4 million in special assistance by June 30, 2011, staff be directed to report back to the General Issues Committee with a funding replacement strategy.
- (c) That the Mayor's correspondence to the Province also include a funding request for the one additional ambulance and paramedic required as a result of the conversion of McMaster University Medical Centre to a paediatric only site.

CARRIED

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Councillor L. Ferguson
Deputy Mayor

Carolyn Biggs, Co-ordinator
Committee Services/Council/Budgets
April 7, 2011