Committee of the Whole
MINUTES
1:00 p.m.
November 26, 2007
Albion Room, Hamilton Convention Centre

Present: Mayor F. Eisenberger

Absent with regrets: Councillor B. Morelli – Sick Leave
Councillor B. Clark – Out of Town

Also Present: G. Peace, City Manager
J. Rinaldo, General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services
S. Stewart, General Manager,
T. McCabe, General Manager, Planning and Economic Development
J. Priel, General Manager, Community Services
J. Kay, General Manager, HES/Fire Chief
Dr. E. Richardson, Medical Officer of Health
M. Gallagher, Co-ordinator

THE FOLLOWING WAS REPORTED TO CITY COUNCIL FOR INFORMATION:

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

The Clerk noted the following changes to the agenda:

Circulated a revised Agenda Addendum which notes additional delegations speaking to Item 6.1 – Transit Fare Increase

Additional request from Don McLean who wishes to address Item 6.3 respecting the Transit Services Enhancements
Revised Item 6.5 respecting the Affordable Transit Program – Pilot Project which has also been circulated.

Added Private and Confidential Item respecting a litigation matter to be added as Item 10.1

(Collins/Pasuta)
That the agenda be adopted as amended. CARRIED.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 6.4 Taxi Scrip Service Enhancement Pilot Update (PW07158)

Councillor L. Ferguson declared an interest and abstained from voting on this item as he is an investor in the taxi industry.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 November 12, 2007
(Whitehead/McCarthy)
That the minutes of November 12, 2007 be adopted as presented. CARRIED.

4. CONSENT ITEMS

None

5. DELEGATION REQUESTS

None

6. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Staff provided a power point presentation which encompassed Items 6.1 to 7.1.

6.1 Consideration of a Transit Fare Increase (PW07152)

(McCarthy/Pearson)
(a) That the General Manager of Public Works be authorized and directed to implement a Transit fare increase effective January 1, 2008, as described in Table 1 of this report and inclusive of increases across all fare types other than the
Senior Annual Bus Pass, such that an increase of $0.10 in the average HSR fare is achieved;

(b) That the General Manager of Public Works be authorized to direct DARTS to implement a $0.10 increase in the price of its ticket fare, effective January 1, 2008;

(c) That the General Manager of Public Works be authorized to direct DARTS to implement an integration of its fare structure with that of HSR, effective January 1, 2009;

(d) That the General Manager of Public Works be directed to report back in the second quarter of 2008 with a recommended Policy for the automatic implementation of future fare increases based on a defined set of triggers, for the consideration of Council.

(Collins/Merulla)
That this item be referred to the January 7th, 2008 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Motion to refer lost on the following vote:

Yeas: Bratina, Duvall, Jackson, McHattie, Merulla, Collins, Whitehead
Total: 7

Nays: Powers, Pearson, Mitchell, Pasuta, McCarthy, Ferguson, Eisenberger
Total: 7
Absent: Clark, Morelli
Total: 2

Motion to approve CARRIED on the following Recorded Vote:

Yeas: Duvall, Ferguson, Jackson, McCarthy, Pasuta, Mitchell, Pearson, Powers, Whitehead, Eisenberger
Total: 10
Nays: Bratina, McHattie, Merulla, Collins
Total: 4
Absent: Clark, Morelli
Total: 2
6.2 Public Delegations

(a) Lynn Aquin, Social Action Committee of the Ontario Association of Social Workers

Written presentation received
Ms. Aquin expressed concerns with increases to public transit and the affects on the working poor.

(b) Thom Oommen

Mr. Oommen addressed his opposition to the fare increase
Keeping fare increase low impacts on air quality, climate change etc.
Public service accessible for all by all not just low income
Need more money in HSR.

(c) Peter Hutton, Hamilton Transit Users Group

Written presentation received.

Mr. Hutton noted that the priorities laid out by staff are not community’s priorities
Council should take a 30 day period to review prior to approval
Staff have done a good analysis for managing some subsidy of transit services but what you don’t see is the staff costs for administering

(d) Dr. Ted Mitchell, Transportation for Livable Communities

Dr. Mitchell addressed the benefits of cycling, walking and public transit
His support roads area rating for asphalt per capita
He is opposed to single vehicle occupancy use

(e) Brenda Johnson (Environment Hamilton)

Provide written presentation
Addressed a proposed north-south bus route along Victoria and Wentworth connecting to six east-west services – Bayfront, Barton, Beeline, Cannon, King, and Delaware
Asked for this to happen in 2008
(f) Gerry Polmanter (Keith Neighbourhood Renewal Committee)
Addressed a proposed north-south bus route along Victoria and Wentworth connecting to six east-west services – Bayfront, Barton, Beeline, Cannon, King, and Delaware
Asked for this to happen in 2008

(f) Barb Teichmann (Mom’s Group at Robert Land)
Addressed a proposed north-south bus route along Victoria and Wentworth connecting to six east-west services – Bayfront, Barton, Beeline, Cannon, King, and Delaware
Asked for this to happen in 2008

(g) Sue Fowler (Eva Rothwell Resource Centre’s Clothing Exchange Co-ordinator)
Not in attendance

(h) Don MacVicar (Robert Land Community Association)
Not in attendance

Mr. Ted Hodkinson spoke on behalf of Mr. MacVicar
Addressed a proposed north-south bus route along Victoria and Wentworth connecting to six east-west services – Bayfront, Barton, Beeline, Cannon, King, and Delaware
Asked for this to happen in 2008
This service would attract people to come into the neighbourhood to show off the Resource Centre

(i) Tammy Larkin (Community Resident)
Not in attendance

(Pearson/Powers)
That the presentations be received. CARRIED.

6.3 Transit Service Enhancements Implementation Plan (PW07136)

Call on Don Hull for overview of report.

Don McLean addressed Committee on this matter.

(Powers/Mitchell)
That the presentation by Don McLean be received. CARRIED.
(Powers/Mitchell)

(a) That Council approve implementation of Transit service enhancements in 2008 as follows;

(i) introduction of a new Weekday peak periods HSR bus route on Rymal Road between Glancaster Road and Pritchard Road, requiring an expansion in the transit fleet of two (2) conventional transit buses at a capital cost of $880,000 and an increase in the Transit approved complement of 2.0 employees, with an increase in annualized operating costs of $300,000;

(ii) introduction of a new Weekday peak periods HSR bus route serving the Waterdown urban area with direct service to the Aldershot GO/VIA Station and connections to Downtown Hamilton, Burlington GO Station and Downtown Burlington, requiring an expansion in the transit fleet of two (2) conventional transit buses at a capital cost of $880,000 and an increase of 2.0 employees in the Transit approved complement, with an increase in annualized operating costs of $343,000;

(b) That Council approve new permanent funding from the Provincial Gas Tax Reserve in the amount of $500,600, representing the additional funding required over-and-above base funding included in the 2008 Transit Operating Budget submission, that includes the recommended fare increase, to fund the $818,000 recommended service improvements identified in recommendation (a) of this report;

(c) That for 2009, Council approve in principle the following conventional and specialized transit service enhancement priorities, that were endorsed by the Provincial Gas Tax Transit Master Plan Steering Committee, and direct staff to consider their inclusion when preparing the 2009 Transit Service Enhancement Plan;

(i) Introduction of a new Weekday peak periods HSR bus route operating on Rymal Road between Pritchard Road & Upper Centennial Parkway;

(ii) Introduction of a new Weekday peak periods HSR bus route operating on Upper Centennial Parkway between Rymal Road & Eastgate Terminal;
(iii) Introduction of a new Weekday midday and PM peak period HSR bus route operating on Victoria Avenue and Wentworth Street, providing direct north-south service for trips to/from the Keith, Landsdale and Stinson neighbourhoods;

(Bratina/Merulla)

That the following be added as subsection (iii) (aa):

That with respect to subsection (iii) that staff be directed to implement the planned service enhancement for Keith, Landsdale, and Stinson neighbourhoods as outlined in Report PW07136 for 2008 and costs of the service enhancement be funded from the Provincial Gas Tax with the understanding that there is no impact on the levy.

Amendment CARRIED

(iv) Introduction of miscellaneous ATS service improvements, with due consideration of prevailing financial implications, that respond positively to and ensure compliance with forthcoming Provincial legislation under the Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities Act. CARRIED AS AMENDED

6.4 Taxi Scrip Service Enhancement Pilot Update (PW07158)

(Jackson/Whitehead)

(a) That the existing Taxi Scrip service enhancement pilot program introduced in July 2006, which increases the maximum monthly purchase of Taxi Scrip coupons from $80 to $120, be made permanent in 2008 at an increased net levy cost of $175,970, through the approval of Council as part of the 2008 budget deliberations.

(b) That staff be authorized and directed to fully mitigate an anticipated 2007 Taxi Scrip program cost overrun of $110,000, through transfer of:

   (i) $60,000 from Account 112204 Transit Provincial Gas Tax Reserve, previously approved for transfer in 2008; and

   (ii) the balance, anticipated to be $50,000, from Transit Account 23107-000100 Outstanding Taxi Scrip Coupon reserve. CARRIED.

6.5 Affordable Transit Pass Program Pilot Project (ECS07038)

(Jackson/Duvall)
(a) That a maximum of $500,000 be approved from the Social Services Initiatives Reserve Acct # 112214 to be used for a 12 month pilot project for the Affordable Transit Pass Program beginning April 1, 2008 until March 31, 2009.

(b) That the target group for the Affordable Transit Pass Program pilot project be low-income (working poor).

(c) That the subsidy level of the Affordable Transit Pass Program monthly pass to be 50% of the adult monthly pass rate as approved by Council.

(d) That, if additional administrative support is required during the 12-month pilot project, the Community Services Department (Special Supports Section) and/or the Public Works Department (Transit Division) be authorized to increase their staff complements by one full-time contract position, each for a total of up to $105,000, accommodated from the $500,000 one-time funding for the Affordable Transit Pass Program.

(Jackson/Duvall)
That the following be added to subsection (d):
That staff report back to a special Committee of the Whole for the need if necessary AMENDMENT CARRIED.

Staff will provide the following additional information:
- Figures on Transit Budget from 1994
- Exploring extension of route for the 1 km stretch into the industrial park
- Last 10 year graph projection of ward by ward tax increases

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 City of Hamilton/Ministry of Transportation Governance Agreement for the Joint Procurement of 2008 Replacement Conventional Transit (HSR) Buses (PW07147) (City Wide)
(McCarthy/Jackson)

(a) That the City enter into a Governance Agreement with the Province for the Joint Procurement of Replacement Transit Buses for 2008;

(b) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute the agreement, in a form satisfactory to the City
Solicitor and General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services;

(c) That a copy of the Governance Agreement be forwarded to the Ministry of Transportation upon Council approval;

(d) That in accordance with the requirements of Article III, Item 4 of the Governance Agreement, the Director of Transit be appointed to the Steering Committee, with the Manager of Transit Fleet Maintenance as the alternate;

(e) That the 2008 Capital expenditure for the purchase of 17 replacement Conventional (HSR) Transit Buses at a budgeted cost of $7,493,960 be approved, with the understanding that there is sufficient reserve to fund the full cost of the purchase.

(McCarthy/Whitehead)
That the following be added as a subsection (f)
That the addition of six expansion buses required for the service enhancement be approved. AMENDMENT CARRIED.

MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED.

10. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

(Whitehead/Powers)
That Committee move into closed session as per Section 8.1, subsection (e) of the City's Procedural By-law as the subject matter pertains to Litigation regarding a long term lease of land by the former Region of Hamilton-Wentworth CARRIED.

(Whitehead/Pearson
That Committee reconvene in Open Session. CARRIED.

10.1 Legal Services File No. 96-373 (City Wide) (LS07023)

(Pearson/Whitehead)
(a) That the City of Hamilton settle all claims in Legal Services File No. 96-373 by way of payment to the plaintiffs of the sum of $500,000.00 inclusive of damages, interest, and costs;

(b) That the aforesaid payment be charged to Red Hill Valley Project Capital Account No. 4060087001 and a Provincial subsidy receivable be set up for the same amount based on the October
1998 agreement between the former Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth and the Province;

(c) That the plaintiff be required to execute a Full and Final Release in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor; and

(d) That the legal action in Legal Services File No. 96-373 be dismissed on consent, without costs.

(e) That Report LS07023 remain a confidential document and not for public release

CARRIED.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Mayor F. Eisenberger

M. Gallagher
Co-ordinator
November 26, 2007