Committee of the Whole

MINUTES

9:30 a.m.

January 7, 2008

Albion Room, Hamilton Convention Centre

Present:
Mayor F. Eisenberger

Absent with regrets:
Councillor R. Pasuta – Vacation
Councillor B. Morelli – Sick Leave
Councillor M. McCarthy – City Business

Also Present:
G. Peace, City Manager
J. Rinaldo, General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services
G. Davis, Acting General Manager,
T. McCabe, General Manager, Planning and Economic Development
B. Browett, Acting General Manager HES/Fire Chief
J. Priel, General Manager, Community Services
Dr. E. Richardson, Medical Officer of Health
C. Biggs, Legislative Assistant, Clerks
M. Gallagher, Co-ordinator, Clerks

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REPORTED TO CITY COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION:
1. Ottawa Street Business Improvement Area (B.I.A.)
Proposed Budget and Schedule of Payment for 2008
(PED08022) (Wards 3 & 4) (Item 4.1)

(Whitehead/Ferguson)
(a) That the 2008 operating budget for the Ottawa Street B.I.A. (attached as Appendix ‘A’ to Report PED08022) be approved in the amount of $131,822.00;

(b) That the levy portion of the operating budget for the Ottawa Street B.I.A. in the amount of $126,322.00 be approved;

(c) That the General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services be hereby authorized and directed to prepare the requisite by-law pursuant to Section 208, The Municipal Act, 2001, to levy the 2008 budget as referenced in sub-section (a) above;

(d) That the following schedule of payments for 2008 be approved:

January $63,161.00
June $63,161.00

Assessment appeals may be deducted from the levy payments. CARRIED.

2. Westdale Village Business Improvement Area (B.I.A.)
Proposed Budget and Schedule of Payment for 2008
(PED08020) (Ward 1) (Item 4.2)

(Whitehead/Ferguson)
(a) That the 2008 Operating Budget for the Westdale Village B.I.A. (attached as Appendix ‘A’ to Report PED08020) be approved in the amount of $120,000.00;

(b) That the General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services be hereby authorized and directed to prepare the requisite by-law pursuant to Section 208, The Municipal Act, 2001, to levy the 2008 budget as referenced in sub-section (a) above;

(c) That the following schedule of payments for 2008 be approved:

January $60,000.00
July $60,000.00

Assessment appeals may be deducted from the levy payments. CARRIED
3. Concession Street Business Improvement Area (B.I.A.)
Proposed Budget and Schedule of Payment for 2008
(PED08023) (Wards 6 & 7) (Item 4.3)

(Whitehead/Ferguson)
(a) That the 2008 Operating Budget for the Concession Street B.I.A.
(attached as Appendix ‘A’ to Report PED08023) be approved in the
amount of $78,600.00.

(b) That the General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services be
hereby authorized and directed to prepare the requisite by-law
pursuant to Section 208, The Municipal Act, 2001, to levy the 2008
Budget as referenced in sub-section (a) above.

(c) That the following schedule of payments for 2008 be approved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>$19,650.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>$19,650.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>$19,650.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>$19,650.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment appeals may be deducted from the levy payments.

CARRIED

4. Downtown Hamilton Business Improvement Area (B.I.A.) Proposed
Budget and Schedule of Payment for 2008 (PED08019) (Ward 2) (Item
4.4)

(Whitehead/Ferguson)
(a) That the 2008 operating budget for the Downtown Hamilton B.I.A.
(attached as Appendix ‘A’ to Report PED08019) be approved in the
amount of $275,300.00;

(b) That the levy portion of the operating budget for the Downtown
Hamilton B.I.A. in the amount of $238,00.00 be approved;

(c) That the General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services be
hereby authorized and directed to prepare the requisite by-law
pursuant to Section 208, The Municipal Act, 2001, to levy the 2007
budget as referenced in sub-section (b) above;

(d) That the following schedule of payments for 2008 be approved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>$59,500.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Committee of the Whole
Minutes

April $59,500.00
July $59,500.00
October $59,500.00

Assessment appeals may be deducted from the levy payments.
CARRIED

5. 2008 Ancaster Village Core Advisory Committee Budget Submission (PED08021) (Item 4.5)

(Whitehead/Ferguson)
(a) That the base budget submission of $1,500.00 for 2008 from the Ancaster Village Core Advisory Committee be approved.

(b) That, in addition to the base funding request for the Ancaster Village Core Advisory Committee, a one-time funding from the Volunteer Committee Reserve, in the amount of $1,000.00.

CARRIED

6. 2008 Tax Budget – Overview
(Clark/Whitehead)

That Council formally request the Province to provide the City of Hamilton $20 million dollars to assist with the social services funding shortfall.

CARRIED.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

A revised agenda was circulated indicating the additional speakers who wish to address Council on the 2008 Budget. As well, Item 7.2 the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board Update, will now be entertained in closed session as the matter addresses a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land for municipal or local board purposes. It will still be deliberated following 7.1, but you will need to move into closed session for those deliberations.

The Clerk circulated a revised Agenda.

(Clark/Whitehead)
That the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED.
(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

(c) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 December 10, 2007

(Collins/Powers)
That the Minutes of December 10, 2007 be adopted as presented.
CARRIED.

(d) DELEGATION REQUESTS
(Whitehead/Bratina)
The following delegation requests were approved:

5.1 Request to address Committee by Madina Wasuge, Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion respecting future plans

5.2 John Spatazzo, CYO respecting Marydale Park CARRIED.

(e) DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

6.1 9:30 a.m. - Presentation – 2008 Tax Budget – Overview

Glen Peace and Joe Rinaldo provided an overview of the 2008 Budget. Presentation Highlights included the following:

- Emergency Medical Service Enhancements
- New and Expanded Transit Services
- Investment in Economic Development
- Uploading over $10 million in Ontario Drug Benefit costs to Province
- 2008 Budget Impact Summary – Residential Impact
- Program Enhancements
- OMPF
- Tax Policies
- Area Rating
- Risks and Assumptions

Staff were directed to provide the following future reports:
(1) An update on what has been Provincially uploaded since the last budget or historically over the last couple of years

(2) Revenues and Assessment growth side of the equation – address the plan the City currently have in place for growth areas or high profile developments in the works

(3) Expenditures for winter control over the last five years

6.2 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Public Delegations

10:30 a.m. – HABIA
Megan Carnell, Barton Village BIA, Kathy Drewitt, Downtown Hamilton BIA, Mary Pocius, International Village BIA

Highlights of the presentation included the following:
Overview of BIAs
Activities/Events for each BIA
City of Hamilton Programs which benefit the BIAs
Capping/Increased Assessment
Commercial Vacancy Rate

10:45 a.m. Richard Reble – written presentation received
Mr. Reble addressed the following in his presentation:
- Tolling of the Red Hill Creek Parkway
- Increase in HSR fees

11:00 a.m. Stan Haworth – written presentation received
Mr. Haworth addressed the following in his presentation:
- Area Rating
- Slot Revenues from Flamborough Downs
- Red Hill Valley
- City’s Pension Fund
Staff will provide answers to Mr. Haworth’s questions and disseminate the information to Mr. Haworth and to Council

11:15 a.m. Isabel Sardella
Not in attendance

11:30 a.m. Renee Wetselaar, Workers Arts and Heritage Ms. Wetselaar addressed the following in her presentation:
- requested increase in funding for Workers Arts and Heritage Centre from $15,900 to $50,000 per year

Councillor McHattie asked Committee to consider moving this organization to the Boards and Agencies process or provide the funding through the Grants Process

11:45 a.m. Deirdre Pike
Ms. Pike addressed the following in her presentation:
- affordable housing
- affordable living wage
- Access and Equity for programs and services – understaffed office – request increase in funding
- consultation process too late and limited involvement of community – suggest adding additional meetings for public consultation

12:00 p.m. John Dolbec and Judi Partridge of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce – written presentation received
Ms. Partridge addressed the following in the Chamber’s presentation:
- operational review of internal audit process – Booker Report

Staff will be meeting with the Audit Division and will provide an update to council in the near future on the recommendations outlined in the Booker Report.

12:15 p.m. Tony Leblanc – written presentation received
Mr. Leblanc addressed the following in his presentation:
- increases in taxes – sewer and rater rate increase
- allotment base for departmental budgets
- snow removal costs
- recycling/dumping fees/garbage collection

12:30 p.m. Don McLean
Mr. McLean addressed the following in his presentation:
- notice of meeting – not visible to most people
- consultation process should be at the beginning and through the budget process as well.
- climate change and the effects
- tolling of Red Hill Parkway – staff will provide Council with the report from 2004
- strengthening our transit system

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

Committee recessed and reconvened at 1:35 p.m.

1:30 p.m.

7.1 Lister Block Update – No Copy

General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services provided an update on on-going discussions with proponents of Lister Block.

Joe Rinaldo provided historical background, starting from the time of the 2005 redevelopment proposal.

Request information and details from Province with respect to $24 million in order for City to be able to carry out Peer Review

Explore costs of rehabilitation vs replication

Critical that full numbers/details be provided in order to make informed decision; look at all variables i.e., replication, rehabilitation and explore all options

(Jackson/Collins)
That Committee move into closed session.  
CARRIED.

(Collins/Ferguson)
That Committee move to reconvene in Open Session to appropriately state the purpose of moving into closed session.  
CARRIED.

(Jackson/Collins)
That Committee move into closed session to discuss a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land for municipal or local board purposes.  
CARRIED.
(Ferguson/Pearson)
That Committee move to reconvene in Open Session.  **CARRIED.**

7.1  **Lister Block Update – No Copy**

(McHattie/Merulla)
That the City continue to pursue the Peer Review of the Lister Block restoration project proposal, namely:

(a) request the required information from LIUNA-Hi-Rise in order to undertake the Peer Review;

(b) proceed with an RFP for the Peer Review following Council’s satisfaction with the proposal (i.e., retail space at street level; additional commercial space, etc.);

(c) request that the Province extend the deadline associate with the $7 million Provincial contribution to September, 2008;

(d) lease cost not to exceed $24 per square foot.

The motion **LOST** on the following standing recorded vote:

Yeas: Eisenberger, Whitehead, Merulla, McHattie, Ferguson
Total Yeas: 5
Nays: Powers, Pearson, Mitchell, Jackson, Duvall, Collins, Clark, Bratina
Total Nays: 8
Absent: McCarthy, Morelli, Pasuta
Total Absent: 3

(Clark/Powers)
That the staff presentation respecting the Lister Rehabilitation Proposal, be received.  **CARRIED.**

7.2  **Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Property Update – No copy**

(Whitehead/Powers)
That staff be directed to make a proposal to the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board at their meeting on Thursday, January 10, 2008 and at future meetings, with respect to the concept of developing and furthering the synergies of McMaster Family Health Centre, the new Board of Education building with new office accommodation for the City’s Public Health Department as well as complementary private sector uses for a comprehensively designed development for the entire block.  **CARRIED.**
(Powers/Pearson)
That the Committee recess (4:25 p.m.) and reconvene at 7:00 p.m.
CARRIED.

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

7.3 Public Delegations

Deputy Mayor Councillor R. Powers assumed the Chair on behalf of Mayor Eisenberger who was meeting with Minister Duncan, Finance Minsiter

7:00 p.m. Thom Oommen
Mr. Oommen addressed the following in his presentation:
- public transit/fare increase
- paying for the expressway through taxes – unfair
- revoke recent fare increases
- implement toll system for expressway – use excess to fund transit

7:15 p.m. Jim Quinn
Mr. Quinn addressed the following in his presentation:
- evolution of biodiversity
- effects of global warming
- increase in HSR Fares
- housing and tax increases

7:30 p.m. Priya Verma (written presentation)
Ms. Verma addressed the following in her presentation
- outreach worker for SISO – provided an overview of the hate crime prevention program
- meeting the needs of diverse groups
- victim advocacy training

7:45 p.m. Craig Foye, Income Security Working Group
Mr. Foye addressed the following in his presentation:
- crisis of severe poverty in our community
- refrain from cuts or changes
- appreciated council’s decision respecting the national child benefit clawback
- social assistance rates
- work of the Income Security Working Group
Committee of the Whole
Minutes

11 January 7, 2008

- law reform for temp workers
- we are in an emergency crisis situation with respect to poverty levels

8:00 p.m. Andy Cranbury
Mr. Cranbury addressed the following in his presentation:
- Multi residential tax rate

8:15 p.m. Liz Weaver, Poverty Roundtable - not in attendance

(Whitehead/Mitchell)
Added Delegation CARRIED.

8:30 p.m. Bill Rosart
Mr. Rosart addressed the following in his presentation:
- required provincial funding
- no staff/support security person
- Auchmar – needs to be developed
- Hamilton History Museum

(Whitehead/Jackson)
Added Delegation

8:45 p.m. Joanna Chapman CARRIED.
Ms. Chapman addressed the following in his presentation:
- Integrity commissioner listed as unaffordable
- the commissioner position must proceed and urged council to reconsider that decision

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

General Information – Councillor Whitehead provided an update on the meeting recently held with Hamilton taxicab drivers.
Establishment of a Taxi Liaison Committee
Addressed the issue of installing shields in cabs.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.
Committee of the Whole
Minutes

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor F. Eisenberger

M. Gallagher, Co-ordinator
December 7, 2007