Committee of the Whole  
MINUTES  
9:30 a.m.  
September 12, 2007  
Council Chambers, Hamilton City Hall

Present:  
Mayor F. Eisenberger  
Councillors B. Bratina, B. Clark, C. Collins, S. Duvall,  
L. Ferguson, T. Jackson, B. McHattie, S. Merulla, B.  
Morelli, M. Pearson, D. Mitchell, R. Pasuta, M.  
McCarthy, T. Whitehead

Absent with regrets:  
Councillor R. Powers – City Business

Also Present:  
G. Peace, City Manager  
J. Rinaldo, General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services  
J. Harnum, Public Works  
P. Barkwell, City Solicitor  
M. Gallagher, Co-ordinator

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REPORTED TO CITY COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Revised agenda with 8 additional names which has been circulated.

An additional request this morning from Mr. Anas Melham of the Working Families Coalition Watch who wishes to address Committee today.

We have also added Item 7.2 a report from the Hamilton to Fairness Campaign which has been circulated to council.

(Ferguson/Pasuta)  
That the agenda be adopted as amended.  
CARRIED.
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

5. DELEGATION REQUESTS

(Ferguson/Collins) That the delegations be approved. CARRIED.

5.1 Elda Heinrich, Hamilton District Heavy Construction Association

5.2 LIUNA
   (a) Joseph S. Mancinelli, LIUNA International Vice President and Regional Manager, for LIUNA Central and Eastern Canada Region.
   (b) Cosmo Mannella, Director, LIUNA Canadian Tri-Funds
   (c) Patrick Little, Business Manager, LIUNA Ontario Provincial District Council,
   (d) Manuel Bastos, Business Manager, LIUNA Local 837

5.3 Mark Baseggio, Executive Director, Open Shop Contractors Association

5.4 Rob Bradford, Ontario Road Builders Association

5.5 Andrew Regnerus, Construction Co-ordinator, Christian Labour Association of Canada

5.6 Jeff Pigott, Vice President, Field Operations, Kenaidan Contracting Ltd.

5.7 Harold Caley, Carpenter’s Local 18

5.8 Tom Charette, Canadian Federation of Independent Business

5.9 Anas Melham, Working Families Coalition Watch

6. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

6.1 United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Local 18 Certification (LS07012) (City Wide)

   Peter Barkwell, City Solicitor provided a power point presentation highlighting aspects of the report.
7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Local 18 Certification (LS07012) (City Wide)

(Jackson/Collins)
That Report LS07012 respecting United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Local 18 Certification be received.
CARRIED.

7.2 Report 07-001 of the Fairness to Hamilton Campaign Sub-Committee
(Clark/Collins)
(a) Financial Impact of Provincial Downloading (City Wide) (FCS07086)
That Report FCS0607086 respecting Financial Impact of Provincial Downloading and attached hereto as Appendix A be received for information.

(b) Net Property Tax Impact Per Household
(i) That Finance staff be directed to calculate the net property tax impact per household as a result of the Provincial downloading.

(ii) That staff from the Mayor's office be directed to develop a strategy to communicate the impact that Provincial downloading has on the property tax per household to the public and to the leaders of the Provincial parties and the local candidates of the upcoming Provincial elections.

(c) Long Term Public Relations Strategy
That appropriate staff be directed to develop a long term public relations strategy to communicate the issues relating to the Provincial downloading and the impact this has on the Hamilton property tax payers including but not limited to developing a web site.

(Clark/Collins)
That the following be added as subsection (d):

WHEREAS municipal governments in Ontario are required to subsidize provincially mandated health and social service programs, like welfare and employment services, disability benefits,
drug benefits, social housing, child care, homes for the aged, public health, and ambulance services;

WHEREAS Ontario’s reliance on the municipal property tax base to fund human/income redistributive services is unique amongst North American jurisdictions and has distorted the tax burden in Ontario shifting costs from income to tax property tax without regard to the taxpayers’ ability to pay; and unfairly burdens residents of older, larger municipalities that serve as regional hubs for the delivery of services;

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has recognized this imbalance by initiating a review of the delivery and funding of social services panel (Provincial – Municipal fiscal and service Delivery Review) and by starting to upload $935 million in disability and drug benefit costs in 2008.

WHEREAS the Provincially mandated uploaded program costs account for more than $97 million of the City’s tax levy or $425 of the average household (17% municipal taxes)

WHEREAS the burden of social services downloading has prevented the City of Hamilton from reaching its’ full economic development potential, limited the City’s ability to provide the basic municipal infrastructure that underpins the quality of our lives as citizens and places at extreme risk those services and provides significant financial exposure to the City in the event of an economic recession;

WHEREAS the City of Hamilton is uniquely burdened in relation to neighbouring municipalities with the highest urban poverty rate in the province, as well as, one of the highest property tax burdens in Ontario;

THAT the Province of Ontario be requested to develop a plan in the next provincial budget to upload the financial responsibility of all provincially mandated social services, housing and health program costs, thereby reducing the property tax costs for a typical Hamilton household by approximately $425 annually.

AMENDMENT CARRIED.
MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED.
PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

(Whitehead/Jackson)
That committee move into closed session to deliberate a labour relations matter. 
CARRIED.

(Jackson/Whitehead)
That committee reconvene in Open Session. 
CARRIED.

Staff direction provided in closed session.

The committee adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor F. Eisenberger

M. Gallagher
September 12, 2007