Memorandum

Date: December 12, 2008

To: Mary-Ann Meyer, Legislative Assistant
   Office of the City Clerk

From: Rose Caterini, Deputy Clerk / Manager, Legislative Services
      Corporate Services, City Clerks

Subject: Property Tax Assessment

Council, at its meeting held December 10, 2008, considered the attached letter dated November 17, 2008, from the City of Cambridge, respecting the above matter.

Please be advised that Council has received this correspondence and referred it to the Audit and Administration Committee.

RC: sr
Att.

File: 08-025
City of Cambridge Council Resolution
Monday, November 17, 2008

Councillor Ben Tucci – Property Tax Assessment

WHEREAS significant changes have occurred to the process of reassessing of properties since the last reassessment completed in 2005.

WHEREAS the Government of the Province of Ontario through the introduction of Bill 187 and Bill 44 has imposed the changes in response to public complaints and the recommendations that came from the Ombudsman’s Report into assessment activities.

WHEREAS the changes have lead to a 4 year cycle for reassessing properties with the current reassessment based on January 1, 2008 values.

WHEREAS the market value changes are being phased in over 4 years commencing 2009 for properties of all classes where there is an increase over and above the percentage increase in market value for the class of property from 2005 to 2008.

WHEREAS for properties with a market value assessment that is below the percentage increase in market value for its class, property tax decreases will be implemented immediately.

WHEREAS the economy has recently entered into a severe downturn resulting from a number of pressures both internal and external including the global financial crisis.

WHEREAS the forecast is for the economy to deteriorate further in 2009 with recessionary pressures in industry and peoples day to day lives coupled with ongoing job losses.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of The Corporation of the City of Cambridge calls on the Honorable Dwight Duncan, Minister Of Finance of Ontario, the Honorable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario and, the Ontario Government, to do what they can to help soften the blow for Ontario residents and property owners of all classes including, a deferral of the 4 year phase in for property tax increases by 1 year from the present phase in of 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 to 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013.

AND FURTHER THAT the motion once approved be forwarded to all MPPs representing Waterloo Region, to the Leader of the Official Opposition, to the Leader of the 3rd party and, through AMO, to all other municipalities for their consideration.

Please contact: Alex Mitchell, City Clerk
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