Social & Public Health Services Committee
MINUTES
9:30 a.m.
Tuesday, September 12, 2006
Council Chambers, 2nd Floor
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West, Hamilton

Present:
Chair B. Bratina, Vice-Chair S. Merulla
Councillors B. Kelly, T. Jackson, B. McHattie, B. Morelli

Also Present:
J. Soldera, Acting General Manager, G. Hendry, R. McKnight, Community Services
J. Rinaldo, General Manager, L. Friday, Corporate Services
I. Sturgeon, City Clerks

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REPORTED TO CITY COUNCIL FOR INFORMATION:

1. Changes to O.D.S.P. Eligibility Criteria

(Merulla/Morelli)
Whereas, the Ontario Works mandate is specifically focused on facilitating Ontario Works clients to employment;

Whereas, the Province of Ontario amended criteria for eligibility of Ontario Disability Support Program (O.D.S.P.) for clients who have mental health issues;

Whereas, the City of Hamilton presently has 2000 Ontario Work’s clients who are currently applying for O.D.S.P. and whose eligibility may be limited by eligibility criteria changes that were made to the O.D.S.P. Act in 1995;

Therefore be it resolved that the City of Hamilton strongly encourages the Provincial Government to roll back eligibility criteria to the 1995 level, thereby allowing the Liberal Government to fulfill their campaign promise.

CARRIED
2. **2005-2007 Ontario Works Service Plan (SSC06022) (City Wide) (Item 5.1)**

*(Kelly/McHattie)*

CARRIED

3. **Funding Formula of the Federal National Housing Act (NHA) Section 95 Social Housing Program (SSC06021) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)**

*(Morelli/Merulla)*

(a) That Council correspond with the Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Federal Minister of Labour and Housing and request that the funding formula for Federal National Housing Act (NHA) Section 95 be revised to ensure sustainable funding.

(b) That this letter be copied to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Ontario Municipal Social Service Association (OMSSA), the Service Managers Housing Network (SMHN), the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association (ONPHA), the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada (CHF) and the Social Housing Services Corporation (SHSC).  
CARRIED

4. **Labour Market Development and Labour Market Partnership Agreements (SSC06025) (City Wide) (Item 8.2)**

*(Jackson/Kelly)*

(a) That Council correspond with the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities (draft letter attached as Appendix A hereto), to request that the local Consolidated Municipal Service Managers be included at the provincial planning table, and be permitted to lead local planning activities for implementation of the Labour Market Development and Labour Market Partnership Agreements.

(b) That members of Council meet with local area Members of Provincial Parliament in order to advocate for participation of the local Consolidated Municipal Service Managers at the provincial planning table and to lead local planning activities for implementation of the Labour Market Development and Labour Market Partnership Agreements.

(c) That a copy of the correspondence be sent to the Association of Municipalities (AMO) requesting their support of this initiative.  
CARRIED
5. Property Tax Component of Tenant Rental Payments

(McHattie/Kelly)
Whereas, tenants pay a significant amount of property taxes; and

Whereas, it is difficult for tenants to ascertain their own property tax impact as it is blended into their monthly rent; and

Whereas, high property taxes generally lead to significant citizen involvement in civic life;

Therefore be it resolved that Council correspond with the Minister of Finance in order to request that the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) reinstate the practice of including individual assessments on all tenant properties in Ontario.

CARRIED

OR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) Changes to the Agenda (Item 1)

There were no changes noted by the Clerk.

(b) Declaration of Interest (Item 2)

None

(c) Approval of Minutes (Item 3)

The minutes of the June 27, 2006 Social Services Standing Committee meeting were approved as presented.

(d) 2005-2007 Ontario Works Service Plan (SSC06022) (City Wide) (Item 5.1)

Gillian Hendry provided an overview of the report to members of Committee.

Members of Committee raised questions regarding employment outcomes, the need to incorporate other resources in the community, the need for more flexibility during the process, advocating a change to the eligibility criteria and case load reduction.

On a motion, the Committee recommended that correspondence be sent to the Provincial Government encouraging them to roll back eligibility criteria to the 1995 level.
Councillor Merulla expressed his gratitude to staff for the great job all the front line workers are doing considering the continuous changes and cutbacks that have been imposed by Provincial Legislation.

(e) Labour Market Development and Labour Market Partnership Agreements (SSC06025) (City Wide) (Item 8.2)

Gillian Hendry provided an overview of the staff report and requested that an amendment be made to recommendation (c) by deleting the following wording;

“and further request that this resolution be forwarded to all municipalities requesting their support”.

Ms. Hendry advised that A.M.O.’s cost to circulate this motion was cost prohibitive.

Members of Committee agreed to the friendly amendment and approved the staff recommendation.

(f) Outstanding Business List (Item 11.1)

Jane Soldera discussed due dates with the members of Committee regarding Outstanding Business Items “G”, “H” & “M”.

Joe Rinaldo, General Manager, Finance & Corporate Services and Larry Friday, Director of Taxation provided a verbal update to the Committee regarding Item “K”, Property Tax Component of Tenant Rental. They explained that MPAC no longer captures tenant information and therefore they can not provide this information to Committee.

Councillor McHattie noted the importance of this information and suggested that MPAC should be requested to re-instate this information.

Members of Committee concurred and approved a motion as noted as Item 5 of this report.

(Jackson/Morelli)
That the Outstanding Business List be amended as follows;

- Outstanding Business List Item G, Strengthening Hamilton’s Community Initiative, due date changed to October 24, 2006.
- Outstanding Business List Item K, respecting the Property Tax Component of Tenant Rental was noted as being complete and removed from the list;
Outstanding Business Item M, respecting Residential Care Facilities was assigned the due date of October 24, 2006

CARRIED

(g) Adjournment (Item 13)

There being no further business, the meeting of the Social Services Committee adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor B. Bratina
Chair

I. Sturgeon,
Legislative Assistant
September 12, 2006