Social & Public Health Services Committee  
MINUTES  
9:30 a.m.  
Tuesday, January 24, 2006  
Council Chambers, 2nd Floor  
Hamilton City Hall  
71 Main Street West, Hamilton  

---  

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

**Absent:**  
Councillor B. Morelli (Illness)  
Councillor B. Kelly (Personal Business)  

**Also Present:**  
Mayor L. DiIanni  
Councillor T. Whitehead  
J. Priel, General Manager, V. Woodcox, C. Buffett,  
K. Extance, Public Health & Community Services  
B. Farkas, Planning & Economic Development  
I. Sturgeon, City Clerks  

---  

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REPORTED TO CITY COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION:  

1. **2006 Social and Public Health Services Volunteer Committees Budget Submissions (SPH06002) (City Wide) (Item 5.1)**  

   (Jackson/Merulla)  
   (a) That the 2006 budget submission from the Food Shelter and Housing Committee (FSH) be received as attached as Appendix A.  
   
   (b) That the 2006 budget submission from the Tenant Advisory (TAC) Committee be received as attached as Appendix B.  
   
   (c) That the budget submissions and requested funding be referred to the 2006 Budget process.  

   **Carried**
2. **Air Quality Initiatives and Issues Summary - Niagara-Hamilton WastePlan (PW06011) - (City Wide) (Item 7.1)**

(Merulla/McHattie)

(a) That the current wording contained in Item 1(a) of the Social and Public Health Services Committee Report 05-016 concerning Air Quality Initiatives and Issues be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

That should the City of Hamilton and Region of Niagara approve the draft EA Study report recommendation to jointly build thermal processing capacity to manage municipal waste remaining after diversion, any proposal to construct a thermal processing facility incorporate the following considerations with regards to air quality protection:

(i) Only those thermal processing technologies and vendors with an established and/or proven capability of meeting the Province of Ontario's and any other applicable federal regulations or standards regarding air emissions and air quality protection will be considered;

(ii) Completion of air quality impact and site specific risk assessments in support of any proposed location resulting from the site selection process to be completed during the next step in the joint EA Study; and,

(iii) Incorporation of the best available pollution control technology and other reasonably available measures into the design of a proposed facility to prevent potential air quality impacts and, where any potential for air quality impacts remains, to mitigate or off-set those potential impacts.

(iv) During the siting step of the WastePlan EA study, application of a screening criteria which would exclude potential facility sites located in areas of Hamilton and Niagara with unsuitable air quality and significant health effects, provided a suitable data source is identified and available.

Carried

3. **The Provincial Transfer of Projects in Difficulty to the City of Hamilton (First Place) (Verbal Update – No Copy) (Item 7.3)**

(McHattie/Jackson)

(a) That Council request the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing delay the transfer of First Place Hamilton to the City of Hamilton until the project is financially stable as verified by Mintz & Partners;

(b) That should the Province transfer First Place Hamilton on March 1, 2006, that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing provides confirmation to the City of Hamilton that they will provide additional financial support after March 1, 2006, until such time that First Place Hamilton is financially stable as verified by Mintz & Partners.

Carried
FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) Changes to the Agenda

The Clerk advised that Item 6.1, a delegation from Wey Robinson and members of the Campaign for Adequate Welfare & Disability Benefits has been withdrawn and will be re-scheduled to the February 10th, 2006 Committee of the Whole meeting.

The Clerk also requested that Presentation Item 7.1, be re-scheduled as the last presentation of the meeting in order to coincide with the Mayor’s attendance.

Committee approved the changes to the agenda.

(b) Declaration of Interest

None

(c) Chair

During the course of the meeting, Chair Bratina relinquished the Chair on several occasions to Vice Chair Merulla and Councillor Jackson in order to join in the debate.

(d) Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the December 14, 2005 meeting were approved as presented.

(e) Residential Snow Removal Program Implementation – “Snow Angels Program” (Verbal Update – No Copy) (Item 7.2)

Ms. Cathy Buffett, Director of Community Programs provided a verbal update regarding the implementation of the new Residential Snow Removal Program entitled “Snow Angels”. The program, which was approved by Council, last December, will assist low income seniors and disabled residents clear snow from walkways around their home within 24 hours following a snowfall. Ms. Buffett announced that the City has signed a contract with Volunteer Hamilton who will be administering this program. She explained that a comprehensive two year marketing strategy was presently being developed for this new program.

Mr. Christopher Cutler, Executive Director of Volunteer Hamilton, confirmed with members of Committee that the program should be operational within one week’s time. He explained that a data base would be created and the information would be kept on a permanent basis so that residents would not have to register each year. Mr. Cutler provided members of Committee with a copy of the press release which was being released later today.
Members of Committee raised concern regarding the eligibility criteria and questioned if it was too restrictive.

Staff advised that they would monitor the situation and review the financial criteria prior to the start of next year's program.

The Committee thanked City staff and Volunteer Hamilton for all their hard work and effort in putting this program together so quickly.

(f) Air Quality Initiatives and Issues Summary - Niagara-Hamilton WastePlan (PW06011) - (City Wide) (Item 7.1)

Beth Goodger provided an introduction of the power point presentation by Mr. Stephen Plaice, Jacques Whitford Consulting and Ms. Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning.

Mr. Plaice provided an overview of the Niagra-Hamilton WastePlan EA Study that is currently underway. Mr. Plaice described the four-steps involved with an Environmental Assessment process. He explained that the Committee was currently at step two, whereby they have recommended a preferred system (Thermal Treatment of Residual Waste) and that this preferred system was now out for public consultation until February 6, 2006. Municipal approval from both municipalities would be required for this phase and it was anticipated that the Task Force would be bringing something forward for approval sometime in April. The next step following that would be to finalize the Facility Siting Methodology & Criteria and the selection of a preferred site. Copies of the presentation were distributed to members of Committee and a copy has been retained in the files of the Office of the Clerk.

Ms. Parker reviewed the recommendations that were in the staff report with members of Committee.

The Committee raised questions, comments and/or concerns regarding the following; having an incinerator facility in Hamilton, whether or not a Health Risk Assessment will be done, if the public consultation process was extensive enough, Provincial Standards for air quality - were they adequate or should they be exceeded, disposal of Ash residue, whether or not waste from other municipalities will be accepted and a suggestion that a further review of “No Waste Systems” should be carried out.

Councillor Jackson asked staff to include the Ward Councillor in the process once a site is identified.

On a motion (Merulla/McHattie), Committee amended the staff recommendation by adding a sub-section 1. (iv), which addresses the concern of locating a facility in areas of Hamilton and Niagara with unsuitable air quality.
Councillor Jackson was recorded as opposed.

(g) **The Provincial Transfer of Projects in Difficulty to the City of Hamilton (First Place) (Verbal Update – No Copy) (Item 7.3)**

Ms. Vicki Woodcox, Director of Employment, Housing & Long Term Care, updated Committee on First Place, the Project in Difficulty (PID) housing complex that is scheduled to be transferred to the City from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing effective March 1, 2006. Ms. Woodcox noted that discussions have been ongoing with the Ministry and that they expect that all the technical issues will be resolved by March 1, 2006. She advised that the First Place Board of Directors had volunteered to go into receivership effective January 11, 2006, and that Mintz & Partners have been appointed to conduct a review of the situation. Ms. Woodcox noted that staff are working very closely with the Province, as well as Mintz & Partners to ensure there is a smooth transition to the municipality. The Province has also indicated that they would provide us with additional staff resources/expertise for the next two years to assist us with this transition.

Staff responded to questions posed by the Committee.

On a motion, Committee approved a recommendation requesting the Province to delay the transfer of First Place, or should the transfer occur, they provide confirmation to the City of Hamilton that additional financial support will be provided until such time as the facility is financially stable.

(h) **General Information/Other Business (Item 11)**

11.1 **Implementation of An Employee Focus Program – Outstanding Business Item A – Report received by Corporate Administration Committee on November 16, 2005.**

On a motion *(Merulla/Jackson)*, Committee approved the removal of Item A off the Outstanding Business List.

(i) **Private & Confidential (Item 12)**

12.1 **Tweedsmuir School: Potential Acquisition by Options for Homes Hamilton (Verbal Update)**

On a motion *(Merulla/McHattie)*, the Committee moved In-Camera to allow for a discussion with respect to the potential disposition of property and possible litigation.
On a motion (Merulla/Jackson), the Committee reconvened in open session.

The Chairman reported that staff were directed to investigate and bring further information to the Council meeting tomorrow evening.

(j) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor B. Bratina
Chair

I. Sturgeon,
Legislative Assistant
January 24, 2006