Committee of the Whole
MINUTES

9:30 a.m.
April 20, 2007
Council Chambers
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West, Hamilton

Present: Mayor F. Eisenberger

Also Present: G. Peace, City Manager
J. Rinaldo, General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services
S. Stewart, General Manager, Public Works
J. Priel, General Manager, Community Services
L. A. Coveyduck, General Manager, Planning and Economic Development
J. Kay, General Manager, HES/Fire Chief
M. Gallagher, Coordinator, COW

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Revision to the recommendation In Item 4.1.
Review the Volunteer Committees – Legislative Budget

(Pearson/McCarthy)

That the agenda be approved as amended. CARRIED.
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 April 13, 2007

(Powers/Pasuta)
Be adopted as presented. CARRIED.

4. BUDGET PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION

(Collins/McCarthy)
That the delegation requests be approved. CARRIED.

David Hart Dyke, Waste Reduction Task Force
Mr. Dyke submitted a resolution on behalf of the Task Force which was circulated to members of committee requesting support of option 5c.

Mr. Richard Denier, Halton Recycling provided a power point presentation which highlighted the benefits of the single stream recycling

(McCarthy/Ferguson) presentations be received. CARRIED.

4.1 Evaluation of Alternatives for the Delivery of Recycling Program Services and Award of Relevant Contracts (PW07057/FCS07052) (McCarthy/Pearson)

(a) That the recycling program commencing March 31, 2008 be approved, consisting of:

I) The continued operation of the existing two (2) stream processing system;

II) Two (2) stream collection of the recyclable materials by contracted service for the curbside collection in all waste collection zones, blue carts and at festivals;

iii) A five (5) day waste collection week.

(b) That National Waste Services Inc. be selected as the Successful Proponent for Project B of Request for Proposals Contract C11-127-06, being the two (2) stream collection of recyclable materials from all waste collection zones, and for the semi-automated collection of blue carts and festivals for
a contract period of five (5) years commencing March 31, 2008 with the potential for two (2) one (1) year extensions (lowest of three (3) acceptable proposals);

(c) That the cost of a new container line, estimated to be $2.7 million, be funded from the 2007 Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) New Processing Equipment account #5120594527;

(d) That Request for Proposals C11-128-06 for Design, Build Operate of a Single Stream Processing System, Contract C11-128-06 not be awarded and be cancelled;

(e) That Tender No. C11-62-06 Supply and Delivery of Waste Collection/Recycling Vehicles Various Configurations not be awarded and be cancelled;

(f) That the General Managers of Public Works and Finance and Corporate Services be authorized and directed to finalize the terms and conditions of the contract with National Waste Services Inc. in accordance with the provisions of the Request for Proposals Contract No. C11-127-06 for Project B for the Collection of Recyclable Materials in all zones and blue carts and festivals;

(g) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute the final contract with National Waste Services Inc., together with any necessary ancillary documents, all in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor;

(h) That staff be given the authority to further investigate the regionalization of the Materials Recycling Facility including discussions of potentially sharing the facility with other municipalities, operational and funding options and potential markets and report back to Public Works Committee by the end of 2007.

MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED ON A STANDING RECORDED VOTE:

Yeas: Mayor Eisenberger, Councillors Powers, Pearson, Mitchell, Pasuta, McCarthy, Jackson, Ferguson, Clark, Bratina

Total: 10

Nays: Councillors Duvall, Collins, Merulla, Morelli, Whitehead

Total: 5

Absent: Councillor McHattie

Total: 1
4.2 Illegal Marijuana Grow Operations (PED07139)

(a) That Legal Services be authorized and directed to prepare by-laws to prohibit marijuana grow operations and to charge fees for inspections of marijuana grow operations.

(b) That the 2007 Budget enhancement for Illegal Marijuana Grow Operations, with an estimated net cost of $73,500, for the hiring of two (2) inspectors be approved. Delete

(c) That the one-time cost of $70,000 for the purchase of two (2) vehicles required for two (2) inspectors be funded from Capital Reserves.

(Pearson/Powers)

(a) That Legal Services be authorized and directed to prepare by-laws to prohibit marijuana grow operations and to charge fees for inspections of marijuana grow operations.

(Duvall/Pearson)

(b) That Staff be directed to adjust fees for 100% cost recovery for inspections of this program.

(Jackson/Pearson)

(c) That staff report back in one year to provide an update on this program.

MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED.

Recess to 1pm
Powers/Ferguson CARRIED.

4.3 2007 Budget Enhancement for the Economic Development Division (PED07134)

(a) That the 2007 Budget enhancement for the Economic Development Division as set out in PED07134, including an increase in staff complement by four (4) full time employees, be approved.

(b) That the 2007 cost estimated at $182,000 be funded from the Tax Stabilization Reserve as a one-time expenditure and
that the annualized impact of $486,000 commencing in 2008 be funded from the levy.

(c) That the Economic Development Division be required to generate an increase of $486,000 in taxes attributable to incremental new assessment in 2008 to offset the impact to the levy.

(Collins/Clark)
That the report be referred to a roundtable discussion with council and members of management team to further address the report in conjunction with the economic development strategy, assessment growth figures and measurables and productivity measurement for staff positions (i.e. incentive base, contracted positions)

CARRIED.

4.4 2007 Budget Recommendations for Approval

(i) Volunteer Committee Budgets
(Pasuta/McCarthy)
That the requests be approved as outlined in the 2007 budget book with the amendment of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Sub-Committee who will receive 600.00

(McHattie/Pasuta)
That a Volunteer Committee Budget Proposal Evaluation Team be established to consider the 2007 Volunteer Committee requests and that possible funding increases be considered from the Volunteer Committee Reserve.

CARRIED.

(a) 2007 Tax Supported Operating Budget
(McCarthy/Powers)
  i) That the 2007 Tax Supported Levy, as presented in FCS07022 and amended by Schedule A, in the amount of $601,329,490 be approved.

  ii) That 2007 one-time items approved as part of the Current Budget, be funded from reserves as identified in Schedule B.

  iii) That the Medical Officer of Health be authorized and directed to execute all statutory 2007 Federal and Provincial Program Service Level Funding Agreements and Contracts for Public Health Services.
This also includes the authority to authorize the submission of budgets and quarterly/year end reporting.

iv) That the General Manager of Community Services be authorized and directed to execute all statutory 2007 Federal and Provincial Program Service Level Funding Agreements and Contracts for Community Services. This also includes the authority to authorize the submission of budgets and quarterly/year end reporting.

Yeas: Mayor Eisenberger, Councillors Powers, Pasuta, McHattie, McCarthy, Jackson, Ferguson, Clark, Bratina,
Total: 9
Opposed: Collins, Duvall, Merulla, Morelli, Whitehead, Pearson
Total: 6
Absent: Councillor Mitchell
Total: 1

(b) 2007 Tax Supported Capital Budget

(Jackson/Pearson)

(a) That the existing budget of $90,000 project id 4400452002 for Templemead Park trail, (Ward 6) be transferred to the Sherwood School playground project, (Ward 6), currently identified in the 2007 Capital Budget as a 2008 project for $90,000 project id 4400852800;

(b) That staff submit the Templemead Park trail project as part of the 2008 Capital Budget submission for Council’s consideration. CARRIED.

(b) 2007 Tax Supported Capital Budget

(McCarthy/Jackson)

(i) That the 2007 Tax-supported Capital Levy, as identified in Table 2 (Option 1) on Page 17 of Report FCS07022, Book 1, be amended to $75,035,000 as per Schedule C, a reduction of $1,346,000, be approved.

(ii) That the Hamilton Future Fund, as a source of funding in the amount of $24,905,000 per the 2007 Tax Capital Budget & Financing Plan (Appendix 3-1-2 of Book 3), be amended to
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$24,655,000 as per Schedule C reduction of $250,000, be approved.

(iii) That the 2007 Tax Capital Budget and Financing Plan as identified in Appendix 3-1-2 of Book 3 of report FCS07022, Pages 20-33, and amended per Schedule C, be approved.

(iv) That the 2008-2016 Tax Capital Budget Project Summaries identified in Book 3, Appendices 3-2-1 thru 3-2-38 to report FCS07022 be approved as forecasts.

(v) That $3.0 million in one-time 2007 HUC dividends be set aside for Council's Strategic Initiatives as outlined in Schedule D. CARRIED.

(c) 2007 Area Rated Levies
(Ferguson/Powers)
That the 2007 Area Rated Levies be approved as detailed in Schedule E. CARRIED. Whitehead, Merulla opposed.

(d) 2007 Tax Policies
(McCarthy/Pasuta)
(i) That the following optional property tax classes be established for the 2007 taxation year:

- New Multi-Residential
- Parking Lot and Vacant Land
- Large Industrial

(ii) That the following final tax ratios be established for the 2007 taxation year;

- Residential 1.0000
- Multi-Residential 2.7400
- New Multi-Residential 1.0000
- Commercial (residual) 2.0598
- Parking Lot & Vacant Land 2.0598
- Industrial (residual) 3.4285
- Large Industrial 4.0203
- Pipeline 1.7367
- Farm 0.2174
- Managed Forest 0.2500

(iii) That the following tax reductions be established for
the 2007 taxation year:

- Vacant units and excess land subclass (residual commercial) 30%
- Vacant units and excess land subclass (residual industrial) 35%
- Vacant units and excess land subclass (large industrial) 35%
- Farmland awaiting development (1st subclass) 25%
- Farmland awaiting development (2nd subclass) 0%

(iv) That the existing property tax relief program for low-income seniors and disabled persons be continued for the 2007 taxation year.

(v) That the existing 40% tax rebate for eligible charities and similar organizations be continued for the 2007 taxation year.

(vi) That the existing vacancy rebate for eligible commercial and industrial properties be continued for the 2007 taxation year.

(vii) That, further to the 3-year extension approved in 2006 (2006 – 2008), the existing tax exemption for Legion’s and Veteran’s Clubs be continued for the 2007 taxation year.

(viii) That the existing Seniors (65+) Tax Rebate Program, as amended in 2006, be continued for the 2007 taxation year.

(ix) That, further to the 2006 Council approved policy for the Seniors (65+) Tax Rebate Program, the following criteria be updated for the 2007 taxation year:

(i) income threshold (150% of GIS couple) increased to $29,600 ($26,640 in 2006)
(ii) assessment cap (120% of city-wide average) increased to $265,100 ($263,000 in 2006)
(iii) rebate increased by the CPI index to $153 ($150 in 2006) CARRIED.

Whitehead opposed
(e) **2007 Tax Capping Policies for Commercial, Industrial and Multi-Residential Properties**
(Powers/Ferguson)

(i) That Council approve the use in 2007 of $500,000 from the Hamilton Future Fund as contribution towards claw-back reductions on Commercial, Industrial and Multi-Residential properties;

(ii) That Council approve the tax capping percentage at 10%, the maximum allowed under Section 329.1 of the Municipal Act, 2001;

(iii) That Council approve that any capped property in the Commercial, Industrial or Multi-Residential Tax Class that is within $250 of its' Current Value Assessment of taxes (CVA), be moved to it's full CVA of taxes, as allowed under Section 329.1 of the Municipal Act, 2001. CARRIED.

(f) **Tax Supported Levy & Policy By-laws**
(McCarthy/Clark)

That the City Solicitor and Corporate Counsel be authorized and directed to prepare all necessary by-laws, for Council approval, for the purposes of establishing 2007 Tax Levy and Policies.

Whitehead opposed

The Clerk was directed to request that Cable 14 televise the special council on April 24th.

Staff will work with the Mayor’s office to prepare a response to editors of the Spectator and Mountain News providing a counter position on statements made by MPP’s.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.