Committee of the Whole
REPORT 09-028

9:30 a.m.
October 27, 2009
Albion Room
Hamilton Convention Centre

Present:
Mayor F. Eisenberger
Deputy Mayor T. Jackson

Absent with regrets:
Councillor B. Clark – City Business

Also Present:
C. Murray, City Manager
R. Rossini, General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services
G. Davis, General Manager, Public Works
T. McCabe, General Manager, Planning and Economic Development
J.A. Priel, General Manager, Community Services
J. Kay, General Manager, HES, Fire Chief
M. Gallagher, Co-ordinator, Council and Committee of the Whole/Budgets

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PRESENTS REPORT 09-028 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. 2010 Budget Update and 2010 Budget Reductions/Assumptions (Items 6.1 and 6.2)

    That the Update and staff presentation on the 2010 Budget be received.
2. **Staff reports when addressing significant Budget decisions**

That the following motion be referred to the Governance Review Committee:

That no significant budget decisions be made by Council without a report or written comments by staff.

3. **Meeting with Members of Provincial Parliament**

That Members of Provincial Parliament be invited to attend a special meeting of Committee of the Whole to be convened as soon as possible to discuss the budget pressures challenging the City of Hamilton and request for assistance from the Province.

**FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:**

(a) **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted as presented.

(b) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

(c) **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

None

(d) **PRESENTATIONS**

(i) **2010 Budget Update**

2010 Budget Reductions/Assumptions (Items 6.1 and 6.2)

Rob Rossini provided an update on the 2010. Highlights included the following:

- 2010 Budget Update
- Significant Risks and Pressures
- Residential Tax Impact – 4.4% currently estimated
- Estimated Residential Tax Impact Including Capital Levy – 5.4%
- Excluding $16.5 M from Province – 8.4%
- Provincial Impacts - $9,325,000
- Budget Pressures
- Potential Risks
- Stabilization Reserves

- 2010 Reduction Options Process
  - Required Reductions to Meet Guideline – cut $13,800,000 to get down to 2.4% - assumes the 16.5 million from Province

- Potential Mitigation
  - Use of Reserves if available
  - Pursue OMPF funding
  - Pursue Waste Disposal revenue for computer disposal
  - Efficiencies
  - User Fees

- Budget Guideline Principles and Options
  - Preserve services that council has previously identified as priorities
  - Preserve key services recognizing that some service levels may need to be adjusted to align with funding levels
  - seek new and diverse revenues
  - Where revenue increases are considered, evaluate against impact on demand and total revenues

(e) The following item was directed to be included in the 2010 Budget Deliberations by Committee of the Whole:

Parking Rates

That the following two items be considered in the 2010 Budget deliberations:
(i) increase in Parking Rates to $1- (651,700)
(ii) Install paid parking in all commercial areas (805,300)

Further, that staff consult with the BIA’s prior to the items being considered by Committee and report back on revenue sharing strategy for meter revenues.

(f) Staff Direction for follow up report:

Staff were directed to report back on the usage of Diesel Fuel, ways to mitigate the $1.5 million including energy savings (corporate energy office)
(g) **Notice of Motion**

Councillor Merulla presented the following Notice of Motion to be presented at Council:

Whereas the City of Hamilton is experiencing a potential operating deficit of $31.5 million dollars in the 2010 budget;

And, Whereas $900,000 dollars will be saved from freezing non-union staff salaries including City Councillors salaries;

Therefore Be It Resolved,

That Hamilton City Council freeze Councillors Salaries and Non Union Staff thereby saving nearly one million dollars on behalf of hard working Hamiltonians.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor F. Eisenberger

M. Gallagher, Co-ordinator
Council/Committee of the Whole
October 27, 2009