Present: Deputy Mayor B. Johnson (Chair)
Mayor R. Bratina
Councillors B. Clark, C. Collins, S. Duvall, J. Farr,
B. McHattie, S. Merulla, B. Morelli, T. Jackson, J. Partridge,
R. Pasuta, M. Pearson, T. Whitehead

Absent with Regrets: Councillor R. Powers – City Business (AMO)
Councillor L. Ferguson – Vacation

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

The Clerk advised that there were no changes to the agenda.

(Partridge/Farr)
That the agenda be approved, as presented. CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(Collins/Jackson)
That the March 7, 2013 Minutes of the General Issues Committee, be received; CARRIED
4. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS/HEARINGS

4.1 Joey Coleman respecting the 2013 City of Hamilton Budget

Joey Coleman appeared before the Committee to speak to the issue of Open Data.

A copy of Mr. Coleman’s presentation was submitted to the Clerk for the official record and is available for viewing on the City’s website.

(Bratina/Pearson)
That the presentation from Joey Coleman respecting Open Data, be received. CARRIED

5. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Update – 2013 Tax-Supported Operating Budget

Mike Zegarac, Acting General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services, provided an update of the 2013 Tax-Supported Operating Budget reflecting decisions approved by the Committee at previous budget deliberation meetings.

With the assistance of a power point presentation, the following items were addressed:

- Proposed Additional Amendments
- 2013 Updated Budget – Tax Impact on Average Home
- 2013 Updated Budget – by Department
- 2013 Average Total Tax Impacts (Information to date)
- Reducing the Residential Tax Impact
- 2013 Council Referred Items (Updated Appendix “B” to Report FCS13010)
- Requested Enhancements (Updated Appendix “C” to Report FCS13010)
- Process and Process Dates

A copy of the presentation was submitted to the Clerk for the official record and is available for viewing on the City’s website.

(Jackson/Whitehead)
That the presentation respecting the 2013 budget update, be received. CARRIED
6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Parking Meter Rates (PED13050) (City Wide)

(Merulla/Whitehead)
That Report PED13050 respecting Parking Meter Rates, be received.

CARRIED

(Merulla/Collins)
That staff be directed to bring a report back to the General Issues Committee clarifying the actual and projected figures as detailed in Report PED13050 with respect to the parking revenues.

CARRIED

6.2 Living Wage Update (CS10092(b)) (City Wide)

(Morelli/Whitehead)
That Report CS10092 respecting Living Wage Update, be received.

CARRIED

6.3 Transit Fares (PW13025) (City Wide)

(Merulla/Whitehead)
That Report PW13025 respecting Transit Fares, be received

CARRIED

6.4 Eligibility and Registration for Accessible Transportation Services (PW03128(f)) (City Wide)

(Merulla/Farr)
(a) That the General Manager of Public Works be directed to implement Year 2 of the Accessible Transportation Services (ATS) program enhancement submission, attached as Appendix "A" to Report PW03128f;

(b) That the 2013 budget submission in the amount of $2,300,000, respecting the multi-year implementation of Council’s revised Eligibility and Registration Policy, be revised to $1,400,000, in accordance with Table 1, included in the Executive Summary of this report;

(c) That the remaining budget for this service enhancement be allocated through the annual budget process based on applicant demand and other relevant factors at the time of consideration with the understanding that implementation is to be completed no later than January 2017.

CARRIED
6.5 Items Deferred from March 7 GIC Meeting:

(a) Boards and Agencies Budget (See Item 5.2 of February 28 GIC Agenda)

(i) Hamilton Police Service 2013 Operating Budget

(Morelli/Whitehead)

Whereas the Council of the City of Hamilton recognizes the community’s ‘ability to pay’ as a guiding budget principle through the 2010-2014 term of office;

And Whereas there is a growing concern within the current economic climate, for the fiscal challenges that face our city;

And Whereas Council has established, during this term of office, a budget target of as close to a zero percent increase as possible with boards, agencies, internal departments and all emergency service divisions;

And Whereas Council firmly believes that the Hamilton Police Service has consistently proven its ability to address the public safety needs of our residents and businesses;

And Whereas Council believes that the maintenance of the current level of police service has proven to be very successful and responsive to the needs of the Hamilton community;

And Whereas Council does not support the Police Service Board request of 3.71% as it includes 20 new officers (representing .38 percent of the 2013 budget request, with an additional .75 percent budget pressure in 2014) and the unsustainable use of Reserves (representing .18 percent of the 2013 budget request);

And Whereas a 3.52% increase will provide a sustainable and affordable budget that assumes no reduction in complement and service.

Therefore be it resolved:

That the City of Hamilton supports a 2013 Hamilton Police Service budget of $140,414,620, representing a 3.52% increase over the 2012 approved budget.
That the 2013 Hamilton Police Services Operating Budget be deferred pending staff obtaining a response from the Police Service respecting the percentage increase that would be required for an operating maintenance budget for the 2013 Hamilton Police Service Budget, exclusive of what has been previously approved in the Capital Budget. **CARRIED**

That a representative of the Hamilton Police Service be requested to attend a special meeting of the General Issues Committee to respond to questions with respect to the 2013 Hamilton Police Service Operating Budget. **CARRIED**

That the H.E.C.F.I. budget be deferred to the April 4, 2013 meeting to allow staff the opportunity to obtain clarity from the Transition Board whether any savings will be realized in 2013, and bring the information back to the Committee. **CARRIED**

That the Community Partnership Program be deferred until after the April 9, 2013 meeting of the Grants Sub-Committee. **CARRIED**

That the following additional amendments totaling ($1.897M), be approved:

(i) Corporate Finance – Increased gapping savings based on 6-year average, including draft 2012
(ii) Community Services – Caseload reduction based on updated caseload savings
(iii) Community Services – Recreation food services efficiencies
(iv) Community Services – Recreation aquatics staffing efficiencies
(v) Winter Control based on 2012 budget. **CARRIED**
(Collins/Jackson)
That the balance of the agenda, as follows, be deferred to a future meeting:

(i) Appendix “B” – 2013 Council Referred Enhancements

(ii) Recommendations A to L of Report FCS13010  CARRIED

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Councillor B. Johnson
Deputy Mayor

Carolyn Biggs
Legislative Co-ordinator
Office of the City Clerk