Recommendation: As a guiding principle, Councillors should agree that the target annual budget increase is CPI (inflation rate - approx. 2%)

Reasons: 1. Hamilton has the highest property taxes based on incomes of residents.
2. Raising property taxes above the annual inflation rate will increase poverty. Hamilton has the highest poverty rate already.
3. Council raised Councillors pay by $6,000 because the salary was considered insufficient - but the typical salary in the city is only $3 to $4 at best. To Council needs a major increase, it is cruel to force more than CPI - annual inflation rate increases on the typical citizen property owner - and these owners cannot give themselves such raises - most are happy just to get annual inflation increases and keep working - jobs are disappearing.
4. Citizens/families are being forced out of their properties - losing ownership and/or forced to cut back on basic necessities such as heating and food or clothing.
5. Businesses suffer because the City is sucking more and more money from taxpayers / property owners so less and less is available for consumers to spend and only big-box discount stores can do all-time increasing unemployment / local family businesses fail, poverty and hopelessness set in.

Thanking you for consideration of