Mayor DiIanni called the meeting to order.

3.1 Renee Westlar and Pat Dillon, Canadian Arts and Heritage Centre

The delegation addressed the work of the Canadian Arts and Heritage Centre which is located at the Custom House.

The delegation requested Council increase the City’s contribution to the work of the Canadian Arts and Heritage Centre from $15,000 to $50,000 per year to assist with maintaining the building.
Councillor McHattie asked whether or not the Canadian Arts and Heritage Centre has entertained the idea of the Custom House becoming a City of Hamilton museum thus formalizing the relationship.

Staff were directed to explore this initiative further.

3.2 Bernice Price (Petition signed by 289 citizens received in the Office of the Clerk)

Mrs. Price presented a petition and addressed the concerns of the Seniors should the senior’s bus pass be increased.

29% over 75 are at the poverty level. In Vancouver the seniors pass is $45.00 per year, Calgary is $35 per year and if you are on a fixed income, it’s $15.00.

Mrs. Price recommended a reduction of HSR bus pass fees to a fixed price of $100 per year.

Committee directed that the suggestions be referred to staff for review including cost implications for inclusion in the report coming back to council during budget deliberations.

3.3 Ivan Buzzelli and Richard Allen, Industry-Education Council

The delegation addressed the following issues: what HR Matters stands for and the benefits, delivery of results and investment to the community.

The delegation requested $220,000 of core funding, $60,000 for 2006, 80,000 for 2007 and 2008 and continued stewardship

3.4 Shekar Chandrashekar (written presentation)

Mr. Chandrashekar addressed various concerns including: Financing of the Construction Loan to the Art Gallery, Underfunding of the Reserve/Reserve Funds and Trust Funds, Salaries, Wages and Related Expenses for 2003, Maple Leaf Meat Processing Plant

The presentation was referred to staff to address the points raised.
3.5 John Hawker (written presentation)

Mr. Hawker addressed various concerns including:
Restrictions to by-law enforcement. — need more personnel, more dollars need to be budgeted
Reduction to the Corporate Communications Budget
Need for advertising of meetings to the public
Security in City Hall and Farmer’s Market

3.6 Stanley Haworth (written presentation)

Mr. Haworth addressed various issues including:
Waste Management Program
Winter Control
Pension Fund Liability
Lister Block Grant

Mr. Haworth addressed a number of questions in his presentation which will be referred to staff for a response.

3.7 Deirdre Pike, Income Security Working Group, SPRC (written presentation)

The delegation addressed the following issues:

Process to obtain public input
National Child Benefit Initiative
Poverty Roundtable
Sustainability
Triple Bottom Line
Assumptions in budget documents

3.8 Cathy Gazzola, Durand Neighbourhood

Ms. Gazzola addressed the following issues:
Support of the two-way conversion
Quality of Life Issues
Raising Transit fees
Economic Diversity
Inclusion in Budget Process

3.9 Mark Alan Whittle (absent)
3.10 Roman Sarachman – (written presentation)

Mr. Sarachman addressed the following issues:
Taxes in Flamborough
Out of Control Debt
Solutions for the 2006 Budget

3.11 Mark Harrington

Mr. Harrington addressed the following issues:
Subsidizing HECFI
Using Transit – Increase in Transit Fees
Police Budget – Encourage council to support the Police Budget

3.12 Hans Janssen (absent)

3.13 Don McLean (written presentation)

Mr. McLean addressed the following with respect to the Transit Fare Increases.
Transit and Poverty
Area Rating with respect to Transit Fare Increases

3.14 Rick Breznik (written presentation)

Mr. Breznik addressed the costs to taxpayers for the Growth of Waterdown and addressed the Waterdown Aldershot Master Transportation Study.

3.15 – Audrey Skinley

Ms. Skinley, a senior, opposed the increases to the Seniors bus pass.

3.16 Kathy Drewitt, Mary Pocius H.A.B.I.A.

The delegation addressed the following issues:
Number of BIAs and what the BIA’s inject into the Community, City of Hamilton Programs, Activities of a Business Improvement Area including retention and recruitment of business and investment opportunities, marketing and promotion, keeping the areas clean and safe, physical improvements, recognition awards etc; Excellence in Property Award Nominees, Commercial Property Improvement Grant Program, Concession Street Gateway, Taxes
including BTR, Capping – move to 10 from 7.5, Tax Classes and Commercial Vacancy Rate

3.17 Peter Hutton

Mr. Hutton addressed the following issues:
Waste Reduction Task Force – encourages council to continue to move forward on waste reduction plan, capital and promotion.
Transit Fares – Transit Users Group – Council should revisit Area Rating of Transit
Multi residential tax rate – council to look at the different rates
Community Participation
Dundas Service Centre – should have more decentralized services available.

3.18 Suzanne Swanton, Social Action Committee

Ms. Swanton address the following issues:
National Child Benefit supplement – claw back

3.19 Tommy Piribaurer, McMaster Students Union

Mr. Piribaurer addressed the following issues:
Proposed fare increase for HSR based on the effects on the students and community members. Increases to transportation which connects the community to each other, is something that Hamilton can ill afford. Universal Bus program is the most successful program which serves a link between students and the city as a whole.

3.20 Hans Janssen

Mr. Janssen addressed the following issues:
Industrial Worker has had to take wage cuts. Poverty in the community.
Privatisation of services as happens in Europe.
Increase in Transit Fares

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None
(b) **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**
(Whitehead/Pearson)
That the agenda be approved as amended. **CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Mayor L. Dilanni

M. Gallagher
Co-ordinator
January 9, 2006