MOVED BY COUNCILLOR (Mitchell)………………………………………………

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR………………………………………………

Re: The Multiple Unit Water Metering Policy and Unmetered Fire Lines

Whereas, City Council approved the Multiple Unit Water Metering Policy in January 2006 in accordance with report PW06006, whereby the new Water Metering Policy came into effect on February 15, 2006, and;

Whereas, Master water meters are now required to be installed at the point of entry to private property and sub-meters are required to be installed for multiple tenants or Multiple unit residential dwellings, and;

Whereas, this new policy can add up to $1000/unit or more to the cost of multi-unit residential dwellings, and;

Whereas, it is not the current policy of the City of Hamilton to charge consumers for the use of water for fire protection, and therefore a fire line can be installed on multiple unit sites without the need of metering at this time, and;

Whereas, the objective of detection and billing of any water lost within private systems cannot be currently achieved since a parallel unmetered fire line may be installed on private property;

Therefore, I submit the following recommendation that:

continued
1. Council delay implementation of the requirement for installation of master meters for multiple unit residential dwellings as required in the Multiple Unit Water Metering Policy, and

2. Staff be directed to report back to Committee and Council after a new comprehensive policy on the benefits of metering fire lines has been developed with general public consultation and in consultation with the stakeholders. The policy should investigate the cost implications of the installation of master meters and water rates to the City and to the residents of multiple unit dwellings and alternative methods of achieving the objectives of the Waterworks By-Law.