Budget Steering Committee
Minutes
9:30 a.m.
February 10, 2009
Room 207
Hamilton Convention Centre

Present: Mayor F. Eisenberger
Councillors T. Jackson, M. Pearson, T. Whitehead

Absent with regrets: Councillor R. Powers - Bereavement

Also Present: Councillors D. Mitchell, B. Bratina
C. Murray, City Manager
T. Tollis, Acting General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services
J.A. Priel, General Manager, Community Services
J. Kay, General Manager HES/Fire Chief
T. McCabe, General Manager, Planning and Economic Development
Dr. E. Richardson, MOH
M. Gallagher, Co-ordinator, Council/COW

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

(Pearson/Whitehead)
That the agenda be adopted as presented. CARRIED.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

(Pearson/Whitehead)
3.1 November 17, 2008
That the Minutes be adopted as presented. CARRIED.
4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 2009 Budget Update

Tony Tollis provided an overview. Highlights included the following:

- Committee adjusted budget
- Budget Amendment Highlights
- Updated Department Levies
- Potential Scenario
- 2009 Municipal Comparison
- Process
- Next Steps

5. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 Board of Health Report 09-001
(Pearson/Jackson)
That the Board of Health Report be deferred to February 12, 2009. CARRIED.

5.2 Audit and Administration Committee Report 09-001

Additional Information:
(a) Follow up - Customer Contact Centre (FCS09023)
(Jackson/Pearson)
Be received. CARRIED

(Eisenberger/Pearson)
(a) That staff be directed to report back in three months or less with a Terms of Reference for identifying efficiencies and revenue opportunities in the Customer Contact Centre for the 2010 Budget;

(b) That the mandate of the Budget Steering Committee be expanded to review service levels and efficiencies and cost savings measures in the Corporation. CARRIED.

(b) Follow up - Municipal Service Centres (FCS09024)
(Pearson/Jackson)
Be received. CARRIED
(Pearson/Eisenberger)
That staff be directed to report back on alternative service delivery models; efficiencies in delivering service, which would not exclude the incorporation of library services; and additional revenue-generating opportunities for Municipal Service Centres. CARRIED.

(c) Potential for HR Service Level Reductions (HUR09004)
(Pearson/Jackson)
Be received. CARRIED

(d) City Shutdown - Employee and Labour Relations Implications (HUR09003)
(Pearson/Jackson)
Be received. CARRIED

(e) Intergovernmental Affairs Allocation (CM09005) (City Wide)
(Pearson/Whitehead)
That the transfer of the 2008 unused funds totaling $150,000 from the Economic Development Investment Fund Reserve be redirected to the City Manager’s Office for Intergovernmental Affairs. CARRIED.

5.2 Audit and Administration Committee Report 09-001

1. 2009 Tax Supported Operating Budget (FCS09007) (City Wide) (Item 4.1 – Jan. 13)

That Report FCS09007 respecting the 2009 Tax Supported Operating Budget be received for information.

2. 2009 Tax Supported Operating Budget – Other Programs (FCS09007c) (City Wide) (Item 4.1 – Jan. 27)

(a) That the 2009 net operating levy for the Legislative budget be approved at $4,277,570 as amended by the following:  

(i) That increases to “Ward Budgets” be tabled;

(b) That the 2009 Corporate Financials budget be approved at ($55,931,654) as amended by the following:  

(i) That the labour contractual contingency fund be reduced by 10%; and
(c) That the 2009 Capital financing charges be approved at $76,489,710.

3. 2009 Tax Supported Operating Budget – City Manager (FCS09007a) (City Wide) (Item 5.1 – Jan. 27)

(a) That the 2009 net operating levy for City Manager, exclusive of Council referred items, be approved at $6,681,852 as amended by the following:

(i) That the “Intergovernmental Affairs” allocation of the “Administration – City Manager” portion of the City Manager’s Operating Budget be removed from the budget pending a report respecting this issue as directed by the Economic Development and Planning Committee; and

(b) That the 2009 City Manager Council referred items per Appendix Two to report FCS09007a be received for consideration.

(Pearson/Jackson)
That Item 4 be deleted. CARRIED.

4. Sub-Committee respecting Customer Contact Centre (Added Motion)

That a sub-committee be formed to investigate service level reductions in the Customer Contact Centre, as well as other cost-saving suggestions made in this budget process and previous budget processes, to be considered in the 2010 budget process.

5. 2009 Tax Supported Operating Budget – Corporate Services (FCS09007b) (City Wide) (Item 5.2 – Jan. 27)

That the 2009 net operating levy for Corporate Services be approved at $25,554,621.

6. 2009 Budget Request - Corporate Services Volunteer Advisory Committees (FCS09004) (City Wide) (Item 5.3 – Jan. 27)

(a) That the 2009 base budget submissions be approved as follows:
(i) Advisory Committee on Immigrants & Refugees in the amount of $3,500.00;
(ii) Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, Transgender Advisory Committee in the amount of $3,890.00;
(iii) Hamilton Aboriginal Advisory Council in the amount of $3,500;
(iv) Hamilton Mundialization Committee in the amount of $5,890
(v) Status of Women Committee in the amount of $3,500.00;
(vi) Committee Against Racism in the amount of $3,890.00

(b) That, in addition to the base funding requests, that one-time funding from the Volunteer Committee Reserve be approved as follows:
(i) Status of Women Committee in the amount of $2,000.00.

7. Human Resources Budget Status Report (HUR08008) (City Wide) (Recommendation (b) was referred to the 2009 budget process on June 18, 2008) (Item 5.4 – Jan. 27)

That Report HUR08008 respecting the Human Resources Budget Status Report be received for information.

8. 2009 Program Change Options – City Manager (FCS09011a) (City Wide) (Item 5.5 – Jan. 27)

That the 2009 Program Change Options for City Manager, as per Appendix One to report FCS09011a, be approved.

5.3 Emergency & Community Services Committee Report 09-001

1. 2009 Tax Supported Operating Budget – Budget Summary Report (FCS09007) (City Wide) (Item 4.1)

That Report FCS09007 - 2009 Tax Supported Operating Budget – Budget Summary Report, be received.

2. Contingency Plan to Offset Potential Increase in Demand for Subsidized Housing (Added Motion)

That Council lobby the Province of Ontario to request the establishment of a Provincial contingency plan to support the potential, extreme increase in the demand for subsidized housing created by the recent economic downturn.
3. **Strategy to Reduce the Ontario Works Case Worker to Client Ratio (Added Motion)**

That, notwithstanding that staff have found over $800,000 in savings to the benefit of the 2009 budget, staff be directed to consider a strategy to reinvest those funds in employment related programs, given the current economic decline, in order to maintain an appropriate case worker to client ratio for Ontario Works.

4. **Community Heat Response Plan Improvements (CS09001) (City Wide) (Item 4.1)**

That the improvements to the City of Hamilton’s Community Heat Response Plan, attached as Appendix A to Report 09-001, at a cost of $14,330, be approved.

5. **Open Skate Sessions on Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board and Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board Professional Activity Days and Family Day, February 16, 2009 (CS09002) (City Wide) (Item 5.1)**

(a) That a program service level change to provide for 46 recreational public skates, at various City-operated arenas on local School Board Professional Activity days, in the amount of $3,970, be approved.

(b) That a program service level change to provide recreational public (family) skates at Parkdale Arena, Valley Park Arena, Mountain Arena, Chedoke Arena, Carlisle Arena, Scott Park Arena, Coronation Arena and Eastwood Arena on annual Family Day (statutory holiday) with a net budget requirement of $2,760, be approved.

(c) That item “V” Open Skate Sessions on P.A. Days at one or more City arenas on scheduled School Board Professional Activity days”, be considered complete and removed from the Emergency and Community Services Committee’s Outstanding Business List.

6. **Investigation of Costs Associated with the Proposed Revised dates of Operation for City Owned, Outdoor Pools (CS09003) (City Wide) (Item 5.2)**

That a one week extension to the dates of operation for the ten (10) City owned outdoor pools, at a net cost of $36,000, be approved.
7. Hamilton Historical Board’s 2009 Volunteer Budget Submission (CS09005) (City Wide) (Item 5.3)
   (a) That the Hamilton Historical Board’s 2009 Volunteer Committee Budget Submission in the amount of $16,840, attached as Appendix A to Report CS09005, be approved.
   
   (b) That the use of $2,500, from the Hamilton Historical Board’s Volunteer Committee Reserve to offset the Hamilton Historical Board’s 2009 budget request, be approved.

8. Hamilton Veterans’ Committee’s 2009 Volunteer Budget Submission (CS09006) (City Wide) (Item 5.4)
   (a) That the Hamilton Veterans Committee’s 2009 Volunteer Committee Budget Submission in the amount of $10,000, attached as Appendix A to Report CS09006, be approved.
   
   (b) That the use of $110, from the Hamilton Veterans’ Committee Volunteer Committee Reserve, be used to offset the Hamilton Veterans Committees 2009 budget request, be approved.

9. Arts Advisory Commission 2009 Volunteer Budget Submission (CS09007) (City Wide) (Item 5.5)
   (a) That the Arts Advisory Commission’s 2009 Volunteer Committee’s Budget Submission in the amount of $39,000, attached as Appendix A to Report CS09007, be approved.
   
   (b) That one-time funding from corporate contingency of $30,000, for the development and manufacture of the new Hamilton Arts Awards medallions, be approved.

10. Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee’s 2009 Budget Submission (CS09008) (City Wide) (Item 5.6)
    (a) That the Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee 2009 Budget Submission in the amount of $3,890, attached as Appendix A to Report CS09008, be approved.
    
    (b) That one-time funding from the Volunteer Committee Reserve to be utilized the Youth Leadership Conference/Event, in the amount of $5,000, be approved.
11. 2009 Tenant Advisory Committee Budget Submission (CS09009) (City Wide) (Item 5.7)

That the Tenant Advisory Committee’s 2009 Volunteer Committee Budget submission in the amount of $500, attached as Appendix A to Report CS09009, be approved.

12. 2009 Food, Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee Budget Submission (CS09010) (City Wide) (Item 5.8)

That the Food, Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee’s 2009 Volunteer Committee Budget Submission in the amount of $500, attached as Appendix A to Report CS09010, be approved.

13. 2009 Budget Request - Seniors Advisory Committee (FCS09005) (City Wide) (Item 5.9)

That the 2009 base budget submission from the Seniors Advisory Committee in the amount of $1,500 be approved.

14. Hamilton Emergency Services Departmental Budget Overview (FCS09007(g)) (City Wide) (Item 5.12)

That the 2009 net operating levy for Hamilton Emergency Services be approved at $83,891,738.

15. Ontario Works Caseload Contingency Plan (CS09021) (City Wide) (Item 4.1)

(a) That recommendation (a) of Report CS09021 – Ontario Works Caseload Contingency Plan, as shown below, be referred to the Budget Steering Committee for discussion at the end of the budget process, pending additional information from staff respecting the potential additional Ontario Works caseload:

(i) That funds in the amount of $1,128,000 be transferred to the Ontario Works Stabilization Reserve Fund #110044 to cover additional costs incurred in 2009 resulting from an increase to the Ontario Works caseload.

(b) That the Mayor correspond with the Minister of Community and Social Services to request that the gross approved amount for Ontario Works Cost of Administration, in the 2009 Ontario Works Service Contract, be equal to the City of Hamilton’s budget for the same costs.
(c) That copies of the letter be forwarded to all local MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association.

16. **2009 Program Change Options – Community Services (FCS09011(d)) (City Wide) (Item 4.2)**

(a) That the 2009 Program Change Options for Community Services, attached as Appendix “A” to Report FCS09011(d), be approved.

(b) That staff be directed to bring forward, to the 2010 Budget process, a recommendation that reinstates the $166,650, which was removed from the Housing - Capital Reserve Allocation for 2009, into that Capital Reserve Fund for 2010.

17. **Community Services Departmental Budget Overview (FCS09007(f)) (City Wide) (Item 4.3)**

(a) That the 2009 net operating levy for Community Services, exclusive of Council referred items, be approved at $160,977,228.

(b) That the 2009 Community Services Council referred items, attached as Appendix “A” to Report FCS09007(f), be approved.

(c) That the General Manager of Community Services be authorized and directed to execute all statutory 2009 Federal and Provincial Program Service Level Funding Agreements and Contracts for Community Services. This also includes the authority to authorize the submission of budgets and quarterly/year end reporting.

18. **Affordable Housing Threshold (Added Motion)**

That staff be directed to provide various scenarios in terms of demand for affordable housing, what impacts this will place on other City services, and what kinds of funding may be required from other levels of government in order to address the shortfalls, and report back to the Emergency & Community Services Committee.
6. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

(Pearson/Jackson)
That committee move into Closed Session to deliberate a matter respecting identifiable individuals. CARRIED.

(Pearson/Jackson)
That committee reconvene in Open Session. CARRIED.

6.1 Matters respecting identifiable individuals (CM09004) (City Wide)
(Pearson/Jackson)
That the staff reduction as outlined in Report CM09004 be approved for referral to Committee of the Whole. CARRIED.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor F. Eisenberger

M. Gallagher, Co-ordinator
COW/Council/Budget
February 10, 2009