Economic Development and Planning Committee
MINUTES 09-001
Wednesday, January 14, 2009
9:30 am
Albion Room, Hamilton Convention Centre
1 Summer’s Lane
Hamilton

Present: Chair M. Pearson
Councillors: B. Bratina, B. Clark S. Duvall, L. Ferguson,
B. McHattie, D. Mitchell, R. Pasuta

Absent
With regrets: Councillor T. Whitehead

Staff Present: C. Murray – City Manager
T. McCabe, General Manager – Planning and Economic
Development
P. Mallard, T. Sergi, B. Janssen, J. Spolnik, M. Hazell,
N. Everson, D. Adames, G. Paparella, R. Marini, S. O’Dwyer,
- Planning and Economic Development
T. Tollis, Acting General Manager, Corporate Services
A. Rawlings, Co-ordinator - City Clerk’s Office

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REPORTED TO COUNCIL:

1. Building Permit Process
   (Ferguson/Duvall)
   That staff be directed to report back by March 2009 on a mitigating process that
   can be put in place to ensure that building permits are issued before construction
   commences on new homes.

   CARRIED

2. Construction of two homes featured in recent CBC Programme
   (Ferguson/Bratina)
   That the City Solicitor be requested to work with appropriate staff, and to report
   back to Committee as soon as possible, with regard to the wish of Committee to
   make public statements respecting the situation of the two houses on Lanza
   Court, recently the subject of a CBC TV program, and to write to Tarion
   respecting the builder.

   CARRIED
THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REPORTED TO COUNCIL FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Clerk advised of the following changes:

- As the COW Meeting of January 13, 2009 was cancelled, we will be having the Corporate overview of the 2009 Budget today.

- Added delegation request to address Committee on January 20, 2009. Copies of this have been distributed this morning, and it has been added to the Agenda as Item 4.1

The Agenda for the January 14, 2009, meeting of the Economic Development & Planning Committee was approved, as amended.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

None

(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Item 3)

None

(d) Delegation Requests

-Wilf Ruland respecting Woodland Manor, 437 Wilson Street East, Ancaster, to speak when this item is considered on January 20, 2009 (Added Item 4.1)

Committee discussed the request, and determined that it would be appropriate to convene a meeting between Councillor Ferguson, the applicant, Tony Sergi, Wilf Ruland and Karen Wilkins, to discuss the technical issues.

On a Motion (Ferguson/McHattie) Committee directed that a meeting be held between the parties concerned.
(e) **2009 Tax Supported Operating Budget – Budget Summary Report (FCS09007) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)**

Tony Tollis presented a Corporate Overview of the 2009 Tax Supported Operating Budget - Budget Summary Report with the aid of a powerpoint presentation. Copies of the presentation were distributed to Committee. Mr. Tollis noted that there would be public consultation at meetings on January 22, 2009.

Members of Committee discussed the report, and had additional information supplied by staff.

Mr. Tollis provided further information respecting the 2008 Re-Assessment of properties, and the impact this would have on tax paid by residents. He noted that as the re-assessment had been City-wide, there would be no real impacts. Mr. Tollis agreed that he would e-mail further information on the re-assessment and its impacts, to all members of Committee, and said that staff could provide some public education on this matter.

*(Duvall/McHattie)*

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

**CARRIED**

(f) **2009 Tax Supported Operating Budget – Planning and Economic Development (FCS09007(d)) (City Wide) (Item 8.2)**

Tim McCabe presented an overview of the 2009 Tax Supported Operating Budget for the Planning and Economic Development Department, with the aid of a powerpoint presentation. Copies of the presentation were distributed to Committee. Highlights included:

- proposed increase in overall budget is 1.5%, when additional Council-recommended items not included
- when Council-recommended items included, a further increase of 1.2% would be required. These items include new Animal Control Community Relations Officer, new Animal Control Clerk, expanded weeks for Downtown Ambassador Program

Members of Committee discussed the presentation and had additional information supplied by staff.

Concern was expressed about a number of items, including:

- the increase in employment related costs,
Committee discussed, in detail, the matter of builders commencing work without a permit, the process of issuance of building permits and a recent CBC program which highlighted a “rogue builder” in Hamilton.

Committee then passed two Motions respecting this issue, and directed that the Motions be brought forward to Council, in January, as matters to be considered immediately, and not as part of the regular budget process.

Committee discussed the overall impact of the economic downturn on the work of the overall department.

Committee requested that staff come back with further information on the items noted above. Staff advised that the Tariff of Fees would be discussed at the next meeting, as well as further information respecting the Development Engineering section.

(Ferguson/Bratina)

That the presentation respecting the 2009 Tax Supported Operating Budget be received, and that Report FCS09007, respecting the 2009 Tax Supported Operating Budget, be tabled.

CARRIED

(h) Motions (Item 9)

None

(i) Notices of Motion (Item 10)

Councillor Bratina introduced the following Notice of Motion:

That staff be directed to conduct a survey of the City’s Waterfront properties abutting Lake Ontario to advise Council about their potential for acceptable recreational, residential and/or commercial development.
(j) General Information (Item 11)

Tim McCabe confirmed that the approval of the Rural Official Plan would be discussed at the January 20, 2009 meeting.

(k) Private and Confidential (Item 12)

None

(l) ADJOURNMENT (Item 13)
(Pasuta/Bratina)

Chair Pearson reminded Committee that the next regular meeting, on January 20, 2009, would take place in the Sheraton Hotel.

The Economic Development and Planning Committee adjourned at 12.30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Pearson, Chair
Economic Development and Planning Committee

Alexandra Rawlings, Co-ordinator
Economic Development and Planning Committee
January 14, 2009