Committee of the Whole
2008 BUDGET CONTINUED
REPORT 08-017(a)
9:30 a.m.
April 21, 2008
Albion Rooms
Hamilton Convention Centre

Present:  Mayor F. Eisenberger  

Also Present:  G. Peace, City Manager  
J. Rinaldo, General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services  
T. McCabe, General Manager, Planning and Economic Development  
J. Kay, General Manager, HES/Fire Chief  
J. Priel, General Manager, Community Services  
M. Gallagher, Coordinator, COW

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PRESENTS REPORT 08-017(a) AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. Approval of the 2008 Tax Supported Budget  (Item 6.2)

   (a) That the 2008 Tax Supported Levy, as presented in Report FCS08004 and amended by Schedule A attached in the amount of $630,065,330 be approved.

   (b) That the Medical Officer of Health be authorized and directed to execute all statutory 2008 Federal and Provincial Program Service Level Funding Agreements and Contracts for Public Health Services. This also includes the authority to authorize the submission of budgets and quarterly/year end reporting.
(c) That the General Manager of Community Services be authorized and directed to execute all statutory 2008 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.

(d) That the City Solicitor and Corporate Counsel be authorized and directed to prepare all necessary by-laws, for Council approval, for the purposes of establishing 2008 Tax Levy and Policies.

2. **Area Rating of Loan Repayment Costs for the Acquisition of Playfield from the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, 0 King Street West, Dundas (FCS08031) (Ward 13) (Item 6.3)**

That the debt repayment costs for the purchase of a playfield at 0 King Street West, Dundas in the amount of $123,916.27 over 10 years and outlined in Appendix A to Report FCS08031, be Area Rated to the former Municipality of Dundas beginning in 2008.

3. **2008 Tax Policies and Area Rating (FCS08033) (Item 6.4)**

(a) That the following optional property classes be established for the 2008 taxation year:
- New Multi-Residential
- Parking Lot and Vacant Land
- Large Industrial

(b) (i) That the following final tax ratios be established for the 2008 taxation year:
- Residential 1.0000
- Multi-Residential 2.7400
- New Multi-Residential 1.0000
- Commercial (residual) 2.0193
- Parking Lot & Vacant Land 2.0193
- Industrial (residual) 3.3705
- Large Industrial 3.9523
- Pipeline 1.7367
- Farm 0.2174
- Managed Forest 0.2500

(ii) That, subject to the Provincial Levy Restriction, only 50% (maximum allowable) of the 2008 budgetary increase be passed onto the Commercial and Industrial property classes;
(iii) That, in order to adhere to recommendation b)(ii) of report FCS08033, staff be authorized to make adjustments to the tax ratios in recommendation b)(i) of report FCS08033, subject to the final approval of the 2008 Operating Budget, and that these final adjusted tax ratios, if applicable, be incorporated into the final 2008 tax policy by-laws;

(c) That the following tax reductions be established for the 2008 taxation year:

- Vacant units and excess land subclass (residual commercial) 30%
- Vacant units and excess land subclass (residual industrial) 35%
- Vacant units and excess land subclass (large industrial) 35%
- Farmland awaiting development (1st subclass) 25%
- Farmland awaiting development (2nd subclass) 0%

(d) That the existing property tax relief deferral program for low-income seniors and disabled persons be continued for the 2008 taxation year;

(e) That the existing 40% tax rebate for eligible charities and similar organizations be continued for the 2008 taxation year;

(f) That the existing provincially mandated vacancy rebate for eligible commercial and industrial properties be continued for the 2008 taxation year;

(g) That, further to the 3-year extension approved in 2006 (2006 – 2008), the existing tax exemption for Legion’s and Veteran’s Clubs be continued for the 2008 taxation year;

(h) That the existing Senior’s (65+) Tax Rebate Program be continued, with the following criteria updated for the 2008 taxation year:

(i) **Income threshold (150% of GIS couple)** increased to $30,170 ($29,600 in 2007)

(ii) **Assessment cap (120% of city-wide average)** increased to $266,300 ($265,100 in 2007)

(iii) **Rebate** increased by the CPI index to $156 ($153 in 2007)

(i) That, for the 2008 taxation year, the Area Rated Levies be approved as detailed in Schedule A to report FCS08033;
(ii) That staff be authorized to add the Slot Revenue Area Rated Levy to Schedule A to report FCS08033, pending final approval of the 2008 Budget, and that this final adjusted Schedule A to report FCS08033 be incorporated into the final 2008 tax policy by-laws;

(j) That, for the 2008 taxation year, the transit area be expanded to include the urban area in ward 15;

(k) That, for the 2008 taxation year, the tax capping percentage for any assessment-related increases in the Commercial, Industrial and Multi-Residential property classes be set at 10%;

(l) That, for the 2008 taxation year, any capped property in the Commercial, Industrial or Multi-Residential property class that is within $250 of its’ Current Value Assessment of taxes (CVA), be moved to its’ full CVA of taxes;

(m) That the City Solicitor & Corporate Counsel be authorized and directed to prepare all necessary by-laws, for Council approval, for the purposes of establishing the tax ratios and related tax policies for the 2008 taxation year.

4. 2008 Slot Revenue Option

(a) That Option 6 - full elimination of slot revenue allocation to Flamborough and Ancaster be approved;

(b) That the slot revenues be deposited into the General Levy commencing in 2008.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

The Committee Clerk noted the following change to the agenda:

Petitions from 11 concerned citizens respecting the installation of parking meters in Waterdown

The agenda was adopted as amended.
(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

(c) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

(i) March 26/27, 2008
The Minutes of March 26/27, 2008 were adopted as presented.

(d) PRESENTATIONS

(i) Presentation by General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services, Joe Rinaldo on the 2008 Tax Budget – Update (Item 5.1)

Joe Rinaldo provided an overview and highlighted the following:

- Budget amendments
- Strategic Investments
- One-Time Items included in budget
- 2009 Forecast
- 2008 Residential Tax Impacts
- Tax Impacts by property class

(ii) Presentation respecting Parking (Item 5.2)

Tim McCabe provided introductions and a general overview of the issue.

Marty Hazel and Geri Kozorys-Smith of MMM Group provided an overview of the consultants report and highlighted the staff recommendations.

Highlights included the following:

- overview of what has transpired on the parking issues at committee to date.
- recommendations submitted by staff
- overview of the draft consultant’s report
- stakeholder consultation
- approach to assessment

The presentations were received.
(e) Parking Meter Rates/Fees

Recommendations (a), (b) and (e):

“(a) That approval be given to increasing parking meter rates City-wide to 1.00/hr and that the City Parking By-law 01-218 be amended accordingly

(b) That approval be given to installing paid parking on and off-street in all commercial areas of the City and that the City Parking By-law 01-218 be amended accordingly

(e) That the revenue sharing concept as outlined in 2006 report PED06003 be endorsed and that staff be directed to update/report back following receipt of the parking consultant’s report.”

A motion to defer recommendations (a, b and e) above until the 2009 Budget Deliberations with a direction to staff to provide the final consultant’s report together with all public consultation results on the report by September 2008 CARRIED on the following Standing Recorded Vote:

Yeas: Bratina, Collins, Duvall, Jackson, McCarthy, McHattie, Merulla, Morelli, Pasuta, Mitchell, Powers
Total: 11

Nays: Whitehead, Pearson, Ferguson, Clark, Eisenberger
Total: 5

A motion to direct staff to report back to Committee as soon as possible on the details for conducting a market impact assessment regarding the expansion of paid parking and increase in rates and the implications on local businesses in the community as well as cost implications, feasibility, and other suggested alternatives CARRIED on a Recorded Vote as follows:

Yeas: Clark, Collins, Duvall, Jackson, McCarthy, McHattie, Merulla, Morelli, Pasuta, Mitchell, Eisenberger
Total: 11

Nays: Whitehead, Powers, Pearson, Bratina, Ferguson
Total: 5

Petition from 11 citizens respecting the installation of parking meters in Waterdown were received.

Council – April 23, 2008
The meeting recessed for lunch until 12:45pm

(f) Approval of the 2008 Tax Supported Budget (Item 6.2)

The motion CARRIED on a RECORDED VOTE as follows:

Yeas: Clark, Duvall, Jackson, McCarthy, McHattie, Merulla, Morelli, Pasuta, Mitchell, Powers, Pearson, Bratina, Ferguson, Eisenberger
Total: 14

Nays: Collins, Whitehead,
Total: 2

The meeting was again recessed for 15 minutes to 1:55 p.m. and reconvened at 1:58 p.m.

(g) Slot Revenue Options

The follow Motion was DEFEATED on a STANDING RECORDED VOTE as follows:

(a) That the slot revenue sharing formula proposed for Flamborough and Ancaster by city staff for 2008 be approved;

(b) Further this revenue sharing formula for Wards 14 and 15 only be phase out, beginning in 2009 over a three year period with annual amounts being $2.25 million in 2009, $1.5 million in 2010 and $750,000 in 2011 with full elimination in 2012.

Yeas: Bratina, Jackson, McCarthy, Pasuta, Powers
Total: 5

Nays: Clark, Collins, Duvall, Ferguson, McHattie, Morelli, Merulla Mitchell, Pearson, Whitehead, Eisenberger
Total: 11
The following Motion CARRIED on a STANDING RECORDED VOTE as follows:

(a) That Option 6 - full elimination of slot revenue allocation to Flamborough and Ancaster be approved

(b) That the slot revenues be deposited into the General Levy commencing in 2008

Yeas:  Clark, Collins, Duvall, Jackson, McHattie, Morelli, Merulla, Pearson, Whitehead
Total:  9

Nays:  Bratina, Ferguson, McCarthy, Pasuta, Mitchell, Powers, Eisenberger
Total:  7

Councillor McCarthy also submitted 75 letters from citizens in Flamborough concerned with the area rating and removal of slot revenues

(h) Item 2 of Committee of the Whole Report 07-035 respecting Tax Bills (Item 6.5)

“That the 2008 tax bills indicate a line item highlighting the 1% capital allocation is for infrastructure due to funding shortfall from senior levels of government.”

Joe Rinaldo advised Committee that it would be difficult to implement this motion which was previously approved by Council. It was agreed that a motion to have this item deleted formally would be made at the Council meeting.

(i) PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

There was no discussion on the Closed Session Minutes, therefore there was no requirement to move into Closed Session.

(i) Minutes of Closed Session Meeting held on March 26/27, 2008

The Minutes of the closed session meeting of March 26/27, 2008 were adopted as presented. These Minutes will remain confidential and restricted from public disclosure in accordance with the exemptions provided in the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor F. Eisenberger

M. Gallagher, Co-ordinator
Council and Committee of the Whole/
Budgets
April 21, 2008