Present: Deputy Mayor J. Partridge
Mayor R. Bratina
Councillors B. Clark, C. Collins, J. Farr, L. Ferguson,
T. Jackson, B. Johnson, S. Merulla, R. Morrow, M. Pearson,
R. Pasuta, R. Powers, T. Whitehead,

Absent: Councillor B. McHattie – Illness
Councillor S. Duvall – FCM

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

The Committee Clerk advised of the following changes to the agenda:

(i) Added as Item 8.1, a verbal update by the City Manager respecting City policies regarding the Council Code of Conduct.

(ii) Item 5.2 – staff has provided an amended Appendix “D” to Report FCS14005 that replaces the version provided in the agenda.

(Clarl/Johnson)
That the following item be added to the agenda:

(iii) Added as Private & Confidential Item 9.1, Appeals and Assessment Appeals under Review

(Pearson/Johnson)
That the agenda be approved, as amended CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

None.

4. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Update – 2014 Tax-Supported Operating Budget

Mike Zegarac, General Manager of Finance & Corporate Services, provided a PowerPoint presentation respecting an Update on the 2014 Tax Supported Operating Budget. The presentation included, but was not limited to, the following:

- Budget Update and Proposed Reductions (as shown in Report FCS14005)
- 2014 Budget Amendments (as shown in Appendix “D” to Report FCS14004, as amended)
- Recommended Budget Amendments
- Mitigation Since Original Outlook – September 2013
- 2013 Total Preliminary Impact for the Average Residential Tax Bill
- 2014 Preliminary Tax Impact for the Average Home
- 2014 Updated Budget by Department
- 2014 Average Municipal Tax Impacts
- Council Referred Items (as shown in Appendix “A” to Report FCS14005)
- Requested Enhancements (as shown in Appendix “B” to Report FCS14005)
- Reducing the Tax Impact

2013 Year End Forecast

- Process – Potential Road Map for Deliberations
- Process – Dates
• 2013 Assessment Growth Analysis (FCS14021) (Item 5.1)

• 2013 Assessment Growth – Increases/Decreases

(Farr/Pasuta)
That the presentation, respecting the update of the 2014 Tax-Supported Operating Budget and the 2013 Year End Forecast, be received.

CARRIED

A full copy of the presentation is available online at www.hamilton.ca or through the Office of the City Clerk.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 2013 Assessment Growth (FCS14021) (City Wide)

(Pearson/Johnson)
That Report FCS14012, respecting the 2013 Assessment Growth, be received.

CARRIED

5.2 2014 Tax-Supported Operating Budget – Recommendations (FS14005) (City Wide)

(Jackson/Pearson)
That Report FCS14005, respecting the 2014 Tax-Supported Operating Budget – Recommendations, as amended, be tabled to the March 20, 2014 meeting of the General Issues Committee (Budget Deliberations).

CARRIED

Revenue Generation – Off Street Surface Parking

(Farr/Collins)
That staff be directed to provide a report on the analysis and feasibility of revenue generation, as it relates to off street surface parking, to the March 20, 2014 General Issues Committee for consideration.

CARRIED

2014 Community Partnership Program Funding

(Powers/Johnson)
(a) That the 2014 Community Partnership Program (CPP) be funded at the same amount as the 2013 CPP (zero increase), until such time as the ongoing review of the City Grants process is complete.
(b) That, for 2014, one-time funding of $65,000 for the 2014 Community Partnership Program budget, be approved to ensure that all special events receive the amount of monies to offset increased ERCS costs with the funding to come from the CPP Reserve Account.

CARRIED

6. MOTIONS

None.

7. NOTICES OF MOTION

None.

8. GENERAL INFORMATION/OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Councillor Code of Conduct (Added Item)

Chris Murray, City Manager, spoke to the Councillor Code of Conduct, advising that on Saturday, March 1, 2014 he received e-mail request to look into a matter related to Councillor L. Ferguson. Having had a chance to review the policies related to this matter, Mr. Murray advised that should anyone wish to pursue this matter further, it would be subject to the Integrity Commissioner By-law.

(Collins/Powers)

That the verbal update from Chris Murray, City Manager, respecting the Councillor Code of Conduct, be received.

CARRIED

9. PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

9.1 Appeals and Assessment Appeals under Review (Added Item)

(Jackson/Powers)

That the General Issues Committee move into Closed Session, at 12:00 noon, to receive an update respecting Appeals and Assessment Appeals that are under review, pursuant to Section 8.1, Sub-section (e) of the City's Procedural By-law 10-053, and Section 239, Sub-section (e) of the Ontario Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, as the subject matter pertains to litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board.

Committee had reconvened in Open Session at 12:07 p.m., and advised the public that, as there were concerns respecting the legitimacy around
the reasons for moving into Closed Session, Committee had reconvened in Open Session.

Staff were directed to review the matter with the City Solicitor and to bring the matter forward at a future General Issues Committee meeting.

The above motion to move into Closed Session CARRIED on the following vote:

Yeas: Partridge, Whitehead, Jackson, Collins, Merulla, Morrow, Farr, Pearson, Ferguson, Powers, Pasuta
Total: 11
Nays: Clark, Johnson
Total: 2
Absent: Bratina, Duvall, McHattie
Total: 3

10. ADJOURNMENT

(Clark/Powers)
That, there being no further business, the General Issues Committee be adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor J. Partridge
Deputy Mayor
General Issues Committee

Stephanie Paparella
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk