Committee of the Whole
MINUTES

1:00 p.m.
March 7, 2007
Council Chambers
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West, Hamilton

Present: Mayor F. Eisenberger
Councillors B. Bratina, S. Merulla, B. Morelli, C.
Collins, T. Jackson, T. Whitehead, B. Clark, S. Duvall,
M. Pearson, D. Mitchell, R. Pasuta, M. McCarthy, B.
McHattie, R. Powers

Absent with regrets: Councillor M. Ferguson – Vacation

Also Present: G. Peace, City Manager
J. Rinaldo, General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services
S. Stewart, General Manager, Public Works
C. Graham, General Manager, Human Resources
J. Kay, General Manager/Chief HES
M. Gallagher, Coordinator, COW

8140755700
Aggregate Resource Strategy
Staff was directed to provide information on the following:
What is mandated by the Province to study?
Where the legislation mandates us to do this work?

(Clark/Jackson)
That the request for information be reconsidered and rescinded. CARRIED.
A portion of this amount was directed to the Industry Education Council. The Mayor asked and Committee agreed to revisit this issue during Budget Deliberations.

Councillor Mitchell addressed the issue of the street sweepers with respect to the replacement and funding of same.

**4450755100 Dundurn Park Vistas**

Councillor Bratina addressed the Dundurn Park Vistas as a “not recommended” project.
Vista viewing areas along the park? – can this be accomplished?

(Clark/Pearson)
That $30,000 for this project be included in the Capital Budget. CARRIED.

Councillor Whitehead opposed.

Councillor Collins addressed the Beautification issue – $50,000
Expand catchment area – expand geography is it easier to plant the trees
Staff will provide map of scope of the area for this project.

**4450749110 Mud Street Boulevard Landscape Redevelopment**

Councillor Clark requested and staff provided additional information on this item.

**4450749110 Annual Street Tree Trimming**

Councillor Pasuta addressed utilizing some of the 193,000 and utilizing some of that monies to cleaning up the dead trees and back log that currently exists.

Staff advised that that they are handling this situation on a risk management perspective.

Councillor Pasuta requested a follow report on tree trimming for consideration.
When a tree falls down and lands on a car in the city – what is the city’s position/policy?

Staff will be providing information on this issue to Councillor Clark.

At the request of Councillor Mitchell, staff were directed to report back on what will be required to position our roads park district staff to do rural forestry work

Councillor Whitehead asked if some monies from the Tree planting program can be moved over to the tree maintenance side?

Staff will include estimates to clear all existing backlogs if that was council’s wish.

Operations and Maintenance – Parks and Cemeteries

Tennis Court Rehabilitation Program
Councillor McHattie addressed the Westdale Highschool tennis court to be included?
Staff to have some discussion and come back to committee with an update.

Councillor Powers requested a future report on the expansion at municipal cemeteries within the city.

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Annual Outdoor Ice rinks – Clark
Councillor Clark addressed where is it in the plan?
Staff advised 2009 is the earliest opportunity and subject to funding availability

how many outdoor rinks on this list – three currently.

Parks Recycling Program
Councillor Collins addressed where does this project reside in the capital budget process.

Staff are continuing on with the pilot project and have prepared a report to provide an update.

Annual playground CSA retrofit and Annual Playground Replacement
Councillor Jackson addressed this item.
How many will the 400,000 do? Staff will provide information.

Spraypad repairs - $50,000
Is that sufficient for replacements and bring pads up to date? – staff advised probably not. Audit is currently underway. Numbers may go up as a result of the audit.
Staff directed to provide a list ward by ward of spraypads and priority scheduling of the pads to Councillor Whitehead.

(Clark/Whitehead)
That the annual outdoor ice rinks for this year be approved at a cost of $100,000 (Eastdale, Buchanan, and Eringate, Green Acres) CARRIED.

Staff to provide a further report on this issue.

Redevelopment
And which ones are operational in existing parks?
Can we do anything with our development section for new subdivisions to address this issue with new developments. Staff will address the planning staff.

Staff to report back on Memorial Park

Councillor Whitehead addressed utilizing development charges for parks

Councillor Duvall requested an update on the park at Lawfield Arena.
Staff advised they are moving forward this year.

Princess and Scenic Waterfalls
Councillor Collins addressed where we sit with waterfalls? What is expectation that we are going to fund one or two a year?

Councillor Collins suggested council re-visit where we sit with long term plans as it relates to waterfalls.

(Collins/McCarthy)
That this item be removed from the budget.
That staff report back to council on the process of waterfalls. CARRIED.

Allison Park Spray Pad and Sunshelter
Councillor Duvall requested and received further information on this issue.

Annual Trail and Waterfall Site Designs
Councillor McCarthy addressed how much for site design and how much for annual trail?

Whitehead – Gourley Park – Neighbourhood park? – staff will check to confirm Challenger baseball – staff o work with culture and recreation for community needs and in turn do a design for Inch Park as well.

Councillor Duvall addressed concerns with respect to access to Inch Park
Rebecca Park/John Street North – development for 2010 to 2016
Staff provided an update.

It was suggested by Councillor Bratina that the Councillors of Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, work together to addresses issues of recreation

Central park in downtown
(Collins/Whitehead)
That staff be directed to come back with opportunities in capital budget process on this issue/amenity. Included in the report to be funding scenario and options/alternatives to fund this type of capital program.

This item was also added to the Capital Priority List discussed by council. CARRIED.

Roads Section
Niagara GTA Corridor
Staff provided an update on this issue

Annual Graffiti Removal Program
Councillor Collins addressed the Funds previously approved still sitting in account.

Staff advised that these monies will be used on this project.

Annual Road Reconstruction
Councillor Collins addressed the unspent monies
Staff provided information on the process for projects/EA’s, contingency for future programs. 2006 7.95 million approved – dec. 1.8 million remaining

Councillor Clark addressed the taxing of the community for road projects that aren’t going to happen in the calendar year.

Councillor Mitchell addressed the CP Rail Trail and the roads projects that are currently are not recommended for 2007 but are in the 2008 budget. Staff provided an update that those are on a supplementary list and may be on the 2008 budget.

Councillor Pasuta addressed Concession 8W not being recommended and concerns with the condition of the road on Concession 6. - Ditching – 3 or 4 ft deep – disastrous.

Councillor Collins asked with respect to Supplemental – what is the process now for divisions and departments?
Council will explore this issue in more detail – after budget come back to Audit and Administration to present options as they relate to supplementals.

Councillor Whitehead suggested that for those projects where development charges are included that there be an indication with an asterisk on the budget pages.

Transit Services
Councillor McCarthy requested an update on Waterdown service
Suggested using some of the gas tax monies for Waterdown area

Councillor Bratina addressed the Free area transit – San Francisco situation
Free shuttle service in downtown core?

Councillor McHattie addressed the two terminals and brokerage management that is coming from gas tax and can these be moved to Federal Gas Tax money?

(McHattie/Whitehead)
Downtown Transit Terminal be moved from Provincial Gas Tax monies to be funded from the 2008 budget Federal Gas Tax.

(McHattie/Whitehead)
That this item be parked pending a staff report back on the status of the Federal Gas Tax and include in the report how to move them out of provincial gas tax to other sources.

Staff to report on all three items currently being funded from the Provincial Gas Tax; how many projects currently allocated to the Federal Gas Tax and options for committee to consider. CARRIED.

Councillor Whitehead addressed the DARTS service currently available.

Staff were directed to provide an update to Council on the following:
Costs of riding convention low floor service
Costs of taxi scrip
Taxi cab through vets
Costs of DARTS Trip

Councillor Pasuta addressed the issue of Bike Racks – how many racks does that buy?

Staff advised that the racks will be placed on 204 buses – $1,000 per bike rack full fleet implementation
Staff’s recommendation to pursue a two bike rack option.

There will be nominal impact on bus schedule to implement bike racks on buses.

**Waste Management**

Research and Development Line Item – explore that issue again

(Collins/McCarthy)
Annual Waste Management Research and Development
That this line item be reduced from $100,000 to $50,000 CARRIED.

Reduction
Transfer Station Waste Compactors - $350,000
(Collins/Pearson)
Be removed from Capital Budget. CARRIED.

Councillor Powers requested that Deviations and justification for assets – be provided to committee. Beth advised that an update was provided to council on Monday and she will redistribute.

Councillor Clark expressed concern with respect to the purchase of vehicles for a service that is contracted out.

Councillor Whitehead – requested staff to provide comparatives for municipalities 60% diverse – costs per tonnage vs. what the City of Hamilton pays.

Councillor Mitchell addressed the concerns from residents with respect to the smell coming from Glanbrook Landfill

Staff are working with the Landfill committee. The issue of purchasing air purification units in the homes is being explored., Secondary gas flare to be installed. Odour suppression systems cannot be run in the extreme cold.

(Mitchell/Clark)
That $150,000 be approved from the Capital Budget to address the smell at the Glanbrook Landfill. CARRIED.

Councillor Clark addressed the Waste management vehicle acquisition – have we already taxed the taxpayers? Funded through Future Fund

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.