Committee of the Whole
MINUTES

2:00 p.m.
January 22, 2009
Heritage Room
Hamilton Sheraton Hotel

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

Also Present:
C. Murray, City Manager
G. Davis, Acting General Manager, Public Works
J. Kay, General Manager/Chief, Hamilton Emergency Services
J.A. Priel, General Manager, Community Services
M. Zegarc, Corporate Services
M. Gallagher, Co-ordinator, Council and Committee of the Whole/Budgets

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

The Clerk advised that the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce delegation has withdrawn from today’s meeting.

(Collins/McCarthy)
That the agenda be adopted as amended. CARRIED.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
4. PUBLIC HEARINGS/DELEGATIONS

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

(1) HABIA – Represented by: Kathy Drewitt, Downtown Hamilton BIA
        Patty Despinic, Ottawa Street BIA
        Judy Boswell, Dundas BIA

The delegation addressed the following:
- overview of the BIA’s (what they are, who are the representatives and how they impact the community)
- activities of the BIA’s
- review of the City of Hamilton Programs
- Hamilton BIA Recognition
- Festivals and Special Events
- Issues affecting BIA’s

Members of Council expressed appreciation to all the BIA’s for their work within the community and to our staff who support their efforts.

(2) Jennifer Aggus, Status of Women Committee

Ms. Aggus addressed Committee and highlighted the following:

- 15 active members
- Mandated by Council
- provides input to matters of municipal concern
- recognize the challenges facing council
- impact the budget decisions will have on the population of women differently than men
- housing, family health, transit
- family caregivers and community volunteers
- barriers facing women
- development of a clear plan of analysis for the city’s budget
- monitoring budget decisions with goal of ensuring barriers of participation are alleviated
- full scale gender analysis with goal of supporting council
- dedicated to working with council
- vow to follow through by facilitating meetings, issuing reports so council remains informed of the unique needs of women
(3) Stanley Haworth – written submission received

Presentation will be referred to management for response to Mr. Haworth and council is to be copied on the reply.

(4) Deirdre Pike, Poverty Reduction Strategy Group – written submission

Ms. Pike introduced Peter Graefe of the local 25 in 5 Poverty Reduction Network.

The delegation addressed the following in detail:

- consider using downloaded monies for anti-poverty strategy
- invest in initiatives to move forward in reducing poverty
- proposed the following:
  - school based child care in inner City
  - social plan for Hamilton – look at roles of schools as hubs for the community
  - poverty dividend
- transit pass – making it more affordable
- as you go through the budget process that you don’t forget the people are suffering the most economically in the community

(5) Representative from Chamber of Commerce

withdrew

(6) Mel Basbaum, Social Action Committee of the Ont. Assoc. of Social Workers, Hamilton & District Branch

- Affordable Transit which effects employment and social relationships
- Low Rates of Social Assistance – request that council respond to the Poverty Reduction strategy by letting the Premier and Ministers know that people without children also need a substantial increase in their social assistance budgets
- Affordable Housing – priority given to development in suburban areas, more flexible application of building codes

(Clark/Duvall)
Suspend the rules to allow the introduction of a motion respecting health care services. CARRIED.
Whereas the Province of Ontario has acknowledged the current economic downturn

Whereas under the Canada Health Act, our local public hospitals have very little flexibility in acquiring additional revenue sources

Whereas the Province of Ontario previously committed and promised 2.1% increase to hospitals on their base operating budget for 2009/2010

Whereas it has been agreed by both hospitals and Government of Ontario that budgets should be based on actual health care needs

Whereas St. Joseph’s Hospital and HHS are experiencing a combined shortfall of $40 million

Therefore be it resolved

(a) That the City of Hamilton strongly encourages the Provincial Government of Ontario to honour their previous commitment for the 2.1% addition to base operating budget in 2009/2010;

(b) That City Council further requests the Provincial Government of Ontario to explore every possibility to find contingency funds to offset the $40 million shortfall therefore ensuring Hamiltonians continue to receive the current quality of health care service.

CARRIED.

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

(7) Dr. Nathalie Xian Yi Yan

Dr. Yi Yan addressed Committee and highlighted the following:
- challenges Council will face
- do not have our own industry – made in Hamilton
- from infrastructure to transporation
- from Pan Am Games to education are dependent on funding from upper levels of government
- bring hope
- need a strong local economy to build enough social programmes
- environmental industry – recycled rubber or plastic
- Chinese method of rubber waste collection
(Jackson/Merulla)
That the suggestions made by Dr. Yi Yan be taken under advisement during budget deliberations.    CARRIED.

(Pearson/Clark)
That the presentations be received.    CARRIED.

5.  WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

5.1  Joseph Dubonnet, USMA - Hamilton Chapter

(Pearson/Duvall)
That the written submission by Joseph Dubonnet be received.
CARRIED.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor F. Eisenberger

M. Gallagher, Co-ordinator
Council, Committee of the Whole
And Budgets
January 22, 2009