Present: Chair T. Whitehead

Mayor F. Eisenberger,  
1st Vice-Chair M. Pearson 2nd Vice Chair L. Ferguson  
Councillors: B. Bratina, B. Clark, S. Duvall, B. McHattie  
D. Mitchell, R. Pasuta

Staff Present: G. Peace, City Manager  
J. Rinaldo, General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services  
T. McCabe, General Manager – Planning and Development  
M. Hazell, B. Young, P. Carver, S. Reeder, P. Brown,  
C. Andruschko – Planning and Development  
R. Sabo – Legal  
A. Rawlings– Co-ordinator, City Clerk’s Office

Chair Terry Whitehead called the meeting to order.

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Clerk advised that there were no changes to the Agenda.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

None

(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Item 3)

Councillor Pearson moved an amendment to the Minutes, respecting the expansion of paid parking to all commercial areas of the City.

Council – __________, 2008
Committee considered the potential impact of expanding paid parking into all commercial areas, the views of HABIA and the individual BIA’s, and the study on the issue which is currently being undertaken by consultants.

Mr. McCabe explained that the consultants’ report should be available prior to the conclusion of the 2008 Budget process. He added that the consultants would be requested to do a presentation to Committee.

Committee noted the impatience of public input on this type of change, and questioned whether the timing of the consultants’ report would allow the public to comment at the upcoming Special Committee of the Whole on February 28, 2008.

The Clerk was directed to provide details to all Councillors respecting the Special Committee of the Whole Meeting for public delegations.

Councillor Ferguson and Councillor McHattie expressed further concerns about how the expansion of paid parking into new areas would be handled.

Marty Hazell explained that consultations had taken place with affected groups, and that these discussions will continue. He noted that the consultants are looking at the harmonization of the various parking rules across the City, with a view to ensuring consistency and fairness.

The following amendment to the Minutes was put;

(Pearson/Clark)
That Information Item (d)(ii) be amended to read as follows:

That paid parking be expanded into all commercial areas of the City.

CARRIED

(Pearson/Clark)
The Minutes of the Budget Meeting of January 22, 2008, were approved, as amended.

CARRIED
(d) Supplementary Budget Information Requested at the January 22, 2008 Economic Development and Planning Committee – Increasing Parking Fines to Provincial Averages (PED08059) (City Wide)

Marty Hazell recognized his staff who had assisted in the budget preparation, Pam Carver, Susan Reeder and Paul Brown.

Mr. Hazell then provided an overview of the supplementary budget information, with the aid of a powerpoint presentation and highlighted the comparisons of City fines with the Provincial averages. He explained the overall purpose and operations of the Parking Enforcement process.

Highlights of the presentation included the following points:

- Council sets parking fines, then approval needed from the Province
- Hamilton presently has reduced fines when payment made early, most other large municipalities do not have reduced fines, pros and cons of this approach
- New parking fine revenues of $420,000 identified in staff review
- Will need a new adjudicator for added court load, mainly for work-load of “plate-denial
- Caution here, that if City increases fines, people may comply with regulations, and actual revenues may fall, this can be monitored

- Committee discussed the information from staff, and the following points were expressed
  - significant additional revenue from parking fines will be received, this will help budget process
  - how can implementation of parking fee increases be speeded up?

Councillor Clark suggested the item respecting plate denial for unpaid fines, as previously discussed, should not wait until the overall budget approval, but should be acted upon immediately.

(Eisenberger/Clark)
That City Council send a letter immediately to the Attorney General, thanking him for his assistance respecting the matter of plate denial for unpaid fines, and respectfully requesting confirmation of his staff’s agreement that the City may process fine collections, respecting plate denial back to 2002.

CARRIED

Committee directed that the Clerk ensure that this matter be placed before Council on February 13, 2008.

Council – _______, 2008
Committee then discussed ways in which the parking fine increases, the animal control fee increases, and the plate denial could be expedited and had additional information supplied by Planning and Legal staff on the legal and practical requirements.

Councillor Bratina expressed his concerns that the City is proposing to increase parking meter changes and expand paid parking, while we are not requiring motorists to pay for the Red Hill Parkway maintenance, and we are considering a bridge over the QEW.

Committee discussed the proposed elimination of the early payment option of parking fines and the issue of fines for truck parking on streets. Committee had additional information supplied by staff.

Councillor Bratina proposed that the idea of sharing parking meter revenue with the BIAs, should be revisited. Committee then discussed the possibility of sharing such revenues with merchants’ associations.

Committee agreed that the budget items discussed should be fast-tracked ahead of the regular budget process.

(Clark/Pearson)
That the fine for a heavy vehicle parking off a truck route be increased from $75.00 to $125.00.

CARRIED

(Bratina/Mitchell)
That consideration be given to some revenue sharing from parking meter receipts, with the BIAs, and staff report back to Committee of the Whole, respecting this issue.

CARRIED

(Ferguson/McHattie)
That the City not eliminate the early payment option for parking fines during 2008, and that further consideration be given to this item in the 2009 Budget process.

CARRIED

Councillors Pearson, Clark and Whitehead requested that their opposition be recorded.

Committee agreed that the staff presentation by Planning staff should be made at a Special Budget Committee of the Whole Meeting.
(Clark/Ferguson)

(i) That the entire package of fine and fee increases, as considered by the Economic Development and Planning Committee be forwarded to a Special Committee of the Whole for consideration and approval thereafter by Council, ahead of the regular 2008 Budget process;

(ii) And that Committee of the Whole be advised that Economic Development and Planning Committee endorse the increase in parking meter charges, the extension of paid parking to all commercial areas, the increase in animal control fees, the increase in parking fines and fines for parking of heavy vehicles, the consideration of the potential of sharing some parking meter receipts with the BIAs and the retention of the reduced early payment fees for parking fines.

CARRIED

The Clerk was directed to ensure that the appropriate Motion be placed before Council on February 13, 2008.

(e) ADJOURNMENT (Item 6)

There being no further business, the Economic Development and Planning Committee adjourned at 12.15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Whitehead, Chair
Economic Development and Planning Committee

Alexandra Rawlings, Co-ordinator
Economic Development and Planning Committee
February 12, 2008