Committee of the Whole
MINUTES
9:30 a.m.
September 1, 2005
Council Chambers
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West, Hamilton

Present: Mayor L. DiIanni
    Councillors D. Braden, B. Bratina, P. Bruckler, C.
    Collins, M. Ferguson, T. Jackson, B. Kelly, M.
    McCarthy, B. McHattie, S. Merulla, D. Mitchell, B.
    Morelli, M. Pearson, T. Whitehead

Absent with regrets: Councillor A. Samson – out of town

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. Priel, General Manager, Community Services and
    Public Health
    L. A. Coveyduck, General Manager, Planning and
    Development
    P. Barkwell, City Solicitor
    K. Christenson, City Clerk
    M. Gallagher, Co-ordinator

Mayor DiIanni called the meeting to order

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REPORTED TO CITY COUNCIL FOR
CONSIDERATION:

1. Disaster Relief Assistance (Item 7.1)
   (Merulla/Whitehead)
   Whereas, the Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program (ODRAP)
   provides financial assistance to municipalities that sustain public damages
   as a result of a natural disaster;
And Whereas Municipalities in a designated disaster area can apply for funding of up to 100 per cent to cover eligible public costs associated with disaster relief and rebuilding damaged infrastructure.

And, Whereas, the residents of the City of Hamilton on August 19th, 2005 experienced severe flooding which had a significant impact on many properties within the City;

And Whereas the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has committed to providing communities with the tools needed to grow safe, strong and livable;

Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the Mayor be authorized to correspond with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to declare the affected areas within the City of Hamilton a “disaster area” for the purposes of the Ontario Disaster Relief Assistant Program to assist residents with costs associated and not covered by their own insurer including cleanup, essential furnishings, repairs or replacement to pre-flooding condition of a residence or business enterprise etc.

And further, should the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing declare a disaster, that council immediately as required by ODRAP appoint members to a Disaster Relief Committee to administer the claims made under ODRAP. CARRIED.

2. Establishing an Independent Community Panel (Item 7.2) (Whitehead/Merulla)
Whereas, the City of Hamilton operates and maintains 965 km of storm sewers,

And Whereas, the City of Hamilton has an established storm, water and wastewater Integrated Master Plan,

And Whereas, the City of Hamilton is, as part of the GRIDS process, completing a review of our storm and water and wastewater Master Plans.

And Whereas, when runoff occurs at a rate or volume exceeding the capacity of the facilities that will convey and discharge the flow, it can create serious problems.

Whereas, it is the purpose of drainage and flood control to minimize public and private losses due to flooding by having standards in place

Whereas, often times, homeowners’ insurance policies may not typically cover damage to buildings or contents damaged by flooding.
Whereas, residents in the community have been affected on several occasions with property damage and loss in the hundreds of thousands

Therefore, Be it Resolved:

(a) That an Independent Community Panel be established to work with staff for the following:

(i) to address cause and effect of inclement weather on the storm management/drainage systems in the City of Hamilton;

(ii) to establish a communication strategy to assist in educating the general public on issues concerning risk management, compensation, etc.

(iii) to review the City of Hamilton stormwater master plan

(iv) to review and consult with the insurance industry

(b) That the Community Panel consist of Five members chosen from the following sectors:

(i) Experts from the community in storm management

(ii) Experts from the insurance industry

(iii) Experts from climatology

(iv) Experts from wastewater management

(v) Experts from other related fields as required

(c) That City staff provide assistance to the Community Panel on an as required basis;

(d) That the Independent Community Panel report through the Public Works, Infrastructure and Environment Committee to Council.

CARRIED.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

(a) ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced the passing of Rick Gadowski, Manager of Forestry and Horticulture. Condolences were expressed on behalf of Council to Rick’s wife Joanne, children, Sarah and Katie, family and friends. Donations in memory of Rick may be made to the City’s tree planting program.
Condolences were also expressed to Councillor McHattie and his family on the passing of Councillor McHattie’s sister, Michelle Patricia McHattie. A memorial service is being held today at 4:30 p.m. at the Westdale United Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the SPCA.

The Mayor also acknowledged and addressed the devastation due to the natural disaster in New Orleans. The Mayor expressed the importance of working with the Red Cross to assist our American neighbours in this time of need by providing donations.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

(c) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

(Pearson/Mitchell)
Agenda was adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

(d) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the August 10, 2005 meeting
(Kelly/Pearson)
Minutes were adopted as presented. CARRIED.

(e) PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Staff Update respecting August 19, 2005 flooding

(i) Scott Stewart General Manager of Public Works provided a power point presentation which highlighted the following:

a) Rain Event Intensity
b) Storm Water Management
c) Storm Water Systems
d) Storm Event Response Group
e) Regular Maintenance of Storm Sewer Inlets and Outlets, Catchbasins
f) Maintenance Performed in Response to Major Events
g) Current City Initiatives
h) What the public can do
i) Future steps

(ii) Joe Rinaldo, General Manager of Finance provided a power point presentation which highlighted the following:

a) Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program
   (i) Purpose of program

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(ii) Declaration of Disaster  
(iii) Process for applying to program  
(iv) Insurance Claims History, surface flooding and sewer backups, claims for the July 26th event, August 19th event, and City’s insurance coverage

Issues addressed by council included:
- amount of rainfall – impact – 50/100 year events
- impact of the Linc on the storm sewer system – staff will investigate
- mapping of watersheds
- applications of new subdivision developments – conditions to minimize the porous surfaces of subdivisions – staff to explore this initiative
- Grand River - what is Grand River Conservation doing to allow infiltration to occur – staff currently working with Grand River
- affects of climatic changes
- comparison of our municipalities’ system with others – staff will provide statistics
- record of cleanup of catch basins
- utilization of return stop valves in individual homes
- communication plan for disseminating information to residents
- increase in lake temperature – impacts – staff to investigate
- roads and underpasses – are they being monitored and are there solutions in progress? – staff closing roads early to prevent citizens from getting trapped in underpass
- legal liability issues – city’s ownership
- criteria for funding claims

(f) The following item was referred to the Corporate Administration Committee for consideration:

Allocation – Emergency Fund

That the Emergency Fund be allocated to members of Council to assist in updating residents on the August 19th Storm.

Staff will report back on a communication strategy.

(g) Staff report
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Staff will include in future report cost implications of funding all claims submitted to the city as a direct result of the storm including deductibles and those who are uninsured.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor L. Dilanni

M. Gallagher
Co-ordinator, COW/Council