Committee of the Whole
MINUTES
9:30 a.m.
December 14, 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. McCarthy, B. McHattie, S. Merulla, D.
Mitchell, M. Pearson, A. Samson, T. Whitehead

Absent with regrets: Councillors M. Ferguson, B. Morelli - Illness
Councillor B. Kelly – Federal Election
Councillor T. Jackson – City Business

Also Present: G. Peace, City Manager
S. Stewart, General Manager, Public Works
C. Graham, General Manager, Human Resources
L. A. Coveyduck, General Manager, Planning and
Development
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:

Announcement:
Mayor Dilanni announced the sudden passing of Steve Shaver, a long time employee in the Public Works Department. Condolences go out to Steve’s wife Barbara-Jean, his two children David and Miranda and Steve’s family and friends during this most difficult time.

(a) DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None
(b) **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**  
(Collins/Pearson)  
The Agenda was approved as circulated.  
CARRIED.

(c) **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**  
(Collins/Whitehead)  
The Minutes of December 12, 2005 were adopted as presented.  
CARRIED.

(d) **BUDGET PRESENTATIONS**

6.1 Planning and Economic Development  
General Manager Lee Ann Coveyduck presented an overview of the Planning and Economic Development Budget.

The following questions were raised by members of Council:

Collins:  
Opportunity with the number of dogs whether you could hire two people and be a larger payback

Bratina:  
Mediation facilitators – what would be a typical scenario for mediation?

Whitehead:  
What was suggest last budget – more people purchasing dog tags? – have we reached the targets? If not why? – Staff will provide information.

Bruckler:  
Rationalize – over time re animal control  
Is there a net savings? Does the overtime less than what  
Summary Binder – breakdown of building and licensing – 28% increase – provide overview of increase.

McHattie:  
How Cats are handled and high euthanasia and costs – exploring Calgary model – staff to explore that and see if we can do that aspect differently.

Braden:  
Policy or direction to remove dog control from tax supported structure?  
What combination of additional compliance combined with license rate would give us cost neutral aspect?
Water Tower – Boris Creek – if we solve the water tower will we have shovel ready land?

Details about line re airport capital budget 5,375 – part of OMB referral or is it existing lands?

In capital expenditures are we looking for a rail easement for future use?

Mitchell:
Development reserve – where are we taking money from?
Can fines be levied for truck parking on property?

Re: Hiring of Drainage engineer – developers paying the bill and we are rechecking it… should we hire our engineer and have the developer pay the city and we pay the engineer? It seems to be working for the bigger municipalities – when are we going to explore this issue? Staff to report back.

Re animal control – we used to have an animal control committee and we explored other municipalities re cost recovery. Compliance figures going up vs. hiring more people.

Samson:
Under building and licensing the change is an increase of 15.1 – the revenue which comes in based on permits that would take care of the 15.1? so it’s revenue neutral?
Is there no what those two figures can get closer?
Staff are enforcing by-laws and the enforcement the difference is considerable. – the general tax base is paying for that. That doesn’t seem fair and is increasing the levy. Is there any way that enforcement can become revenue neutral through the fines?

With regard to the zoning review – in Dundas there is a zoning by-law which was passed prior to amalgamation, the concern is that the percentage of lot coverage where there is no control in ward 13 under the by-law. I had concerns with infill development and monster homes. There doesn’t appear to be any control in the by-law. I didn’t hear any date for that. Can I be assured that the zoning review is going to come through in 2006, including a stipulation of monster homes in residential homes in Dundas?

Pearson:
Animal Control/Licensing – with the licensing of fines, have we looked at requirement for a window of opportunity to get licenses for their animals voluntarily
Involving veterinarians in the area who could do licenses from their offices and encouraging chipping of the pets as well. – explore further?

McCarthy
How are we answering inquiries re capacity issues for Waterdown area – commercial and residential perspective
Re: preliminary report respecting the design features that hook into the Waterdown treatment facility and OPA 28. Why some of those can't be connected? Businesses on Highway #5 can’t hook in. – Staff to discuss with Councillor McCarthy off line.

Collins:
Downtown renewal section has appositive variance – last year as well. Why that is the case and why we continue to budget at the same level year after year?

Can we find out whether or not the work will start in 2006 for those who have applied and received loans through the program? If the answer is no, we can delay them. Staff will provide the information to Councillor.

The assessment growth and ways and means to assist the city in bumping the growth rate up. Re waterfront – the city is poised to start the setting sail process, what is in our budget re servicing if in fact we secure some type of arrangement with Port Authority. Can we service pier 8 and surrounding in 2006? – Staff will investigate and report back

Assumptions used for inflationary costs – what number are we using for fuel and hydro? What is the total inflation number used for preparation of divisional and departmental budgets

Over the years, planning has had a percentage increase of 4% how does PED been able to avoid some of the cost drivers that others haven’t. How do we have 8% average increase in departmental budgets?

Departments on average is 8% and PED has managed to beat corporate average and you should be congratulated. Why are some hitting that consistently every year.

6.2 HUMAN RESOURCES BUDGET

Catharine Graham, General Manager of the Human Resources Department provided an overview of the budget
The following questions were raised by members of Council:

Braden:
Can you elaborate on the consulting slide? – it’s a lot of money and I need more background – please explain cost.
Staff to prepare further background.
Which programmes can be in house? – compensation issues re job matching process
What do we pay per year?

Mitchell:
Any progress on the line down program – shortage in workforce in 2011 – HSR transit drivers retires in their union and comes back on a wind down programme – where are we currently at with this type of program.

11:40 adjourn.