Committee of the Whole
BUDGET MINUTES 10-009

1:30 a.m.
February 22, 2010
Albion Room
Hamilton Convention Centre

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

Absent with regrets: Councillor L. Ferguson - Vacation

Also Present: C. Murray, City Manager
R. Rossini, General Manager, Finance and Corporate
Services
G. Davis, General Manager, Public Works
T. McCabe, General Manager, Planning and Economic
Development
J.A. Priel, General Manager, Community Services
Dr. E. Richardson, Medical Officer of Health
B. Browett, HES
P. Barkwell, City Solicitor
M. Gallagher, Co-ordinator, Council and Committee of the
Whole/Budgets

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REPORTED TO CITY COUNCIL FOR
CONSIDERATION:

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

(Merulla/Pasuta)
That the agenda be adopted as presented. CARRIED
Added Minutes of February 9, 2010

Added Item 5.1 – Heritage Property Tax Rebate Program
CARRIED.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 February 9, 2010

(Powers/Clark)
That the Minutes of February 9, 2010 be adopted as presented.
CARRIED

4. 2010 BUDGET UPDATE PRESENTATION

Highlights of the presentation by Rob Rossini included:
- Residential Tax Impact
- Additional recommended reductions
- Updated Department Levies
- Savings by Department
- 2010 Complement
- Council referred items
- Process
- Next steps

(Clark/Pearson)
That the Departmental Budgets be deferred pending announcement from the Province re: $14.2 million in special financial assistance to the City with the following instructions:

(1) Alternatives and options to maintaining a 0% increase

(2) Street Tree Trimming
Exploring and reporting back on a reduction to the FTE for the Street Trimming from 5.00 FTE
(3) Parks and cemeteries
Breakdown on which new parks are coming on stream, size of properties, what will employees will be doing there? – funding alternatives to 9.15 FTE

(4) Itemized list of approvals/reductions put forward by Standing Committee.

(5) Total students who work at the City during the summer.
Councillor Whitehead opposed to the motion to Table. CARRIED.

(Merulla/McHattie)

Whereas the Ontario Provincial Government introduced downloading of provincially-mandated programs as a revenue-neutral initiative related to social services, social housing, emergency medical services, courts, public health and GO Transit;

And Whereas the City of Hamilton has experienced hundreds of millions of dollars in operating budgetary shortfalls as a direct result of the breach in contract with the Province not maintaining a revenue-neutral formula as promised;

And Whereas the general public has a misunderstanding that the Council of the City of Hamilton requests bailouts rather than requesting money owned to the residents of the City of Hamilton based on the lack of revenue-neutral formula.

Therefore be it resolved that the City of Hamilton consider options in an attempt to recoup monies owed to the taxpayers of the City of Hamilton of nearly $1 billion and the continuing operating deficit of $147 million and lobby the Province to ensure the downloaded programs become revenue neutral as promised or the programs in question are uploaded to the Province of Ontario. CARRIED.

5. BUDGET DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 Heritage Property Tax Rebate Program
(Pearson/Powers)
a) That, given the City of Hamilton’s successful financial incentive programs currently available to heritage properties, the City of Hamilton not establish a Heritage Property Tax Rebate Program for the 2010 taxation year;
b) That staff be directed to continue to evaluate the potential for a Heritage Property Tax Rebate Program, on an annual basis, as part of the annual tax policies; and

c) That report FCS10019/PED10031 “Heritage Property Tax Rebate Program” be forwarded to the Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee for information.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor F. Eisenberger

M. Gallagher, Co-ordinator
Council/Committee of the Whole
February 22, 2010