Budget Steering Committee
Minutes
1:30 p.m.
November 17, 2008
Room 207
Hamilton Convention Centre

Present: Mayor F. Eisenberger
         Councillors T. Jackson, M. Pearson, R. Powers, T. Whitehead

Also Present: J. Rinaldo, Acting City Manager
              S. Stewart General Manager Public Works
              J.A. Priel, General Manager, Community Services
              B. Browett, Acting, General Manager HES
              T. McCabe, General Manager, Planning and Economic Development
              Dr. E. Richardson, MOH
              P. Barkwell, Acting General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services
              G. Davis, T. Tollis, J. Spiler, T. Hewitson, M. Di Santo,
              R. Hall, M. Gallagher

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

   The Clerk noted the following changes to the agenda:
   
   Added Communication referred by Council respecting Conservation Halton 2009 Budget to be added as Item 5.4
   
   (Pearson/Jackson)
   That the agenda be adopted as amended. CARRIED.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

   None
3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 October 28, 2008

(Jackson/Pearson)
That the minutes of October 28, 2008 be adopted as presented.
CARRIED.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Approval of 2009 Tax Supported Capital Budget
(Powers/Pearson)
a) That the $80,810,000 2009 Tax Supported Capital Levy, as identified in Table 1 of the Executive Summary of report FCS08112, be approved;

b) That the 2009 Tax Capital Budget & Financing Plan, attached as Appendix A to report FCS08112, be approved;

c) That the Tax Supported Net Capital Funding Forecast 2009 – 2018, attached as Appendix B to report FCS08112, be approved; and

d) That Reserve number 108024 be established for the Provincial Subsidy received under the Investing in Ontario Act in the amount of $48,007,919. CARRIED.

4.2 2009 Tax Supported User Fees FCS08106
(Powers/Pearson)
(a) That the 2009 User Fees contained in Attachment One to FCS08106, be approved and implemented; and

(b) That the City Solicitor & Corporate Counsel be authorized and directed to prepare all necessary by-laws, for Council approval, for the purposes of establishing the user fees contained within this report. CARRIED.

4.3 2009 Tax Operating/Capital Outlook
(Pearson/Powers)
That the presentation of the 2009 Tax Operating/Capital Outlook be received. CARRIED.

Tony Tollis provided an overview by power point;

Highlights of the presentation including the following:
- Council Directions
- 2009 Budget Pressures
- Provincial Downloaded Costs
Recent Upload Announcement
- 2009 Tax Draft Budget
- Why are we exceeding inflation?
- Mitigating the Tax Levy Pressures
- Review of Conservation Authorities
- Next Steps
- Other Tax Budget Issues

Draft Capital Budget
- Property Tax Impact
- Capital Levy Components
- Gross Capital By Program
- Capital Financing
- Debt Forecast
- Major Capital not included in Financial Plan
- 2010 Net Capital Forecast Constraints

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Staffing – Direction from the October 1st Budget Steering Committee

(Whitehead/Pearson)
That there be no new net staff until Council provides future direction.”
CARRIED.

(Whitehead/Powers)
That staff report back on eliminating redundant positions as part of the 2009 budget.
CARRIED.

(Eisenberger/Whitehead)
That staff be directed to report back on impacts (i.e. essential services) and potential savings for shutdown opportunities.
CARRIED.

Councillor T. Jackson opposed.

5.2 Recommendation referred by Committee of the Whole at its meeting of November 10, 2008

“That there be a moratorium on hiring any new employees, an assessment of eliminating redundant positions and an impact study of such an endeavour to ensure such a decision does not impact front line services. “

(Whitehead/Powers)
That the recommendation be received. CARRIED.
5.3 Increasing Parking Meter Rates and Installing Paid Parking in All Commercial Areas (PED08059(b)) (City Wide)

Tim McCabe and Marty Hazel provided an overview of report.

(Powers/Pearson)
That the recommendations be received and referred to Committee of the Whole for deliberation in the 2009 budget on December 9, 2008.  CARRIED.

5.4 Added Communication referred by Council respecting Conservation Halton 2009 Budget

(Jackson/Pearson) Be received.  CARRIED.

5.5 BMA Consultant Fees

Tim McCabe provided an overview.

(Powers/Whitehead)

(a) That staff be directed to conduct consultations with the Development community on the Planning and Engineering Development Fee Review;

(b) That the staff report with recommendations be considered by the Economic Development and Planning Committee during their budget deliberations;

(c) That with respect to fees increases that staff be directed to provide information as a supplemental and not part of the 2009 budget book.  CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:25 adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor F. Eisenberger

M. Gallagher, Co-ordinator
November 17, 2008