THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE PRESENTS
REPORT 09-027 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. Increase to Fees under the Building By-law (PED09327) (City Wide) (Item 4.1)
   a) That the By-law attached as Appendix “A” to Report PED09327 to amend City of Hamilton By-law 08-161 as amended by By-law 09-113, being a By-law prescribing fees for building permit applications and related matters, be enacted.
   b) That the fees prescribed in the By-law attached as Appendix “A” to Report PED09327 be included as an amendment to the 2009 User Fees and Charges By-law.
FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

The meeting to consider Building Permit Fees was called to order at 2.29 pm.

Chair Pearson explained the timing difficulties with the regular meeting of EDP having a busy agenda, and how the Public Meeting would proceed after the regular meeting had concluded.

On a Motion (Mitchell/Bratina), the Public Meeting was recessed at 2:30 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 3.15 pm.

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Clerk advised that there were no changes to the agenda:

On a Motion, the agenda for the December 1, 2009 meeting of the Economic Development & Planning Committee respecting the 2010 Budget was approved, as presented.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

None

(c) Increase to Fees under the Building By-law (PED09327) (City Wide) (Item 4.1)

A Public Meeting was held.

Chair Pearson advised that this is a Public Hearing, under the Municipal Act, to hear from the public regarding the proposed increases in Building Permit Fees. It has been advertised in the newspapers.

Jorge Caetano provided an overview of the matter.

Councillor Clark asked how close we are to cost recovery in building permits.

John Spolnik advised that a report from the City consultant is in preparation on this matter. He said that the fee increases proposed are interim, pending receipt of the report.

The Chair opened the meeting to the public, and asked if individuals would like to come down to the podium to address the Committee. She requested that they
The Chair invited Bernice Flegg, President of the HHHBA, to address Committee on this matter.

Ms. Flegg explained that she was the 58th President of her Association, which comprises 250 companies. She noted the following points:

- housing starts are way down, only 119 starts this year, industry is suffering
- builders are slashing prices of new homes just to sell inventory
- suggested a delay in implementing increases, until industry begins to recover.

Committee asked questions of the delegation, including the following:

- is building permit fee rolled into the price of a new house – yes
- can the delegation provide details of instances where builders have reduced house prices by $40,000, $50,000 or $60,000 – yes, delegate will do this.

No other members of the public came forward to address Committee.

Committee approved the staff recommendation.

(d) 2010 Tax Supported Operating Budget – Planning & Economic Development (FCS09120d) (City Wide) (Item 5.1)

Mr. McCabe noted that his budget presentation was lengthy and would take over an hour to run through, followed by questions.

He asked whether it might be preferable to re-schedule the presentation to a future date.

On a Motion (Clark/Whitehead), Committee agreed to postpone the departmental budget overview. The Clerk was directed to look for a suitable date.

(e) MOTIONS (Item 7)

None

(f) NOTICES OF MOTION (Item 8)

None
(g) GENERAL INFORMATION (Item 9)

Councillor Clark thanked Chair Pearson for her excellent work as Chair of the Committee for the past year.

(h) PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL (Item 10)

None

(i) ADJOURNMENT (Item 11)

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Maria Pearson, Chair
Economic Development & Planning Committee

Alexandra Rawlings
Co-ordinator
December 1, 2009