Mayor Eisenberger called the meeting to order.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PRESENTS REPORT 06-023 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. **2006 Recommended Water, Wastewater and Storm Water Budget (FCS060114/PW06137)**
   
   (a) That the metered water rate be increased from $0.851 to $0.913 per cubic meter (7.25%) effective January 1, 2007;

   (b) That the sanitary sewer rate remains at 100% of the water charge;

   (c) That the combined “non-metered” water and wastewater services charge be increased from the fixed rate of $621.23 to $666.27 per annum (7.25%) effective January 1, 2007;

   (d) That the 2007 Water and Wastewater Proposed User Fees and Charges as set out in Appendix “E” to FCS06114/PW06137 be approved;

   (e) That the 2007 Water, Wastewater and Storm Water Operating Budget in the amount of $146,941,040 as set out in Appendix “A” to Report FCS06114/PW06137 be approved;
(f) That the 2007 Water, Wastewater and Storm Water Capital Budget in the amount of $192,638,000 as set out in Appendix “F” to Report FCS06114/PW06137 be approved;

(g) That the 2008-2016 Water, Wastewater and Storm Water Capital Budget forecast as set out in Appendix “G” to Report FCS06114/PW06137 be approved as a forecast;

(h) That the 10-year financial plan and related rate increases required to meet financial sustainability set out in the 2007 Rated Supported Budget and Appendix “C” to Report FCS06114/PW06137 be approved as a forecast;

(i) That staff be authorized to undertake the necessary studies required to update the Development Charges By-laws for the inclusion of the capital infrastructure identified in the 2007-2016 Water, Wastewater and Storm Water Capital Budget and required to implement the City’s Growth Related Integrated Development Strategy;

(j) That staff continue to pursue a tripartite agreement with the Provincial and Federal Governments to secure $150 million for improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Facility in support of the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan;

(k) That the General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services be authorized to close the completed capital projects set out in Attachment “A” to Report FCS06114/PW06137 and to transfer $5 million to project 5140666501 Woodward WTP – Low Lift Station and $39,018,860 to project 5160766711 Canadian Infrastructure Renewal (Wastewater Plant and CSO tanks);

(l) That the projected 2006 rate supported surplus, currently estimated at $7 million, be utilized to reduce the city’s reliance on debt in accordance with the 2007 Rate Supported Budget; and

(m) That the City Solicitor & Corporate Counsel be authorized and directed to prepare all necessary by-laws, for Council approval, respecting the 2007 water and wastewater user fees and charges set out in the recommendations (a) through (d) of report FCS06114/PW06137.

2. City of Hamilton/Ministry of Transportation 2006/07 Dedicated Gas Tax Funding Agreement (FCS06115) (City Wide)

(a) That the Mayor and General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services (City Treasurer) be authorized and directed to enter into an Agreement between the City of Hamilton and the Province of Ontario, related to the funding commitment made by the Province of Ontario to the Municipality under the Dedicated Gas Tax Funds For Hamilton’s Public Transportation Program;
(b) That the Mayor and General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services (City Treasurer) be authorized and directed to execute the Letter of Agreement attached as Appendix “A” to Report FCS06115;

(c) That the appropriate By-Law, City of Hamilton/Ministry of Transportation 2006/07 Dedicated Gas Tax Funding Agreement By-Law be passed and enacted attached as Appendix “C” to Report FCS06115;

(d) That the 2006/07 Dedicated Gas Tax Funds be allocated to the Transit Gas Tax Reserve 112204; and

(e) That a certified copy of this By-Law be forwarded to the Ministry of Transportation upon Council approval.

3. Residential Municipal Relief Assistance Program for Basement Flooding for the Event of December 1, 2006 (FCS06007(a)) (Ward Specific)

(a) That for the purpose of invoking the Residential Municipal Relief Assistance Program for Basement Flooding, City Council declare the rainstorm event of December 1, 2006, as a "Disaster" for all affected properties within the boundaries of the City of Hamilton;

(b) That payment of claims be based on compassionate grounds only and not to be construed as an admission of liability on the part of the City of Hamilton;

(c) That the Eligibility Criteria for the Residential Municipal Disaster Relief Assistance Program as previously approved in report FCS06007 be applied;

(d) That the costs associated with these claims be funded from the Residential Municipal Disaster Relief Program Reserve; and

(e) That staff be authorized to retain an independent adjuster for the administration of claims under the Residential Municipal Disaster Relief Assistance Program and that these administrative costs be funded from the reserve.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA
The agenda was approved as amended with the following revision:

Reference to bylaw R79-172 on pages 146 and 147 of the Water, Wastewater & Storm 2007 Rate Budget & Services Overview, should reference by-law 06-026
(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

(c) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 October 23, 2006

That the minutes were adopted as presented.

(d) PRESENTATIONS

Staff of the Public Works and Corporate Services Departments made presentations outlining the following:

(i) Introduction to Public Works Strategic Plan
(ii) Water and Wastewater Overview
(iii) Financing Overview
(iv) Capital Plan and Issues
(v) Water and Wastewater Divisional Strategic Plan

Staff were directed to provide the following additional information:

(i) Report on all existing private sector involvement and apply public sector expertise as well.
(ii) Consultant’s report respecting the treatment of phenols at the Wastewater Treatment Plant
(iii) Comparative with like tech facilities in other jurisdictions respecting Overstrength agreements.
(iv) Report on how well the Utility Assistance Program is working – how many residents are utilizing it, how much has been funded for this program – this report to the Emergency and Community Services Committee
(v) It was noted that the Agricultural abatement policy is to come to council in the future.

(e) DELEGATIONS

Scott Koblyk, Bay Area Restoration Council addressed Committee of the Whole. Mr. Koblyk addressed the following issues:

- progress on the Remedial Action Plan
- Hamilton Ratepayers shouldn’t be alone to shoulder the burden
- improving ability to manage water system
- BARC will continue to take message forward to the public
- Economic benefit for community – one of a small decisions that BARC feels will move us forward with respect to delisting.
- urge council to vote in favour of motion

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Council – December 13, 2006
Respectfully submitted

Mayor F. Eisenberger

M. Gallagher
Co-ordinator, Council/COW
December 13, 2006