



**Economic Development and Planning Committee
MINUTES 08-001(a)
2008 BUDGET
January 22, 2008
9:30 a.m.
Hamilton Wentworth District School Board, Main Street West
Hamilton**

- Present:** Chair T. Whitehead
Mayor F. Eisenberger, 1st Vice-Chair M. Pearson
Councillors: B. Bratina, B. Clark, S. Duvall, D. Mitchell,
R. Pasuta, M. McCarthy
- Absent with regrets:** Councillor L. Ferguson – Personal Business
Councillor B. McHattie - Illness
- Staff Present:** G. Peace, City Manager
J. Rinaldo, General Manager, Finance and Corporate
Services
T. McCabe, General Manager – Planning and Development
P. Mallard, R. Marini, T. Sergi, J. Spolnik, C. Burnett,
M. Hazell, G. Paparella, S. O'Dwyer, C. Andruschko,
B. Janssen, D. Ortiz – Planning and Development
R. Sabo – Legal
D. Adames – Economic Development
A. Rawlings– Co-ordinator, City Clerk's Office

Chair Terry Whitehead called the meeting to order.

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Clerk advised of the following changes:

Minutes from the meeting of January 8, 2008, added as item 3.1.

Additional handout from Planning staff, being part of Item 5.1

The Agenda for the January 22, 2008, meeting of the Economic Development & Planning Committee was approved, as amended.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

None

(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Item 3)

The Minutes of the Budget Meeting of January 8, 2008, were approved, as presented.

(d) Supplementary Budget Information Requested at the January 8, 2008 Economic Development and Planning Committee (PED08046) (City Wide) 5.1

Tim McCabe gave an overview of the supplementary budget information. Mr. McCabe noted that the total revenue for the department is \$26.4 million, and that a new approach to the structure of the building permit fees is proposed. In addition, a fee review is underway in the Planning and Development area, where further increases will lead to an increase in departmental revenue. Mr. McCabe noted that staff would return to Committee in February or March, with details of new fees for licensing and enforcement. He requested Committee's consideration of whether there should be public input on some of the recommendations to be presented by Mr. Hazell.

Marty Hazell then provided an overview of the Parking and By-law Services area of the proposed budget, with the aid of a powerpoint presentation. A copy of the presentation was provided to all members of Committee.

Highlights of the presentation included the following:

- staff has reviewed all 70 revenue lines and found 7 where possible increases should be considered. If all 7 are accepted, a potential of \$1.5 million in new revenues would be available.
- Parking fines – current fine of \$12.00 for exceeding time limit in residential areas not sufficient to deter parking all day; \$26.00 is Ontario median; staff is proposing increase to \$20.00; need for Provincial approval for set fines, this revenue generated would be for 6 months of 2008.
- Fire Route Regulations – Ontario median fine for parking in fire route is \$77.00, staff is proposing increase from \$20 to \$50. Change needs by-law amendment and Provincial approval.
- Heavy truck parking violation – Ontario median \$94.00, staff proposing increase from \$50 to \$75, needs change in by-law and Provincial approval.
- Parking Meter Rates – meter rates for on-street parking currently 50 cents per hour, staff recommending increase to \$1.00 per hour.
- Paid parking expansion – Citywide study of parking underway, all municipalities had own, varied parking regulations, need to be harmonized. Transportation Master Plan also under way, may have impacts on parking.

- Staff proposing consideration be given to expanding paid parking into all commercial areas in City.
- Animal Revenues – staff proposing increases in 7 areas, all of which support responsibility in pet owners. Cal Burnett provided additional information.
 - Anti-Idling By-law – various ways to proceed, staff suggested item be referred to Operational Review for further consideration respecting enforcement.
 - Signage for Anti-Idling By-law would cost \$60,000, including \$10,000 for signs at entry roads to City.
 - Plate denial until parking fines paid – staff has contacted Ministry, obtained verbal agreement that City can collect outstanding parking fines back to 2002.
 - Sign By-law Enforcement – education process ongoing, Province has not yet approved set fine schedule, so no fines being collected.

Committee discussed the budget presentation and had further information supplied by staff. Committee highlighted a number of questions areas of concern, including but not limited to, the following;

- should parking meter fees, and other fines be increased to Ontario average. Staff explained that proposed increases are interim increases, pending comprehensive review, need to consider all fines in context and defensible. Staff agreed to complete overall review of the fine structure, and report back to Committee at next Budget Meeting.
- Consideration of extension of paid parking across City, issues of fairness, potential increase in congestion on some streets, costs and timing for City of extending paid parking, use of paid parking for “traffic calming”, benefits of paid parking to merchants and public, public acceptance of paid parking, how parking fits into context of Transportation Master Plan.
- Details of Animal Control fees, what can be done to improve level of purchase of dog tags, maintaining free “First Ride Home” for stray dogs with a license, ways to promote responsible pet ownership.
- Anti-Idling By-law – concerns about education v. enforcement, disappointment respecting amount of education which has taken place, methods of enforcement and its costs. Legal staff explained by-law currently has clause stating enforcement will commence June 1, 2008, and that this could be amended.

Following the discussion, the following Motions were passed:

(i) Parking meter rate increase

(Pearson/Bratina)

That the City Parking By-law 01-218 be amended to increase the on-street parking meter rates to \$1.00 per hours, Citywide.

CARRIED

Councillor Clark requested that his opposition be recorded.

(ii) Paid parking in all commercial areas of City

(Duvall/Clark)

That consideration be given to expanding paid parking into all commercial areas of the City.

CARRIED

Councillor Mitchell requested that his opposition be recorded.

(iii) Increase in Animal Control Fees

(Mitchell/Eisenberger)

That the increase in various animal control fees, proposed by staff in the handout provided to Committee on January 22, 2008, be approved, as amended, to maintain the "first ride home free" policy for dogs, with the second and subsequent rides home being increased to \$30.00.

CARRIED

(iv) Anti-Idling Enforcement

(Eisenberger/Pearson)

That the methods of enforcement of the Anti-Idling By-law be forwarded to the Building and Licensing Operational Review Sub-Committee Meeting of February 13, 2008, for review, to include extending education until 2009, and amending the By-law accordingly, and report back to Economic Development and Planning Committee, before the end of the 2008 budget process.

CARRIED

(v) Anti-Idling Signage

(Clark/Eisenberger)

That anti-idling signage be referred back to staff for review and recommendation respecting the strategic placement of signs, and for review and recommendation respecting the details of the education programme and the additional resources required.

CARRIED

(vi) Additional revenues from plate denial

(Clark/Pearson)

That the amount of fine revenues collected through plate denial in the current budget be adjusted upwards by \$100,000 to \$250,000 for 2008.

CARRIED

(Clark/Pearson)

That City Council send a letter to the Ministry of the Attorney General thanking him for his assistance in this important matter, and confirming his staff's agreement that the City may process fine collections respecting plate denial back until 2002.

CARRIED

(vii) Sign Enforcement/Fines

(Pearson/Clark)

That staff continue to refine enforcement procedures and that any changes to the fine levels associated with the Sign By-law be dealt with as part of the comprehensive staff report due by June, 2008.

CARRIED

(viii) Increase in Fines

(Clark/Pearson)

That staff undertake a complete review of fines giving consideration to the Provincial average for such fines, and how to move towards implementation of increased fees, and report back prior to the completion of the 2008 Budget process.

CARRIED

Staff confirmed that they would report back to the next Budget Meeting, respecting the overall review of parking and other fines.

Councillor Mitchell noted that Councillor Ferguson had requested that the decision on extending paid parking in commercial areas be held off until he was present. Staff confirmed that the decisions and directions of the Committee were not final at this stage of the budget process.

Tim McCabe said that he would send an email to all Committee members with information about numbers of animals abandoned in Flamborough and Glanbrook.

Joe Rinaldo provided information on the relative costs of providing animal control services by contractors / providing services in-house.

Mayor Eisenberger noted the need to ensure that the public process for input into the budget is ongoing, and the need to set at least two additional dates for public meetings. The Clerk agreed to take the Mayor's direction back to the Clerk.

The Committee thanked staff for all their hard work respecting today's budget presentations.

(e) ADJOURNMENT (Item 13)

There being no further business, the Economic Development and Planning Committee adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Whitehead, Chair
Economic Development and Planning Committee

Alexandra Rawlings, Co-ordinator
Economic Development and Planning Committee
January 8, 2008