GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
OPERATING BUDGET
MINUTES 16-003(h)
3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 9, 2016
Council Chambers
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West

Present: Mayor F. Eisenberger, Deputy Mayor T. Whitehead (Chair)
Councillors T. Jackson, C. Collins, S. Merulla, M. Green, J. Farr,
A. Johnson, D. Conley, M. Pearson, B. Johnson, L. Ferguson, A.
VanderBeek, J. Partridge

Absent with
Regrets: Councillor R. Pasuta – Illness

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Committee Clerk advised of the following changes to the agenda:

1. PUBLIC HEARINGS / DELEGATIONS (Item 5)

5.8 Lindsay Godard, Transit Funding and Improvements

5.9 Richard Gelder, Transit and Area Rating

5.10 Patricia LeClair, Arts Advisory Commission, City Enrichment Fund,
Arts and Culture Stream

5.11 Keanin Loomis, President, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce,
Destination Marketing Fund Proposal with Tourism Hamilton

5.12 Jeanne Mayo, HSR’s Request for Funding of 11 New Buses

5.13 Don Jaffray, Social Planning and Research Council, 2016 Budget
5.14 Denise Arkell, Neighbour to Neighbour Centre, Public Health Services, Healthy Living Division’s Enhancement for Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention

5.15 Don McLean, 2016 Budget

5.16 Marsha Duncan, Public Transit

5.17 Claire Lougheed, Dundas Valley School of Art, 2016 Budget Allocations

5.18 Dave Cherkewski, HSR Budget, 10-Year Plan and Area Rating of Transit

5.19 Alain H. Bureau, Resident Advocacy Group respecting LRT

5.20 Moaz Ahmad, Citizen of Mississauga, respecting LRT and Transit

2. GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS (Item 9)

9.1 Written Submissions respecting the 2016 Budget Process:

(b) Correspondence from Dr. Myles Sergeant, President of Trees for Hamilton, respecting the Importance of Trees for Human Health

(c) Correspondence from John Boddy, respecting Parking Permit and Time Limit Exemption Fees

(d) Correspondence from Gord Baker, respecting the 2016 Budget

(e) Correspondence Deborah Welland, President of the Hamilton Branch for the Canadian Federation of University Women

(Pearson/Green)
That the agenda for the February 9, 2016 General Issues Committee Budget meeting be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.
(c) PUBLIC HEARINGS/DELEGATIONS (Item 5)

(i) Dr. Giuliana Casimirri, Hamilton Naturalists’ Club, respecting the 2016 Budget and the Importance of Undertaking an Urban Forestry Strategy (Item 5.1)

Dr. Casimirri addressed Committee respecting why she believes the City of Hamilton needs an Urban Forest Management Plan. The presentation included, but was not limited to, the following:

- Urban Forest Definition
- Why is the Urban Forest Important
- What is an Urban Forest Management Plan
- Why an Urban Forest Management Plan for Hamilton
- The Urban Forest Project

(VanderBeek/Farr)
That the presentation provided by Dr. Giuliana Casimirri, Hamilton Naturalists’ Club, respecting the 2016 Budget and the Importance of Undertaking an Urban Forestry Strategy, be received.

CARRIED

A full copy of the PowerPoint presentation is available on the City’s website at www.hamilton.ca or through the Office of the City Clerk.

(ii) Lynda Lukasik, respecting the 2016 Budget (Item 5.2)

Lynda Lukasik addressed Committee respecting the 2016 Budget. Ms. Lukasik’s presentation included, but was not limited to, the following:

- Environment Hamilton (EH) has a number of issues that they would like to highlight and requests for Committee’s consideration.

- EH is requesting that the City of Hamilton invest in the development of an Urban Forest Strategy.

- A healthy urban forest provides clean air, as trees reduce the fine respirable particulate by 50%; and, provides natural cooling in the summer and warmth in the winter.

- Trees also help to mitigate the impacts of climate change by removing CO2 from the atmosphere.
• We would like to see a strategy in order to better guide our efforts at the grassroots.

• EH and the Hamilton Naturalists’ Club have embarked on a three year project; working with six urban neighbourhoods to measure air quality, audit the urban forest and prioritize locations where trees need to be planted in order to improve local air quality and enhance the urban forest.

• EH is also requesting that the City invest substantial funding in both cycling and pedestrian infrastructure to facilitate the ability of Hamiltonians to make the choice to walk and ride safely in the community.

• The Red Light Camera revenue would be a good source of funding to enhance City investments in active transportation improvements.

• In support of staff’s request for $7 million to enable HSR to add eleven more buses to its fleet as well as the $5 million request for the maintenance / storage facility in the lower city.

• HSR routes should be reviewed to ensure that the bus is as efficient and extensive as possible, and is seamlessly integrated with our future east-west LRT line.

• EH also supports the need for the City to revisit area rating, particularly in the context of public transit infrastructure.

• In Canada, transportation contributes up to 34% of our gHg emissions so facilitating people’s ability to shift to active and public transportation can make a huge difference with respect to the climate.

(Pearson/Jackson)
That the presentation provided by Lynda Lukasik, respecting the 2016 Budget, be received. 
CARRIED

(iii) Shekar Chandrashekar, respecting the Hamilton Police Service Proposed 2016 Budget (Item 5.3)

• Has been attending monthly Hamilton Police Services Budget meetings for many years.

• Has concerns respecting the efficiency of the Hamilton Police Services Budget.
• Council has the authority to get control of Hamilton Police Services Budget.

• Mr. Chandrashekar requested that the City:
  • Reduce the Police Services 2016 Budget by $2 million without reducing the level of services;
  • Form a sub-committee to achieve an additional reduction of a minimum of $3 million. Mr. Chandrashekar would like to sit on this sub-committee in order to provide details of how to accomplish the reduction so that a joint report may be made to this committee; and,
  • Expand the audit scope to include the “special” account.

(Pearson/Conley)
That the presentation provided by Shekar Chandrashekar, respecting the Hamilton Police Services Proposed 2016 Budget, be received.

CARRIED

A full copy of the documents provided by Mr. Chandrashekar are available on the City’s website at www.hamilton.ca or through the Office of the City Clerk.

(iv) Stephanie Vegh, Hamilton Arts Council, to speak in Support of the Proposed Increases for the City Enrichment Fund in the 2016 Budget (Item 5.4)

Stephanie Vegh, Hamilton Arts Council, addressed Committee in support of the proposed increases for the City Enrichment Fund in the 2016 Budget. Ms. Vegh’s presentation included, but was not limited to, the following:

• On behalf of the Hamilton Arts Council, Committee was thanked for their transformative investment in the City Enrichment Fund during the 2015 budget deliberations.

• The approval of an additional $500,000 for the arts in Hamilton as well as an additional $250,000 for important community initiatives sent a clear message about Council’s vision for culture’s place in our community; delivering support for under-resourced organizations in our community.
• Last year’s investments in the City Enrichment Fund were the result of four years of community-engaged research and development lead by a volunteer task force of the Arts Advisory Commission, in consultation with hundreds of stakeholders in the arts. Reinforced by staff’s diligence, the arts culture in Hamilton is on a sustainable path.

• While this year’s proposed increase of $300,000 is significantly smaller than last year’s decision, its potential impact will be no less substantial.

• The additional investment will provide funding for two critical new components of the City Enrichment Funds arts programs. Grants for new, made-in-Hamilton artistic creation and capacity building programs for organizations that will help many of the smaller groups overcome sustainability challenges.

• The City’s continued investment will be matched by Hamilton Community Foundation’s ongoing commitment to support the goals of the City Enrichment Fund with new arts funding of its own.

• In 2015, this fund awarded 25 grants with a strong focus on small-scale arts organizations and grassroots partnerships in underserved communities.

• It has been an absolute honour to tell colleagues in other Ontario cities about what happened here under a year ago, when Council unanimously voted in favour of an increased arts investment.

(Pearson/Farr)
That the presentation provided by Stephanie Vegh, Hamilton Arts Council, respecting the Proposed Increases for the City Enrichment Fund in the 2016 Budget, be received.

CARRIED

(v) Robert Burgess, respecting the Hamilton Police Services Board’s Proposed 2016 Budget (Item 5.5)

Mr. Burgess addressed Committee respecting the Hamilton Police Services Board’s 2016 Budget. Mr. Burgess’ presentation included, but was not limited to, the following:

• Mr. Burgess advised Committee that when he had been assaulted, he went before the Justice of the Peace and was told that the matter wasn’t considered to be assault.
Committee was also advised by Mr. Burgess that had e-mailed Hamilton Police Service regarding a perjury matter and has not heard back yet.

Mr. Burgess suggested that the Hamilton Police Service budget should be reduced because they are not spending the funding on investigating crimes.

(Ferguson/Farr)
That the presentation provided by Robert Burgess, respecting the Hamilton Police Services Board’s Proposed 2016 Budget, be received.

CARRIED

(vi) Alan Whittle, Good Shepherd, regarding the Good Shepherd Notre Dame Community Resource Centre, in the Emergency & Community Services Department’s 2016 Budget (Item 5.6)

This request was withdrawn from the agenda, as staff is addressing this matter through a forthcoming staff report.

(vii) Johanna Bleeker, Cycle Hamilton, respecting the 2016 Budget and the Need to Devote More Funding to Cycling Infrastructure (Item 5.7)

Johanna Bleeker, Cycle Hamilton, addressed Committee respecting the 2016 Budget and the need to devote more funding to cycling infrastructure. Ms. Bleeker’s presentation included, but was not limited to, the following:

- The City has started to move forward to install a cycle track on the Claremont Access.

- In January Council discussed pooling funding to move the project forward, however, staff responded with a recommendation to plan for 2017. One of the reasons for this recommendation was a lack of space in the cycling budget to take on this project. Given that we are all on the same page to prevent death and injury to those travelling between the upper and lower city, this investment is long overdue.

- It was suggested that an additional staff person, dedicated to cycling infrastructure, be hired to assist with the staffing and resource shortage in Public Works. This position could be closely aligned with planning around the LRT and complete streets in the lower city.
It was also suggested that an external consultant be hired to plan and design the Claremont Cycle Track.

If Council supports the Vision Zero motion, it was suggested that the Red Light Camera reserve be dedicated to Vision Zero priorities. $2 million will be going into the reserve each year and the City should commit to reviewing the reserve fund annually to identify Vision Zero priorities that may require use of that reserve.

(Farr/Green)
That the presentation provided by Johanna Bleeker, Cycle Hamilton, respecting the 2016 Budget and the need to devote more funding to cycling infrastructure, be received.

CARRIED

(viii) Lindsay Godard, Transit Funding and Improvements (Item 5.8)

Ms. Godard was called upon to speak three times throughout the meeting, but was not in attendance.

(ix) Richard Gelder, Transit and Area Rating (Item 5.9)

Mr. Gelder addressed Committee respecting Transit and Area Rating. Mr. Gelder’s presentation included, but was not limited to, the following:

- I come from a place where, in spite of my easy access to public transit, my tax bill remains area rated. Somehow, I am getting a deal on public transit and I shouldn’t be.

- People in the older Hamilton boundary are paying more on their property tax bill than I for public transit. Many of them have access to more and more frequent routes, but many also have the same access as do I to the #5 Delaware, Governor’s at Pirie route.

- Area rating on transit is outdated and it is wrong.

- Transit, like road maintenance, water and sewage, and education, is a public good. It ought to be treated as such. The same way that childless families still benefit from quality education, the same way that the healthy still benefit from health care, those who do not rely on it can still benefit from a city that has a strong system of public transit.
• These benefits are tangible. They come in the form of cleaner air, less congested streets and fewer traffic fatalities. In short, strong public transit makes our city and our streets more liveable and walkable. Public transit should not only be funded equally, but equitably.

• I say this unequivocally as someone whose property tax bill stands to increase as a function of the end of area rating. The issue isn't only fairness, but the ability of public transit to be funded properly without an inordinate increase in fares that would serve only as a disproportionate burden on the vulnerable.

• We have heard already, and you will continue to hear, that public transit faces challenges in Hamilton. There are 11 to 14 busses that are not currently being funded. There is a need for bus storage that isn't in the outer peripheries of the region. There is an aging fleet that will need replacing, and there is the pending Light Rail Transit which, thankfully, is being funded out of provincial coffers.

• For many in Hamilton, it is quality, affordable and reliable public transit, or it is nothing.

• As a progressive city, I think we should be looking out for one another.

(Conley/VanderBeek)
That the presentation provided by Richard Gelder, respecting Transit and Area Rating, be received.

CARRIED

(x) Patricia LeClair, City Enrichment Fund, Arts and Culture Stream (Item 5.10)

Patricia LeClair addressed Committee respecting the City Enrichment Fund, Arts and Culture Stream. Ms. LeClair’s presentation included, but was not limited to, the following:

• While the new Arts Advisory Commission has not been formalized, as the past Chair of the Arts Advisory Commission, I feel it is important to say thank you to all of you, our City Councillors, for investing in the arts. Your unanimous support for both the new arts funding program, as part of the City Enrichment Fund, along with its $500,000 injection in 2015, has been tremendous.
• The increase of monies has enabled the City to more adequately support the funding needs of our growing and successful arts community.

• Although a lot of success has been realized, there is still more work to do in the area of arts funding. The $300,000 funding investment in the arts will be critical the arts community’s future success.

• Arts and culture still continues to play a major role in why the City of Hamilton is flourishing. By adding an investment of $300,000 this year, you will be amazed at how the community will benefit as a whole.

• Again, we thank you, City Council, for your support and look forward to an even better arts funding program in the future.

(Collins/Merulla)
That the presentation provided by Patricia LeClair, respecting the City Enrichment Fund, Arts and Culture Stream, be received.

CARRIED

(xii) Keanin Loomis, President, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, Destination Marketing Fund Proposal with Tourism Hamilton (Item 5.11)

This delegation was withdrawn from the February 9, 2016 General Issues Committee Budget (GIC) agenda, as the delegate has advised that the matter is not budget related; therefore, the request has been placed on the February 17, 2016 GIC agenda.

(xii) Jeanne Mayo, HSR’s Request for Funding of 11 New Buses (Item 5.12)

Ms. Mayo addressed Committee respecting HSR’s request for funding of eleven new buses. Ms. Mayo’s presentation included, but was not limited to, the following:

• My remarks are predicated on three important reports approved by Council:
  • Rapid Ready, a five year multi-modal transportation plan approved by Hamilton City Council on February 27, 2013. The plan includes a strategy to prepare Hamilton for rapid transportation and an outline of funding requirements;
- Hamilton’s Pedestrian Mobility Plan, also approved in 2013, which aims to rebalance pedestrian and vehicular mobility on Hamilton’s streets by providing for pedestrians needs, which also includes easy access to public transit; and,

- Hamilton’s Plan for an Age-Friendly City, adopted by Council in October 2016, which underlines the need to consider the requirements of an increasing aging population when making policy decisions and, in particular, to ensure that the City’s transportation systems enable older people to participate in community life.

- In 2015, Council approved HSR fare increases with the commitment to improving service. The Senior Advisory Committee accepted the increase of fares for seniors because access to public transportation is of vital importance to seniors. Along with the fare increase, Council approved the purchase of 14 buses out of a total of 25 that are needed to meet the HSR needs at the moment. This year, HSR is requesting money to purchase the remaining 11 buses. I am here to underline the importance of approving this request. This request is made in the context of the three reports mentioned above. Council has made a commitment to public transportation, the population has accepted the fare increases and so this year Council must continue to improve and expand public transportation by approving the purchase of 11 more buses. If these buses are not provided, then Hamilton is stalled in a worsening public transit system that will take even more money in the future to fix. Council indicated its willingness to commit to improving public transit by approving the three reports. It cannot abandon the request for concrete measures to implement the policies.

- Furthermore, in approving the purchase of 11 more buses, Council must also commit to fund the request for $5 million in order to procure land and commence design work on a new Maintenance Storage Facility. The capacity to house more buses at the single Maintenance Storage Facility on the Mountain is almost at its maximum. Furthermore, the wasted time (1 hour per day) for buses to travel to and from this facility will be greatly reduced by adding a second one in the lower City. Again, if the decision not to fund the preliminary planning for a second Maintenance Storage Facility is taken, the negative impact on improving public transit will be felt, wasted time in transporting buses to their respective routes and in the long run, the delay in purchase of more buses because of lack to storage facility.
• In conclusion, I would like to state that I understand the pressures on Councillors to fund all requests and the desire of residents not to have their taxes increased. However, Councillors must make decisions taking into consideration the broader picture and always striving to increase the well-being of the residents.

• Taking concrete measures to improve public transit are consistent with the broader picture Councillors had when the three plans, Rapid Ready, Pedestrian Mobility and Hamilton’s Plan for an Age-Friendly City were approved. Continuing to commit to improving public transit will improve the well-being of all its residents now and in the future.

(Collins/Merulla)
That the presentation provided by Jeanne Mayo, respecting HSR’s request for the funding of eleven new buses, be received.

CARRIED

(xiii) Don Jaffray, Social Planning and Research Council, 2016 Budget (Item 5.13)

Don Jaffray, Social Planning and Research Council, addressed Committee respecting the 2016 Budget. Mr. Jaffray’s presentation included, but was not limited to, the following:

• Funding of the social housing repair backlog leads to a better quality of life and health outcomes for our lowest income residents.

• City funding is focussed on preventing homelessness such as the Trustee Program, the Notre Dame Youth Resource Centre and the YWCA Transitional Housing Program.

• Waterfront development, as adopted by Council, states that 25% of land should be set aside for affordable housing, but the City has not yet taken action to follow through.

• The point of a budget is not to get to just a zero tax increase, it is also to allocate scarce resources to achieve the goals you set for yourself.

• These can be achieved both by prioritizing spending and making other policy decisions that support these goals.

• A target to reduce the social housing waitlist by 50% by 2023 has been set, but is trending upwards.
• The lowest income households pay the highest proportion of income towards shelter costs, although they are at the highest risks of homelessness due to lack of affordable housing.

• Transit users are already paying twice to access HSR service: by paying the fare and paying property taxes.

• Area rating of property taxes by the former municipality means that higher income households in Hamilton’s suburbs contributed to an even smaller amount to transit as they do to other municipal services.

• Because of the regressive nature of property taxes, it is important that any property tax increases improve services and programs that directly benefit the lowest income households.

• SPRC has recently attended both Provincial and Federal budget hearings, and have advocated for increased funding by higher levels of government into housing, transit and other priority infrastructure.

• SPRC’s mission is to improve the quality of life for all citizens, and to ensure access to opportunities for those who have been marginalized.

(Farr/VanderBeek)
That the presentation provided by Don Jaffray, Social Planning and Research Council, respecting the 2016 Budget, be received.

CARRIED

A full copy of Mr. Jaffray’s handout is available on the City’s website at www.hamilton.ca or through the Office of the City Clerk.

(xiv) Denise Arkell and Clare Wagner, Neighbour to Neighbour Centre, respecting Public Health Services, Healthy Living Division’s Enhancement for Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention (Item 5.14)

Denise Arkell and Clare Wagner, of the Neighbour to Neighbour Centre, addressed Committee respecting Public Health Services, Healthy Living Division’s Enhancement for Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention. Their presentation included, but was not limited to, the following:

• Neighbour to Neighbour Center has been meeting the issues of food security head on for 30 years.
• Began as a small food bank and has evolved into an indispensable part of Hamilton’s social fabric.

• Has worked in a leadership role for two decades on city-wide food and poverty prevention.

• Partnered with the Boards of Education, Tastebuds and Public Health on the Edible Education Program and Guide; a resource now accessible to every teacher in the city that connects children with learning opportunities around healthy, locally produced food.

• The Community Food Centres of Canada awarded Neighbour to Neighbour as a partner in the National Community Food Centre model, and is giving the Hamilton community an investment of over $1,000,000 to build a new community food centre under the leadership of Neighbour to Neighbour.

• Community Food Centres go beyond the emergency assistance that a food bank is able to provide by offering a host of other services such as engaging people from low income communities in order to build health, hope, skills and community.

• Community Food Centres are resourced to ensure consistency of service and quality of food.

• The new facility will have:
  - A community kitchen that will serve meals and act as a resource to teach community members about healthy meal preparation.
  - A community garden that will yield fresh produce.
  - After school sessions and summer camps for children and youth.
  - Affordable fresh food markets.
  - Fitness and health education programs.
  - A community bake oven that will serve as a hub for social events and gatherings.
  - Community advocacy offices connecting people with tools and skills to have a voice on the issues affecting them most, such as housing and social assistance.
• The Community Food Centre (CFC) is:
   Not a Band-Aid Solution;
   Focuses on Impact;
   Reduces Stigma;
   Reasonably Resourced;
   Seeks Larger Change; and,
   Prioritizes Impact Evaluation

• Core program areas bring people together to grow, cook, share, and advocate for good food.

• Healthy Food Access: Community Meals, Healthy Food Bank, Affordable Produce Markets and Bake Ovens

• Healthy Food Skills: Community Kitchens, Community and School Gardens, Perinatal Programs and After-School Programs

• Education & Engagement: Advocacy Office, Community Action, Public Education and Policy Campaigns

• National Support, Investment and Proven Results

• Partnerships bring momentum, expertise, networking, and events:
   HCGN, Edible Ed, Restaurants for Change, Mobile Markets
   Potential Staff and Volunteer Training and Sharing
   McQuesten Farm Committee, City Housing, NHCHC, Rygiel Homes, SPRC, St. Josephs, Farms and Restaurants

• Neighbour to Neighbours programs align with the strategies that are being put forward by many initiatives such as the Hamilton Food Summit, Hamilton Food Strategy, Public Health Services and Neighbourhood Action Strategies.

(Green/VanderBeek)
That the presentation provided by Denise Arkell and Clare Wagner, Neighbour to Neighbour Centre, respecting Public Health Services, Healthy Living Division’s Enhancement for Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention, be received.

CARRIED

A full copy of the PowerPoint presentation is available on the City’s website at www.hamilton.ca or through the Office of the City Clerk.
(xv) Don McLean, 2016 Budget (Item 5.15)

Mr. McLean addressed Committee respecting the 2016 Budget. Mr. McLean’s presentation included, but was not limited to, the following:

- Comparing Transit Growth Ridership Increase 2006-2014
- Unbalanced Use of Levy
- Support the funding requested by HSR for buses and initial work on maintenance and storage facility.
- Paying for Expansion:
  - Amended Provincial Development Charges Legislation would Provide Significant Increase In Transit Funding
  - Automatic 10% Deduction Eliminated
  - Maximum Not Limited by Existing Service Levels
  - Must Consider Variable Development Charges – Discourage Sprawl, and Encourage Densification
  - Currently Losing an Average of $16,000,000 a Year, $11,000,000 Downtown Alone in 2014
- Dedicated Transit Funds Available:
  - Additional capital expenditures over the next 8 years can all be covered by federal gas tax payments to Hamilton.
  - An environmental fund started by Paul Martin and specifically earmarked to help cities reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
  - Remaining capital needs of $225 million
  - $29 million/year X 8 years = $232 million
- The referred items for the eleven new buses and maintenance/storage facility for buses need to be supported. However, the storage facility price tag could use some refining and will need more space to accommodate for future growth.
- Lots of places have a separate transit levy rate for urban and suburban area. If tax rates in some areas are lower, the services are lower.

- If you are doing variable DC charges, perhaps you can look at a variable parkland dedication fees as well. Charge the fees for growth that are commensurate with the area in which that growth is taking place.

(Green/Partridge)
That the presentation provided by Don McLean, respecting the 2016 Budget, be received.

CARRIED

A full copy of the PowerPoint presentation is available on the City’s website at www.hamilton.ca or through the Office of the City Clerk.

(xvi) Marsha Duncan, Public Transit (Item 5.16)

Ms. Duncan addressed Committee, respecting Public Transit. The presentation included, but was not limited to, the following:

- Ms. Duncan was in attendance to provide a first person experience of how the east/west lower City B-line bus is currently working for riders, as well as a couple of other observations with lower city bus services.

- There are still problems with transit.

- In full support of Mr. Dixon’s proposal for 11 new buses and a maintenance / storage facility.

- I am here to put a face on what happens when you’re taking the bus. I constantly take the bus all over the city and use the B-line during peak hours. It is very crowded in the morning and I often have to figure out how to get to the back 5 seats.

- It feels like you’re in a mosh pit – when you get in the center where the articulate part of the bus is, there’s nothing to hang onto.

- It is really important that we get the additional buses.

- If we are getting LRT, we don’t have a very good north-south connection in the lower city.
• We need the buses because people won’t take transit if it’s not comfortable.

(Conley/B. Johnson)
That the presentation provided by Marsha Duncan, respecting Public Transit, be received.

CARRIED

(xvii) Claire Lougheed, Dundas Valley School of Art, 2016 Budget Allocations (Item 5.17)

• The City Enrichment Fund was a fundamental game changer – it gave us the power of yes.

• We would like to thank you for how you are fundamentally changing the model for local arts organizations.

• The impacts of the increase to the Dundas Valley School of Art’s 2015 operating budget through the City Enrichment Fund are as follows:
  • Provided the School with a modest operating surplus for the end of the year.
  • Allowed the School to increase postage and printing costs, which led to increased registration figures and income.
  • Added the School’s first ever marketing and communications specialist.
  • Re-branded the School including the development of a new website that is fully AODA compliant, and a new social media presence.
  • Replacement of dated technology, which has created a more secure environment for student, donor and financial records,
  • Replacement of equipment to upgrade and update resources for students.
  • Added a professional development workshop series.
  • Added free artist and curator talks.
  • Added a master class international artist series of workshops.
• Launched the Little Black Frame event to replace the Estate sale resulting in a significant increase in revenues.

• Transferred the Estate Sale fundraiser to the Dundas Museum.

• Increased revenue by up to 8 times.

• Developed Winterblooms with Mohawk College, the Dundas Museum and Carnegie Gallery, pairing art and artifacts with floral displays in this free four-day event celebrating walkable communities.

• Revised our Business Plan to include sharing our space with other organizations including Lawson Ministries’ STRIVE Paparella Innovative Art program, and new art therapy service programs with the Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton, Hamilton Housing, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, among others.

• Grants, sponsorships, registrations and income are all up.

• We are increasing the number of bursaries offered, our presence at local festivals and events and can now afford to take some risks and better test the market.

• We are learning where we can grow and what the DVSA’s potential is, and are better set to serve the community and succeed.

(VanderBeek/B. Johnson)
That the presentation provided by Claire Lougheed, Dundas Valley School of Art, 2016 Budget Allocations, be received.

CARRIED

(xviii) Dave Cherkewski, HSR Budget, 10-Year Transit Plan and Area Rating of Transit (Item 5.18)

Mr. Cherkewski addressed Committee respecting the HSR Budget, the 10-Year Transit Plan and the Area Rating of Transit. Mr. Cherkewski’s presentation included, but was not limited to, the following:

• In support of the staff recommendation for eleven new HRS buses and a new maintenance/storage facility in the lower city.

• In 2024, we will have our new LRT and the HSR system will need to adapt.
• We need to get a staff report on the area rating for transit issues and get that matter resolved.

(Partridge/Ferguson)
That the presentation provided by Dave Cherkewski, respecting the HSR Budget, the 10-Year Transit Plan and Area Rating of Transit, be received.  
CARRIED

(xix)  Alain H. Bureau, Hamilton LRT Resident Advocacy Group (Item 5.19)

Mr. Bureau addressed Committee respecting LRT. Mr. Bureau’s presentation included, but was not limited to, the following:

• Is part of the Hamilton LRT Residency Group, which is concerned that, although the Transportation Master Plan and the Rapid Ready Plan were adopted as a framework for policy, the recommendations regarding the Transportation Master Plan are falling back and not meeting the targets.

• Implementation for such things as increased service standards and ridership are both required for the success of implementation of LRT.

• Ridership is currently dismal – Canadian ridership is up 26.4%, Niagara Regional is experiencing a 604% increase, Hamilton is projected to come in at a possible decrease of 4%, while Brampton ridership is up by 101% (using 9 year statistics).

• Bogota, Columbia ridership has increased by almost 4-digit percentiles.

• If we don’t move forward with this fast enough, we will always be trying to catch up – and won’t have the ridership.

• We must prepare for our future generations and our future needs. We need to be able to walk, and to use the GO Station and the current 2016 budget does not address these matters.

• There is a responsibility of City Council to invest our tax dollars for a better future.

(Conley/B. Johnson)
That the presentation provided by Alain H. Bureau, Hamilton LRT Resident Advocacy Group, be received.  
CARRIED
(xx) **Moaz Ahmad, of Mississauga respecting LRT and Transit (Item 5.20)**

Mr. Ahmad addressed Committee respecting LRT and Transit matters. Mr. Ahmad’s presentation included, but was not limited to, the following:

- Mr. Ahmad is concerned that the City is not going to make the necessary investments to be LRT or Rapid Ready.
- The City needs to show the public that transit is available and make a significant effort to properly brand local transit.
- There is a parallel between investment and ridership growth, such as in Brampton with the Zoom Network.
- Mr. Ahmad has a sister who lives in Hamilton and he wants the City to have good transit for her.
- There are many examples of success, such as the Blast Network – methods that connect people with transit.

(Merulla/Pearson)
That the presentation provided by Moaz Ahmad, of Mississauga respecting LRT and Transit, be received.  

CARRIED

(d) **GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS (Item 9)**

(i) **Written Submissions respecting the 2016 Budget Process (Item 9.1)**

(a) Anne Vallentin and Elizabeth Seidl, Crown Point Residents, respecting the Development of an Urban Forest Strategic Plan

(b) Correspondence from Dr. Myles Sergeant, President of Trees for Hamilton, respecting the Importance of Trees for Human Health

(c) Correspondence from John Boddy, respecting Parking Permit and Time Limit Exemption Fees

(d) Correspondence from Gord Baker, respecting the 2016 Budget

(e) Correspondence Deborah Welland, President of the Hamilton Branch for the Canadian Federation of University Women
(B. Johnson/VanderBeek)
That the written submissions, respecting the 2016 Budget Process and listed as Items 9.1(a) to 9.1(e), be received.
CARRIED

(e) ADJOURNMENT (Item 10)

(VanderBeek/Partridge)
That, there being no further business, the General Issues Committee Budget meeting, be adjourned at 6:28 p.m.
CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Deputy Mayor T. Whitehead
Chair, General Issues Committee

Stephanie Paparella
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk