



MINUTES

BUDGET COMMITTEE

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

www.mississauga.ca

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2009 – 9:10 AM

COUNCIL CHAMBER, 2nd FLOOR, CIVIC CENTRE
300 CITY CENTRE DRIVE, MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO L5B 3C1

PRESENT: Mayor Hazel McCallion (Chair)

Councillor Carmen Corbasson	Ward 1
Councillor Pat Mullin	Ward 2
Councillor Frank Dale	Ward 4
Councillor Eve Adams	Ward 5
Councillor Carolyn Parrish	Ward 6
Councillor Nando Iannicca	Ward 7
Councillor Katie Mahoney	Ward 8
Councillor Pat Saito	Ward 9
Councillor Sue McFadden	Ward 10
Councillor George Carlson	Ward 11

ABSENT: Councillor Maja Prentice Ward 3

STAFF: Janice Baker, City Manager & Chief Administrative Officer
Martin Powell, Commissioner, Transportation and Works
Joe Pitushka, Director of Engineering and Works
Geoff Wright, Director of the Transportation Project Office
Wendy Alexander, Director of Transportation and Infrastructure Planning
Geoff Marinoff, Director of Mississauga Transit
Elaine Buckstein, Director of Enforcement
Ed Sajecki Commissioner, Planning and Building
Paul Mitcham, Commissioner, Community Services
Brenda Breault, Commissioner, Corporate Services & Treasurer
Patti Elliott-Spencer, Director of Finance, Corporate Services
Jeff Jackson, Director of Revenue and Materiel Management, Corporate Services
Grant Bivol, Manager of Legislative Services & Deputy Clerk
Karin Ann Brent, Legislative Coordinator, Office of the City Clerk

INDEX – BUDGET COMMITTEE – NOVEMBER 9, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

DECLARATIONS OF (DIRECT OR INDIRECT) PECUNIARY INTEREST

DEPUTATIONS

- A Operating Budget Update & 2010 – 2019 Preliminary Capital
presented by Patti Elliott-Spencer, Director of Finance

- B Roads, Storm Drainage and Water Courses
presented by:
Joe Pitushka, Director of Engineering and Works
Geoff Wright, Director, Transportation Project Office
Wendy Alexander, Director of Transportation and Infrastructure Planning

- C Mississauga Transit
presented by Geoff Marinoff, Director of Mississauga Transit &
Geoff Wright, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), Director, Transportation Project Office

- D Regulatory Services
presented by Elaine Buckstein, Director of Enforcement

MATTERS CONSIDERED

- 1. Driveway Windrow Removal

- 2. Establishment of the Project Management Support Office

- 3. Tax Rebate for Low-Income Seniors and Low-Income Persons with Disabilities

CLOSED SESSION - Nil

ADJOURNMENT

CALL TO ORDER – 9:10am

DECLARATIONS OF (DIRECT OR INDIRECT) PECUNIARY INTEREST - Nil

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Councillor Katie Mahoney)

With concurrence of Committee, Councillor Katie Mahoney moved that staff be directed to report back to Budget Committee with information on the cost and funding source(s) for the pending Judicial Inquiry directed by Council (Resolution 0222-2009 Council 30 September 2009).

Directive (Councillor Katie Mahoney)
Recommendation BC-0028-2009
FA.19

DEPUTATIONS

A Operating Budget Update & 2010 – 2019 Preliminary Capital

Patti Elliott-Spencer, Director of Finance gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the operating budget for 2010 and the preliminary capital forecast for the years 2010 through 2019.

Mayor Hazel McCallion discussed the projected local tax increase, and further, questioned the Metrolinx projects and \$26.5 million being budgeted for the purchase of hybrid transit buses. Commissioner of Transportation and Works Martin Powell advised that the \$26.5 million has been received and that Council has already approved the purchase of those buses. Mrs. Elliott-Spencer noted that only the Provincial and Federal gas tax revenue is sustainable. Mrs. Baker explained that Region of Peel Council annually decides about the referral of gas tax to the local municipalities.

Responding to the further question by Mayor Hazel McCallion about the bridge rehabilitation to meet Provincial standards and related funding requirements, Mr. Powell advised that Transportation and Works is preparing a report regarding bridge maintenance and related funding requirements and that is incorporated into annual capital reserves.

B Roads, Storm Drainage and Water Courses

Joe Pitushka, Director of Engineering and Works gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the budget requirements for roads, and explained the transportation master plan is in progress for completion in 2010. Mayor Hazel McCallion suggested that traffic congestion in the east quadrant of the city (Dixie and Kennedy Roads) needs to be addressed, to which Mr. Pitushka advised that staff are monitoring thirteen locations.

DEPUTATION B Roads, Storm Drainage and Water Courses cont'd...

Further, Mr. Pitushka advised that curb cuts and related restoration work is now being addressed through a permit process to ensure that the work is done to city standards. In response to the question by Mayor McCallion, Mr. Pitushka advised that leaf pick up started on October 19th and will be done until the 8th of December 2009.

Geoff Wright, Director, Transportation Project Office reviewed the budget proposed for transportation and infrastructure planning as well as the municipal parking program. Mayor McCallion questioned the labour reduction presented under the topic of municipal parking. Mr. Wright advised that the position of Parking Manager is proposed for removal for re-introduction in future to be funded by parking revenues.

Responding to Mayor McCallion's comments, Mr. Powell advised that the changes for the business impacts should not create a significant adjustment, noting Council's decision to implement paid parking at the City Centre precinct parking facilities in 2011.

Wendy Alexander, Director of Transportation and Infrastructure Planning presented the budget request for 2010 and ten year capital forecast, and reviewed the cost pressures and increasing program demands.

Councillor Pat Saito questioned whether the Corporate Policy and Procedure regarding noise attenuation walls has been revised. Commissioner of Transportation and Works Martin Powell advised that staff are preparing a Corporate Report to seek Council's direction regarding reimbursing the residents who have had noise attenuation walls constructed through a Local Improvement program, as a result of receiving infrastructure funding, noting that future needs are not addressed in the current budget request or the infrastructure fund. Mrs. Alexander advised that the Corporate Report targeted to be presented to General Committee in November 2009 will explain the review of the subject walls and funding in future years. Councillor Katie Mahoney opined that the noise attenuation walls are not required for all properties and questioned funding them through municipal taxation the same is done for roads and bridges that benefit all municipal constituents. Carolyn Parrish expressed concern for the negative aesthetic impact of walls that require repair.

C Mississauga Transit

Geoff Marinoff, Director of Mississauga Transit presented the budget requirements for Mississauga Transit and reviewed the reduction of ridership resulting from the recent recession, and staff's review indicates the reduction relates to work related trips. Mayor McCallion questioned how Mississauga Transit compares to other systems operated in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and GO Transit. Mr. Marinoff explained that GO Transit operates at 90% of its fare revenues as it only operates during peak commuting times. Responding to Mayor McCallion's question about reducing service during off-hour times, Mr. Marinoff referenced the Corporate Report presented in 2008 which reviewed the routes that could be reduced during off-hour times and that another report will be presented in 2010, noting that people rely on Transit operating to transport them to and from work.

DEPUTATION C Mississauga Transit cont'd...

Councillor Eve Adams questioned whether the level of service such as “limited stop” service, is impacting ridership levels, and addressed the need to have transit made available to encourage residents to use buses instead of cars. Further, Councillor Adams questioned the schedule for interior cleaning of the buses, to which Mr. Marinoff advised that twenty to thirty days is the usual scheduled, noting that construction at the Central Parkway facility has precluded regular cleaning of buses assigned to Malton’s Routes due to staff assignments for shuttling buses for fuelling, noting that that this will improve in 2010 when the second fuelling line is activated at when the facility at Central Parkway is completed. Councillor Adams questioned the winter preparations of buses for such things as heating, to which Mr. Marinoff responded that older buses may require heater repair from time to time. Commissioner of Transportation and Works Martin Powell noted that the construction for expansion of the Transit facilities has temporarily complicated Transit fuelling and maintenance operations.

Councillor Frank Dale questioned whether a direct route to Humber College is being contemplated. Mr. Marinoff recognized the current routing to that campus, and noted that in March 2010, a “limited stop” service will be implemented along that route which should improve the travel time.

Further, Councillor Dale also questioned how much of the \$3.00 fare is subsidized by the taxpayer to which Mr. Marinoff reviewed the chart showing the cost efficiency for 2008, 2009 and projected for 2010. Councillor Dale and Mr. Marinoff discussed the express service routes and marketing the respective routes to encourage ridership. Councillor Dale concluded his comments opining that the cleanliness of transit buses is needed to encourage people to regularly use transit.

Mayor McCallion referenced a survey done by Woodlands Secondary School that showed where its graduates are attending post-secondary education and questioned whether Transit staff had similar data for route planning. Mr. Marinoff replied that other data is used to determine service on the Transit routes serving the University of Toronto in Mississauga (UTM) and the local college campuses and that these have high ridership.

Geoff Wright, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), Director, Transportation Project Office presented the budget issues related to the Bus Rapid Transit project. Mayor McCallion advised that she has referred a request to Minister John Baird to enquire what funding might be made available to assist with Transit system improvements, and spoke to the allocation of funding from the upper tier governments be issued according to their priority list.

D Regulatory Services

Elaine Buckstein, Director of Enforcement reviewed the budget needs for regulatory services in 2010.

Councillor Carolyn Parrish acknowledged that the tow truck industry operations in Mississauga are improving, and also acknowledged the efficient work of Animal Services.

MATTERS CONSIDERED1. Driveway Windrow Removal

Corporate Report dated November 2, 2009 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works presenting the results of an ad hoc review and formulation of a program to provide removal of snow windrows from residential driveways, to assist senior adults and persons with disabilities, as directed by Budget Committee at its meeting on October 20, 2009 (BC-0027-2009).

RECOMMENDATION

1. That an additional \$500,000.00 be allocated to the 2010 Winter Maintenance Operating Budget to allow for a City-wide pilot to remove snow windrows from driveways for older adults and people who are physically disabled to run from January 4, 2010 to March 26, 2010 and to fund continuation of the program the following season subject to Council approval.
2. That the driveway snow windrow removal program be limited to persons 65 years or older and people who are physically disabled as verified by a regulated health professional.
3. That those persons who are 65 years or older and people who are physically disabled as verified by a regulated health professional who qualify with the financial requirements of the City's Active Assist Program, receive this service at no charge.
4. That those persons who are 65 years or older and the people who are physically disabled as verified by a regulated health professional who do not qualify under the financial requirements of the City's Active Assist Program, have the service available at a cost of \$120.00 for the duration of the pilot program.
5. That the City's pilot Driveway Windrow Removal Program be limited to 2,500 residences who qualify under the Active Assist Program and limited to 1,000 residences who do not qualify under the Active Assist Program, on a first come, first serve basis.
6. That the Commissioner of Transportation and Works report back to General Committee upon conclusion of the pilot Driveway Windrow Removal Program with recommendations for future winter seasons.

Councillor Pat Saito advised that the limited time for reporting back on this matter precluded participation by Region of Peel Social Services staff, and that additional funding through the residential tax bill will be required for assistance to seniors and disabled persons, and referenced the recommendation that will allow homeowners to pay for this service from January 1st to March 31st in the year 2010. Further, Councillor Saito confirmed that the proposed windrow removal program will not replace the \$200.00 per season program currently available to senior homeowners.

(1.)

Councillor Saito opined that the number of applicants wishing this service is unknown and therefore the cost may be different from the estimate, and subsequently moved approval of the recommendation in the subject Corporate Report.

Councillor Eve Adams advised her concurrence with implementing the recommended windrow removal program and suggested that advertisement of its availability be done after Council considers the matter on November 11, 2009, noting that application can be made through the Connect2Rec program through the City's web site. Councillor Adams expressed thanks to Councillors Saito and Prentice for their participation on the review committee struck to consider the formulation of the proposed assistance program, and also The Mississauga News for their news articles about snow windrows.

Councillor Carolyn Parrish congratulated the Councillors who worked on formulating the proposed program and opined that Region of Peel staff needs to be involved to provide some assistance with funding. Further, Councillor Parrish questioned limiting the proposed pay-for-service component of the proposed program to 1,000 houses in regard to taking a neighbourhood approach for delivery of the service. Commissioner of Transportation and Works Martin Powell advised that many residents want to have their driveways cleared of snow as well as windrow service and that staff will report back on the results of 2010 pilot program at which time changes can be considered. Director of Engineering and Works Joe Pitushka advised that review of the pilot project will include the administrative requirements such as staff time for processing the applications, as well as equipment and operator needs for the service.

Councillor George Carlson questioned clearing only a ten foot width of the windrow in regard to wider driveways and senior adults and disabled persons needing assistance to clear their entire driveway of snow.

Councillor Pat Mullin questioned the Corporate Report indicating a \$200.00 per season cost for windrow clearing, versus the recommended pilot program fee of \$120.00 for the pay-for-service component. Commissioner of Transportation and Works Martin Powell explained that the fee is for the 2010 pilot project, and future fee rates would require review and approval.

Councillor Pat Saito moved approval of the recommendation in the subject Corporate Report.

Approved (Councillor Pat Saito)
Recommendation BC-0029-2009
FA.19 / RT.20

2. Establishment of the Project Management Support Office

Corporate Report dated October 20, 2009 from the City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer seeking approval to establish a Project Management Support Office.

(2.) RECOMMENDATION

That the report entitled “Establishment of the Project Management Support Office” dated October 20, 2009 from the City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer be received for information and referred to the 2010 Budget with no increase in the 2010 net levy as funding is to be provided from future Capital projects.

Approved (Councillor Nando Iannicca)
Recommendation BC-0030-2009
CA.11.PRO

3. Tax Rebate for Low-Income Seniors and Low-Income Persons with Disabilities

Corporate Report dated November 4, 2009 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer seeking direction regarding the provision of tax rebates for low-income senior residents or low-income residents with disabilities.

RECOMMENDATION

That Budget Committee provide direction to staff regarding their support for a Tax Rebate for Low-Income Seniors and Low-Income Persons with Disabilities as outlined in the report dated November 4, 2009 of the Commissioner of Corporate Services & Treasurer, to be funded through an increase to the tax levy and included in the 2010 budget.

Mayor Hazel McCallion advised that this matter was being discussed by Region of Peel Council, and suggested that the tax rebate delivery by the region and local municipalities in Peel should be coordinated. Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer Brenda Breault advised that Finance staff from the Region and local municipalities have met to discuss this issue. Director of Revenue and Materiel Management Jeff Jackson advised that Region of Peel staff have advised they intend to submit a Report regarding a common delivery plan for the consideration of Region of Peel Council in December 2009.

Subsequently, Councillor Carolyn Parrish moved that consideration of the matter in the Corporate Report dated November 4, 2009 and titled “Tax Rebate for Low-Income Seniors and Low-Income Persons with Disabilities” from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer, be deferred pending the results of Peel Regional Council’s consideration of this matter.

Deferred (Councillor Carolyn Parrish)
Recommendation BC-0031-2009
FA.08.LOW

CLOSED SESSION - Nil

ADJOURNMENT – 12:33 PM

REPORT 7-2009

TO: THE MAYOR & MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The Budget Committee presents its seventh report for 2009 and recommends:

BC-0028-2009

That staff be directed to report back to Budget Committee with information on the cost and funding source(s) for the pending Judicial Inquiry directed by Council (Resolution 0222-2009 Council 30 September 2009).

FA.19

BC-0029-2009

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FA.19 / RT.20

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CA.11.PRO

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FA.08.LOW