



MINUTES

BUDGET COMMITTEE

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015 – 9:05 AM

COUNCIL CHAMBER

SECOND FLOOR, CIVIC CENTRE

300 CITY CENTRE DRIVE, MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO, L5B 3C1

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MEMBERS PRESENT	Mayor Bonnie Crombie	(CHAIR)
	Councillor Jim Tovey	Ward 1
	Councillor Karen Ras	Ward 2
	Councillor Chris Fonseca	Ward 3
	Councillor Carolyn Parrish	Ward 5
	Councillor Ron Starr	Ward 6
	Councillor Nando Iannicca	Ward 7
	Councillor Matt Mahoney	Ward 8
	Councillor Pat Saito	Ward 9
	Councillor George Carlson	Ward 11
MEMBERS ABSENT	Councillor Sue McFadden	Ward 10 (As per Resolution 0009-2015)
STAFF PRESENT	Janice Baker, City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer Gary Kent, Commissioner, Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer Ed Sajecki, Commissioner, Planning and Building Martin Powell, Commissioner, Transportation and Works Paul Mitcham, Commissioner, Community Services Craig Millar, Director Finance and Treasurer Crystal Greer, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk Diana Rusnov, Manager, Legislative Services and Deputy Clerk Sacha Smith, Legislative Coordinator, Office of the City Clerk	

The order of the agenda was changed during the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER - 9:05 AM

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST - Nil

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Crombie advised that Gerald Russell, resident would like to be added to the agenda as a deputant.

Amended (Councillor Iannicca)

DEPUTATIONS

C. Gerald Russell, Resident with respect to transit.

Mr. Russell spoke to the operations of transit, transit fares and the current rates of usage of the food banks in Mississauga. Members of Committee spoke to the matter and noted looking at assistance for low income transit riders.

Received (Councillor Iannicca)

Recommendation BC-0028-2015

A. Chris Mackie and Dorothy Tomiuk, MIRANET with respect to the 2015 City's Budget.

Ms. Tomiuk and Mr. Mackie spoke to MIRANET'S 2015 Budget Overview on the operating and capital budgets, and public engagement. On behalf of MIRANET, Ms. Tomiuk and Mr. Mackie requested a public question period for Budget Committee meetings, public educational sessions and suggested an external management audit to determine if the current mode provides the best operational efficiency. Ms. Tomiuk and Mr. Mackie spoke to MIRANET'S recommendations for the City budget.

Janice Baker, City Manager, Martin Powell, Commissioner, Transportation and Works and Paul Mitcham, Commissioner, Community Services spoke to MIRANET'S recommendations concerning the LRT funding, FTE secondments, Fire Services, Stormwater Management Program and Forestry.

Members of Committee spoke to the matter and noted the importance of an art gallery in the City Centre, the replanting of trees, exploring more volunteer opportunities in the City, LRT funding and salaries.

Received (Councillor Starr)

Recommendation BC-0029-2015

- B. Item 2 Adaoma Patterson, Advisor, Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy, Region of Peel and Anita Stellinga, Co-chair, Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee

Ms. Stellinga presented statistics on poverty in the Region of Peel and the transportation impact on individuals and families. Ms. Patterson explained the affordable transit pilot in Peel which is a partnership between the Region of Peel and the City of Mississauga.

In response to questions from members of Committee, Ms. Patterson clarified the profile of participants, pilot program budget constraints, criteria for participation in the pilot program and how success would be measured.

RECOMMENDATION

That the deputation by Adaoma Patterson, Advisor, Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy, Region of Peel and Anita Stellinga, Co-chair, Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee with respect to poverty in the Region of Peel and the transportation subsidy pilot, be received for information.

Received (Councillor Starr)

Recommendation BC-0030-2015

RECOMMENDATION

That the following information items regarding the seniors discount transit fare options be received:

- a) Email dated January 30, 2015 from Daven Seebarran, Executive Director, Seva Food Bank
- b) Letter received February 2, 2015 from Patrick Cullen, Chair of the Board of the Compass
- c) Letter received February 2, 2015 from Elisabeth McGregor, Intake Worker/Social Worker, The Compass

Received (Councillor Mahoney)

Recommendation BC-0031-2015

MATTERS CONSIDERED1. 2015 Budget Engagement Results

Corporate Report dated January 27, 2015 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer with respect to 2015 budget engagement results.

Councillor Saito spoke to the budget engagement results and suggested that in future the budget engagement should include more details on if spending was increased or decreased what could be achieved.

RECOMMENDATION

That the 2015 Budget Engagement Results report dated January 27, 2015 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer be received for information.

Received (Councillor Iannicca)
Recommendation BC-0032-2015

2. Seniors Discount Transit Fare Options

Corporate Report dated January 27, 2015 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works with respect to seniors discount transit fare options.

Councillor Parrish spoke to the feasibility of free transit for food bank users and carrying food bank bags or other discreet ways of notifying the bus driver for a free ride. Martin Powell, Commissioner, Transportation and Works clarified that there are no restrictions with respect to the number of bags that can be carried onto a bus.

In response to questions from Councillor Saito, Geoff Marinoff, Director, Transit explained that Presto Cards could be reconfigured for another fare category, however for senior and student fares appropriate identification would be required. He further noted that with respect to transit transfers from food banks, if the City decides to change the transfer window it would impact fare revenues. In terms of giving a food bank a stamp for extra time on transit transfers, it could be feasible; however the challenge is the controls with the stamp.

Direction was given to staff to meet with the food banks to discuss the issue of extending the transfer times, even on a trial basis. In addition, staff should review with the Region of Peel the feasibility of reduced transit fares for low income residents on a cost sharing basis. Janice Baker, City Manager noted that staff could work within the Region of Peel's pilot program model effectively. She noted that staff could convene a meeting with the food banks to discuss some of the issues and create a program that works.

Councillor Tovey requested that there be a place holder in the budget for this matter. Ms. Baker advised that it is possible, but noted it would be ok at this point with the intent as there are no definite costs available.

In response to questions from Committee with respect to the stroller policy on transit buses, Mr. Powell and Mr. Marinoff explained the stroller policy and noted that a specific complaint regarding a woman who was denied boarding with a stroller would be investigated.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the report entitled "Seniors Discount Transit Fare Options" dated January 27, 2015 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works be received for information.
2. That the City initiate discussions with the Region of Peel to expand the existing transportation subsidy pilot program for low-income residents and seniors on a cost-sharing basis and that staff be directed to arrange a meeting with the stakeholders.

Amended/Approved (Councillor Saito)

Recommendation BC-0033-2015

3. Budget Committee – February 3rd - Supplementary Information

Memorandum dated January 27, 2015 from the Commissioner of Community Services providing supplementary information in reference to questions raised at Budget Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That the memorandum dated January 27, 2015 from the Commissioner of Community Services providing supplementary information in reference to questions raised at Budget Committee, be received for information.

Received (Councillor Iannicca)

Recommendation BC-0034-2015

4. Budget Committee Deliberations

In response to a question regarding the funding for the Mayor's Office, Janice Baker, City Manager explained that Council approved the allocation in 2014 and there is an additional request for \$100,000 for 2015 to fund FTE.

In response to a question regarding the individual levy amounts, Gary Kent, Commissioner, Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer confirmed that levies for the Emerald Ash Borer, UTM and Debt Repayment Levy are included. It was requested that levies be separated for the motion.

In response to a question regarding the PILT from UTM, Mr. Kent advised that it is \$384,000 annually.

RECOMMENDATION

That the recommendations regarding the 2015 City budget be referred to Council for consideration on February 11, 2015.

Referred (Councillor Saito)

Recommendation BC-0035-2015

CLOSED SESSION – Nil

ADJOURNMENT – 12:10 PM