



# MINUTES

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## BUDGET COMMITTEE

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

[www.mississauga.ca](http://www.mississauga.ca)

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2009 – 1:04 PM**

COUNCIL CHAMBER, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Maja Prentice Ward 3  
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: Nil

STAFF: Janice Baker, City Manager & Chief Administrative Officer  
Martin Powell, Commissioner, Transportation and Works  
Geoff Marinoff, Director of Transit  
Ed Sajecki Commissioner, Planning and Building  
Paul Mitcham, Commissioner, Community Services  
Brenda Breault, Commissioner, Corporate Services & Treasurer  
Gary Kent, Acting Director of Finance, Corporate Services Department  
Crystal Greer, Director, Legislative Services & City Clerk  
Grant Bivol, Manager, Legislative Services & Deputy Clerk  
Karin Ann Brent, Legislative Coordinator, Office of the City Clerk

INDEX – BUDGET COMMITTEE – SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

DECLARATIONS OF (DIRECT OR INDIRECT) PECUNIARY INTEREST

DEPUTATIONS

- A     2010 Business Plan and Budget Update  
      by Gary Kent, Acting Director, Finance

MATTERS CONSIDERED

1.     Mississauga Transit – 2009 Farebox Revenue Update  
      2010-2012 Service Plans and Provincial Gas Tax Reserve Fund Forecast
2.     Building Permit and Development Application Revenue
3.     Request for Information on Citizen Value Measurement (CVM) Survey

CLOSED SESSION - Nil

(Pursuant to Subsection 239(2) of the *Ontario Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended)

ADJOURNMENT

CALL TO ORDER – 1:04 PM

DECLARATIONS OF (DIRECT OR INDIRECT) PECUNIARY INTEREST - Nil

APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Approved

DEPUTATIONS

A 2010 Business Plan and Budget Update

Gary Kent, Acting Director of Finance gave a PowerPoint presentation providing an update regarding the business planning process done to determine the 2010 and future budgets, including an overview of what has changed since the June 2009 Budget Committee meetings. Mr. Kent reviewed the principles being applied during the preparation of the 2010 budget, along with the reductions approved by Council in June 2009. Further, Mr. Kent explained the service levels that have changed over time since 2005 as well as other reductions, and also reviewed the pressures and opportunities to be considered along with the assumptions and risks related to the current economic conditions. Mr. Kent concluded his presentation reviewing the next steps to be taken and proposed topics for the scheduled Budget Committee meetings.

Councillor Pat Saito initiated discussion opining that a Transit fare increase might discourage ridership and referenced previous subsidization of the Transit service on certain routes in the past. Commissioner of Transportation and Works Martin Powell referenced his Corporate Report issued on the agenda of this meeting to the City's new Strategic Plan 'MOVE' pillar, advising that ridership growth should increase through intensified development.

Councillor Pat Saito spoke to the service for extra snow plowing on Trelawny Circle which is currently listed as a proposed service reduction for a savings of \$70,000.00, noting that this service was not implemented, and subsequently opined that proposals for service reductions need to be feasible.

Further, Councillor Pat Saito questioned whether staff is reviewing the feasibility of purchasing a supply of portable signs for City event announcements, similar to the Region of Peel's program which was reported to provide a savings of \$286,000.00 in one (1) year.

Councillor Pat Saito clarified the tax rate impact as a result of the service reductions recommended by Budget Committee at its meeting on June 9, 2009, and advised that she does not support a zero (0%) percent increase for the local levy if services and maintenance have to be cut to a point that results in a false economy in the long run, noting that she has received numerous complaints regarding the reduced hours at the Meadowvale branch library.

Councillor Maja Prentice questioned the results of the Pay and Display parking recently implemented on Burnhamthorpe Road West. Commissioner of Transportation and Works Martin Powell advised that the number of vehicles being parked on Burnhamthorpe Road West has decreased, and therefore the projected revenue may not be achieved at those meters. Subsequently, Councillor Prentice requested that staff report back regarding the revenue stream.

DEPUTATION A -2010 Business Plan and Budget Update cont'd...

Further, Councillor Prentice advised that she has received numerous complaints about empty Transit buses being operated on certain routes and questioned whether this is a result of cutbacks. Director of Transit Geoff Marinoff explained that certain Transit routes experience higher ridership in one direction during commuter times which result in fewer or no passengers riding its return to the depot. Mr. Marinoff advised Committee that different sized buses are operated according to the respective Route's activity, and that for shift changes, drivers are being transported by automobile to their assigned buses to avoid the need of driving those buses back to the Terminal at shift changes.

Councillor Prentice referred to the assumptions and risks presented in slide 32 of Mr. Kent's PowerPoint presentation, and requested a list of the full-time employee resulting from directions of this Committee at its prior meetings. Subsequently, Councillor Prentice concluded her comments expressing concern about the effect of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) on municipal budgets, and requested data on the expected impacts. Acting Director of Finance Gary Kent noted he participates on a Task Force that is reviewing the HST at the provincial level, and that \$2 million has been suggested as the potential budget impact. Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer Brenda Breault noted that the HST impact will be immediately felt by the residents at the time of paying the user fees to which it will be applied.

Further, Councillor Prentice questioned whether Recreation and Parks program revenues have been impacted by the down turn in the economy. Commissioner of Community Services Paul Mitcham advised that the state of the economy is the most relevant factor in the reduced amount of rentals of meeting rooms for private events. Responding to Councillor Prentice's question about the investment shortfall shown on slide 36 of the PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Kent advised that the estimate is currently \$6 million, however staff feel there will be ways to offset this particular impact, by maximizing performance in a long term portfolio.

Councillor Eve Adams questioned the impact on facility rentals of the new legislation that reduces the tolerance level of blood alcohol levels for vehicle operation, as well as the City's Corporate Policy requirements for insurance. Commissioner of Community Services Paul Mitcham explained that the Corporate Policy requires the renters of facilities for private events must obtain any required Liquor Permits and comply with Smart Serve regulations for alcoholic beverages served at the facility, as well as liability insurance requirements. Commissioner Mitcham suggested that the social attitude about alcohol consumption has also changed.

Further, Councillor Adams spoke to the potential rebound next year being limited and the need to operate in a cost effective manner to provide services, versus offering competitive wages that will attract and retain staff. Subsequently, Councillor Adams requested that staff provide a matrix to review possible savings by changing the allocation of Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) in 2010 to wage categories of \$100,000.00 at two (2%) percent reduced to one (1%) percent, and \$60,000.00 to \$100,000.00 at three (3%) percent reduced to two (2%) percent. City Manager Janice Baker suggested that this might be an option for senior staff levels and job grades "G" and above.

DEPUTATION A -2010 Business Plan and Budget Update cont'd...

Councillor Carolyn Parrish clarified the percentage of tax distribution displayed on slide 12 of the subject PowerPoint presentation, and suggested that other countries be surveyed for their respective approaches to revenue sharing with municipalities, for consideration of approaching the Federal and Provincial governments for a share of their tax incomes.

Further, Councillor Parrish opined that people in other countries appear to prefer travel by train over buses and suggested that new immigrants to Mississauga might be approached for their opinion about their preferred mode of transportation, and subsequently suggested that the implementation of light-rail transit be expedited.

Councillor Carolyn Parrish spoke to the infrastructure projects in progress, and advised her concurrence with entertaining a two (2%) percent local tax increase for 2010.

Councillor Nando Iannicca also advised his concurrence with entertaining a two (2%) percent local tax increase for 2010, explaining that the projects related to the Infrastructure Funding program warrant a slight increase. Councillor Iannicca concluded his comments referring to his suggestions made at prior meetings of Budget Committee for seeking legislation that allows wage control during times of economic downturn.

Councillor Pat Mullin opined that it would make sense to stabilize wage costs as labour is a major expense for municipal operations, and requested information about labour gapping impacts and how the service units that are currently operating with less staff complement are being managed. Further, Councillor Mullin opined that the infrastructure projects need to be funded to meet community needs, and that all resources need to be used wisely to provide the services which are in greater demand than ever before. Subsequently, Councillor Mullin concluded her comments advising that she would not support implementation of any new services, opining that there is a need to ensure that the current service levels are delivered efficiently.

Mayor Hazel McCallion opined that a retraction of the upper level governments downloading of services for health and social services would make a large difference for the betterment of municipal budgets; noting that the persistent petitioning by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) eventually achieved a gas tax apportionment to municipalities. Further, Mayor McCallion suggested that approval of the 2010 budget be held back until after the first quarter of that year when more information on the various assumptions and risk factors are known. Mayor McCallion confirmed with City Manager Janice Baker that the collective agreement wage increases are included in the scope for the 2010 budget. Mayor McCallion concluded her comments suggesting that formulation of the 2010 budget continue based on what is known, expressing caution that there is a need to be careful with the capital projects being done at this time and opining that service cuts should not be done arbitrarily.

Councillor Carolyn Parrish expressed concern that the Citizen Value Measurement (CVM) survey is duplication of other venues to receive public input and moved that \$53,000.00 be cut from the 2010 budget for the 3<sup>rd</sup> CVM phase. Commissioner of Corporate Services Brenda Breault advised that a \$20,000.00 reduction to the 2010 Communications budget has already been recommended, noting that all major municipalities do CVM surveys.

DEPUTATION A -2010 Business Plan and Budget Update cont'd...

Further, Commissioner Breault explained that the survey results will be issued as statistical data, noting that the first current report is pending at this time, and explained that the staff would like to do future surveys through in-house resources once the required tools are in place. Subsequently, Councillor Carolyn Parrish withdrew her motion to strike the CVM funding. Commissioner Breault noted that the CVM survey only seeks feedback about existing services provided by the municipality. Councillor Maja Prentice requested that staff provide information about the second phase of the CVM survey and suggested that this exercise be evaluated for possible cut. City Manager Janice Baker acknowledged this request and advised that staff can do a presentation of the results of two (2) CVM surveys, and that it is possible to do this type of survey less frequently in the future.

Directives

FA.19

MATTERS CONSIDERED

1. Mississauga Transit – 2009 Farebox Revenue Update 2010-2012  
Service Plans and Provincial Gas Tax Reserve Fund Forecast

Corporate Report dated September 11, 2009 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works regarding Mississauga Transit fare-box revenues.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report entitled “Mississauga Transit – 2009 Farebox Revenue Update, 2010-2012 Service Plans and Provincial Gas Tax Reserve Fund Forecast” dated September 11, 2009 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works, be received for information.

Received for Information (Councillor Pat Saito)

Recommendation BC-0018-2009

FA.11

2. Building Permit and Development Application Revenues

Corporate Report dated September 17, 2009 from the Commissioner of Planning and Building regarding the status of the revenues from Building Permit and development applications.

RECOMMENDATION

That Budget Committee receive the report titled Building Permit and Development Application Revenues from the Commissioner of Planning and Building dated September 17, 2009.

Received for Information (Councillor Pat Saito)

Recommendation BC-0019-2009

FA.19

3. Request for Information on Citizen Value Measurement (CVM) Survey

Corporate Report dated September 16, 2009 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer responding to the request at the Budget Committee meeting on June 9, 2009, for additional information about the Citizen Value Measurement survey.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report dated September 16, 2009 on the Citizen Value Measurement Survey from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and City Treasurer be received for information.

Received for Information (Councillor Pat Saito)

Recommendation BC-0020-2009

FA.19

CLOSED SESSION - Nil

OTHER BUSINESS

1. West Boundary Adjustment

Just prior to adjournment, resident Chris Mackie of MIRANET approached the podium and requested to speak to Item #23 considered by the General Committee at its meeting held at 9:00am prior to this meeting. With permission of Committee, Mr. Mackie questioned the cost of acquiring the respective lands from the Town of Milton and the Region of Halton required for adjustment of the Mississauga's west municipal boundary. Mr. Mackie requested that he be provided with a copy of the Hemson report and the subject Corporate Report issued to General Committee at its meeting earlier today.

Further, Mr. Mackie advised Committee about his personal perspectives about service delivery noting the enhancements to the quality of life availed by Mississauga's services and infrastructure, opining that the entire population is positively impacted by the current service levels.

PO.10 (RT.19.AST)

ADJOURNMENT – 2:48pm

## REPORT 5-2009

TO: THE MAYOR & MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

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

BC-0018-2009

That the Corporate Report titled “Mississauga Transit – 2009 Farebox Revenue Update, 2010-2012 Service Plans and Provincial Gas Tax Reserve Fund Forecast” dated September 11, 2009 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works, be received for information.

FA.11

BC-0019-2009

That Corporate Report titled “Building Permit and Development Application Revenues” dated September 17, 2009 from the Commissioner of Planning and Building, be received for information.

FA.19

BC-0020-2009

That the Corporate Report dated September 16, 2009 regarding the Citizen Value Measurement Survey from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and City Treasurer, be received for information.

FA.19