

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Division

Minutes of the Budget Committee

Meeting No. 7

Monday, February 22, 1999

The Budget Committee met on Monday, February 22, 1999, in Committee Room 2, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 9:14 a.m.

Attendance

Members were present for some or all of the time period indicated.

	9:14 a.m. to 1:39 p.m.	1:50 p.m. to 6:02 p.m.	6:50 p.m. to 9:10 p.m.
Mayor Mel Lastman	X	-	-
Councillor Tom Jakobek, Chair	X	X	X
Councillor Bas Balkissoon	X	X	X
Councillor Olivia Chow	X	X	X
Councillor Blake Kinahan	X	X	X
Councillor Case Ootes	X	X	-
Councillor Jane Pitfield	X	X	X
Councillor David Shiner	X	X	-

Also Present:

Councillor John Filion			
Councillor Anne Johnston			
Councillor Irene Jones			
Councillor Gloria Lindsay Luby			

7.1 1999 Operating Budget

The Budget Committee had before it the 1999 Operating Budget for the various departments, Agencies, Boards and Commissions of the City of Toronto.

Mayor Mel Lastman made a verbal presentation reiterating his commitment to a zero tax increase for the City of Toronto.

Mr. Michael Garrett, Chief Administrative Officer provided an overview of the 1999 Operating Budget.

The Budget Committee began its preliminary review of the 1999 Operating Budget and directed that its recommendations be forwarded to all Standing Committees and Community Councils for review and comment, to report back to the Budget Committee prior to the commencement of the 'wrap-up' meetings on April 6, 1999.

(Standing Committees and Community Councils - March 5, 1999)

Community and Neighbourhood Services

Ms. Shirley Hoy, the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services appeared before the Budget Committee in connection with the following 1999 Operating Budgets and answered Members' questions in that regard.

Homes for the Aged

The Budget Committee had before it the 1999 Operating Budget for Homes for the Aged.

Ms. Sandra Pitters, General Manager, Homes for the Aged Division, gave an overview presentation respecting the foregoing budget and answered Members' questions.

- A. Councillor Shiner moved:
- (i) that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to report to the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee and the Budget Committee in June or July, 1999, on the loss of \$15 million in Provincial funding since 1996, identifying options as to how the money would be spent if returned by the Provincial Government; the said report to include options of expanding the number of available beds, improving the personal care level, as well as other service restorations; and
 - (ii) that City Council request the Province to restore up to \$15 million of subsidies previously funded in 1996 to the City

of Toronto, now that funding is available from the Federal Government.

(Carried)

B. Councillor Kinahan moved that:

- (i) the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to report back to the Budget Committee providing an update on the 'Replacement Co-payment' program; and
- (ii) City Council request the Province to replace the funding the City received previously from client co-payments (\$350,000.00) for Supportive Housing so that 35 clients can continue to be served by the program.

(Carried)

(Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee - March 5, 1999)

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; c. General Manager, Homes for the Aged Division - March 9, 1999)

Children's Services

The Budget Committee had before it the 1999 Operating Budget for Children's Services Aged.

Ms. Marna Ramsden-Urbanski, General Manager, Children's Services Division, gave a overview presentation and answered Members' questions.

A. Councillor Chow moved:

- (i) that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to report back to Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee and Budget Committee if and when the Province announces details of Learning, Earning and Parenting (LEAP) initiative and the criteria for qualification; and
- (ii) that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to report back to Budget Committee on:

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- (a) a plan to phase in the \$23 million shortfall caused by the City/Province not paying full operating costs since 1993 for licenced care and 1991 for home care;
- (b) pay equity; and
- (c) increase rental costs; and
- (d) the Daycare Grant Program.

(Carried)

B. Councillor Shiner moved:

- (i) that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to report back to Budget Committee on all the summer camps provided throughout the City, with emphasis upon harmonizing the services that exist and addressing the possibility of reallocating the summer camps to a program where they could be cost-shared; and
- (ii) that the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer be requested to report back to the Budget Committee on the status of the Social Assistance Reserve Funds, including the adequacy based on historical needs, the plan to fund the reserve that would maintain it at the recommended level, and the GTA pooling implications.

(Carried)

Councillor Jakobek appointed Councillor Pitfield Acting Chair and vacated the Chair.

- C. Councillor Jakobek moved that the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer be requested to report back to Budget Committee on public school space negotiations.

(Carried)

Councillor Jakobek resumed the Chair.

(Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee - March 5, 1999)

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; c. General Manager, Children's Services Division - March 9, 1999)

The Budget Committee had before it the 1999 Operating Budget for the Public Library.

Ms. Josephine Bryant, Chief Executive Officer/City Librarian, Public Library, gave an overview presentation and answered Members' questions.

Councillor Jakobek appointed Councillor Pitfield Acting Chair and vacated the Chair.

Councillor Jakobek moved that the Chief Librarian provide the previously requested report pertaining to potential library closures to the Finance and Priorities Committee no later than September 1999.

(Carried)

Councillor Jakobek resumed the Chair.

(Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee -
March 5, 1999)

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; c. Chief
Executive Officer/City Librarian, Public Library - March 9, 1999)

Shelter, Housing and Support

The Budget Committee had before it the 1999 Operating Budget for Shelter, Housing and Support.

Ms. Joanne Campbell, General Manager, Shelter, Housing and Support, gave an overview presentation and answered Members' questions.

Councillor Jakobek appointed Councillor Pitfield Acting Chair and vacated the Chair.

- A. Councillor Jakobek moved:
- (i) that the Budget Committee recommend the approval of funding in the amount of \$635,000.00 for the information technology upgrades and that the pro-rated savings (estimated at \$250,000.00 annually) be incorporated into the budget depending on the implementation date of the system;
 - (ii) that the Chief Administrative Officer, in consultation with the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services,

be requested to report to the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee on the organizational structure of the Shelter, Housing and Support Division; and

- (iii) that final consideration of this budget be deferred pending the Budget Committee review of the budget implications detailed within the "Response to the Mayor's Homelessness Action Task Force Final Report".

(Carried)

Councillor Jakobek resumed the Chair.

B. Councillor Chow moved:

- (i) that the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer be requested to develop a strategy to protect the City if interest rates go up, including the implications of GTA pooling; and
- (ii) that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to report back to the Budget Committee on a strategy and funding implications to address higher maintenance costs for older housing units.

(Carried)

(Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee - March 5, 1999)

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; c. General Manager, Shelter, Housing and Support - March 9, 1999)

Toronto Housing Company

The Budget Committee had before it the 1999 Operating Budget for the Toronto Housing Company.

Mr. Derek Ballantyne, General Manager, Toronto Housing Company, gave an overview presentation and answered Members' questions.

- A. Councillor Ootes moved that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the General Manager of the Toronto Housing Company, be requested to report back (with presentation) to Budget Committee on the following:

- (i) the administration and maintenance component of the Toronto Housing Company that is 'out sourced' in comparison to what is being done 'in-house', and further provide comparatives between those factors that are relevant with the private sector from the studies supporting the business plan; and
- (ii) the breakdown of staffing levels within the Toronto Housing Company, to include salary structure and position type of each level; and further provide comparatives between those factors that are relevant with the private sector.

(Carried)

Councillor Jakobek appointed Councillor Pitfield Acting Chair and vacated the Chair.

B. Councillor Jakobek moved:

- (i) that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the General Manager of the Toronto Housing Company, be requested to report back to Budget Committee on:
 - (a) the exact total budget breakdown for Cityhome and Metro Housing;
 - prior to amalgamation;
 - what it is right now; and
 - what it is projected to be next year; and
 - (b) the options of accelerating savings in the five year business plan that includes a greater amount than what was proposed in the recommended 1999 budget.

(Carried)

Councillor Jakobek resumed the Chair.

C. Councillor Shiner moved that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the General Manager of the Toronto Housing Company, be requested to report back to

Budget Committee on the earnings and expenditures, on a building to building basis, for the Community Use of Space Program.

(Carried)

(Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee - March 5, 1999)

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; c. General Manager, Toronto Housing Company - March 9, 1999)

Social Development and Administration

The Budget Committee had before it the 1999 Operating Budget for the Social Development and Administration Division.

Mr. Eric Gam, Executive Director, Social Development Division, gave an overview presentation and answered Members' questions.

The Budget Committee made no requests respecting the foregoing budget.

(Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee - March 5, 1999)

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; c. Executive Director, Social Development Division - March 9, 1999)

Consolidated Grants

The Budget Committee had before it the 1999 Operating Budget for Consolidated Grants.

A. Councillor Chow moved:

(i) that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to report back to Budget Committee on the following:

(a) identification of the composition of the \$282.4 thousand in Council Grants; and

(b) the possibility of leveraging non-profit, public and private partnerships to fund the Food Access Grants projects and initiatives; and

- (ii) that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services and the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, be requested to report back to the Economic Development Committee and the Budget Committee clarifying the structure and administration of the Arts and Culture Grants, and for the budget document to reflect the requested increase for Toronto Arts Council 1999 administration given their increased mandate and responsibilities.

(Carried)

- B. Councillor Kinahan moved that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to report back to Budget Committee on the terms and conditions of the Termite Control Research Grants with the University of Toronto, specifically addressing whether the former City of York's obligation was a continuing one, and whether any royalty rights are part of the agreement, such report to be submitted within two months time.

(Carried)

Councillor Jakobek appointed Councillor Pitfield Acting Chair and vacated the Chair.

- C. Councillor Jakobek moved:

- (i) that the Chief Administrative Officer review and report back to the Economic Development Committee as to whether there is any duplication of grants within other City departments; and
- (ii) that the Budget envelope be revised to include the entire \$1.378 million, save and accept, \$400,000.00 for Senior Tax assessment, \$80,000.00 for the Yonge Street Facade and \$282,600.00 for Council grants; and further requested that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services provide a further report in that regard.

(Carried)

Councillor Jakobek resumed the Chair.

- D. Councillor Kinahan moved that the Etobicoke Hospital grants be phased-out over a period of two years.

(Lost)

- E. Councillor Kinahan moved that the grant for the Gardiner Awards be re-instated.

(Lost)

(Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee - March 5, 1999)

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services - March 9, 1999)

Social Services

The Budget Committee had before it the 1999 Operating Budget for Social Services.

Ms. Heather MacVicar, General Manager, Social Services Division, gave an overview presentation and answered Members' questions.

Councillor Jakobek appointed Councillor Pitfield Acting Chair and vacated the Chair.

- A. Councillor Jakobek moved that the proposed social assistance caseload of 75,000 be further reduced by 500 cases and that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to report back, if necessary, on any further adjustment which may need to be made to the welfare caseload.

(Carried)

Councillor Jakobek resumed the Chair.

- B. Councillor Chow moved to reinstate the Workers Information Action Centre Program.

(Lost)

- C. Councillor Kinahan moved that Councillor Chow's motion be tabled and the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to report back to Budget Committee on the status of the aforementioned program, including staff level, clients serviced, etc.

(Lost)

(Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee - March 5, 1999)

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; c. General
Manager, Social Services Division - March 9, 1999)

Public Health

The Budget Committee had before it the 1999 Operating Budget for Public Health.

Dr. Sheela Basrur, Medical Officer of Health, gave an overview presentation and answered Members' questions.

- A. Councillor Balkissoon moved that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, be requested to report back to Budget Committee on clarification and providing details related to the 1998 and 1999 budgeted expenditures for the Research and Education Program.

(Carried)

- B. Councillor Chow moved:
- (i) that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, be requested to report back to Budget Committee on the following:
 - (a) the possibility of cost recovery for the Food Safety Program through charging for re-inspection of food premises by the Licencing Division, in consultation with the Legal Division and relevant Commissioners;
 - (b) for those programs considered for harmonization, identify those components which are not provided by any other Agency (e.g., TB immunization);
 - (c) which Public Health programs are more suitable to be delivered and funded by the Federal Government given its large surplus and new spending in health, e.g., education, public awareness campaigns;

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- (d) appropriate staff meeting with Provincial and Federal representatives to see if up to \$1.5 million for Tuberculosis, Needle Exchange and Food Safety can be funded through cost sharing between the City, the Province of Ontario and the Federal Government for 1999; and
 - (e) the feasibility of reinstating funding for A7 (Contract Funding to Planned Parenthood of Toronto), A11 (Elimination of 2 FTE's Tobacco and Substance Abuse) and A12 (Reduced Purchase of Service for Sexual Health and AIDS/STD Prevention) in the Public Health Budget, providing suggestions as to how funding for these programs could be achieved from within the 1999 budget envelope.
- (ii) that the Members of the Budget Committee be provided with a schedule outlining the cost estimates for Option 'B' for harmonizing the Tuberculosis, Needle Exchange and Food Safety Programs.

(Carried)

(Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee - March 5, 1999)

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; c. Medical Officer of Health - March 9, 1999)

The Budget Committee adjourned its meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Chair.