

**THE CITY OF TORONTO**

**City Clerk's Division**

**Minutes of the Budget Advisory Committee**

**Meeting No. 2**

**Thursday, January 25, 2001**

The Budget Advisory Committee met on Thursday, January 25, 2001, in Committee Room No. 1, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 9:43 a.m.

Attendance

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

|  | 9:43 a.m. to 9:44 a.m. | 9:52 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Councillor David Shiner, Chair         | X                      | X                       |
| Councillor Paul Sutherland, Vice Chair | X                      | X                       |
| Councillor Olivia Chow                 | X                      | X                       |
| Councillor Ron Moeser                  | X                      | X                       |
| Councillor Joe Pantalone               | X                      | X                       |
| Councillor Jane Pitfield               | X                      | X                       |
| Councillor David Soknacki              | X                      | X                       |

Also Present:

|                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Councillor Raymond Cho   | Councillor Kyle Rae       |
| Councillor Pam McConnell | Councillor Sherene Shaw   |
| Councillor David Miller  | Councillor Michael Walker |
| Councillor Michael Prue  |                           |

## 2.1 Presentation on the 2001 Capital and Operating Budgets

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer gave a presentation respecting the 2001 Capital and Operating Budget process.

- A. Councillor Pantalone moved that the Chief Administrative Officer be requested to provide Members of the Budget Advisory Committee, as soon as possible, but no later than January 31, 2001, further year-by-year details and other relevant information respecting the "Who is Feeling Pinched?" scenario which was part of the presentation made to Councillors at a briefing held on December 8, 2000.

**(Carried)**

- B. Councillor Moeser moved that the Budget Advisory Committee representatives from the Standing Committees be requested to meet with the Commissioners, the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, and staff, and that the Chair of the Budget Advisory Committee and the Chairs of the Standing Committees be invited to attend such meetings, if possible.

**(Carried)**

- C. Councillor Chow moved that:

- (1) the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer be requested, at the special meeting presenting the 2001 Capital and Operating Budget overview by the Chief Administrative Officer and the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, to:

- (a) prepare and develop a public document and communication plan regarding:

- (i) the City's budget situation and options;
- (ii) budget cuts and user fee increases in the past three years; and
- (iii) possible solutions;

and further that the aforementioned document be forwarded to all resident associations and Business Improvement Association's;

- (b) provide a breakdown of the reserves and reserve funds;

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- (c) provide the details of the 2001 non-program account, including assumptions of Capital and Corporate financing and the funding of Employee Liabilities; and
  - (d) provide the assumed assessment growth for 2001;
- (2) the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer be requested to provide to the Budget Advisory Committee, for its meeting scheduled to be held on February 9, 2001, copies of the reports dealing with the following:
- (a) the transfer of the surplus funds to a reserve; and
  - (b) the amount of cash from the operating budget suggested to be used for 2001 projects; and
- (3) the Chief Administrative Officer and the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer be requested to report back to the Budget Advisory Committee on:
- (a) the feasibility of requesting the Province of Ontario to harmonize the Province's commercial education tax rates in 2001-2002 in order to bring equity to the taxation system so that Toronto's businesses would not pay twice the amount of tax as businesses outside Toronto, i.e., Mississauga, and further the Toronto Board of Trade and TABIA be requested to join this effort; and
  - (b) the Provincial Auditor being requested to review both the City and the Provincial budgets to provide a true picture of the effects of the Provincial downloading of services to Toronto.

**(Carried)**

D. Councillor Pitfield moved that the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer be requested to report back to the Budget Advisory Committee:

- (1) providing a list of City-owned surplus properties and old assets that may be sold this year, with suggested market values attached;

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- (2) on plans for the City and the Province to remediate the 2,000 acres of brownfields in the City for development which will provide new assessments and growth to the City's tax base;
- (3) on making the Province aware, during its negotiations with the City, of practices in other provinces, the United States and Germany, where senior governments designate a fixed share of their revenues for the municipalities;
- (4) on the Province introducing legislation to explore tax incentives for investing in co-op housing for revenue generation; and
- (5) on the City charging a fee to the Province for conducting elections for boards of education trustees and collecting education taxes.

**(Carried)**

The Budget Advisory Committee adjourned its meeting at 12:50 p.m.

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Chair