
**POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
AGENDA
MEETING 3**

Date of Meeting:	Tuesday, February 15, 2005	Enquiry:	Patsy Morris
Time:	9:30 a.m.		Administrator
Location:	Committee Room 1		(416) 392-9151
	City Hall		pmorris@toronto.ca
	100 Queen Street West		
	Toronto		

Under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, the Policy and Finance Committee must adopt a motion to meet In-camera (privately) and the reason must be given.

Declarations of Interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.

Communications/Reports

1. City of Toronto 2005 Operating Budget

(Presentation Item)

Communication (February 10, 2005) from the Budget Advisory Committee advising that the Budget Advisory Committee on February 10, 2005, recommended to the Policy and Finance Committee that City Council adopt the recommendations in the Recommendations Section of report (February 9, 2005) from the Chief Administrative Officer and the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, forwarding the City of Toronto 2005 Budget Advisory Committee Recommended Tax Supported Operating Budget, subject to the following amendments:

- (1) reducing the Solid Waste Management Operating Budget by \$400,000.00 through savings from utilities;
- (2) reducing the Transportation Operating Budget by \$600,000.00, through savings from utilities;
- (3) the one time \$100,000.00 funding for the Tsunami Funding Settlement Work be added to the "Miscellaneous" envelope of the Community Partnership and Investment Program budget, to be administered by the Social Development and

Administration Division and to be funded from the Home Improvement Reserve Fund;

- (4) the remaining funds in the Home Improvement Reserve Fund in the amount of \$158,749.00 be redirected to the Corporate Fund for Hosting Conferences;
- (5) adding \$50,000.00 to the Economic Development 2005 Operating Budget to reinstate funding to the Greater Toronto Marketing Alliance for a trial period pending review; and
- (6) redirecting \$37,000.00 from AMO savings for 2005, previously approved by Council, to fund an intergovernmental relations reserve fund; and that \$13,000.00 be absorbed within the Economic Development, Culture and Tourism Department's 2005 Operating Budget;

(Note: Members of the Committee are requested to bring the report (February 9, 2005) from the Chief Administrative Officer and the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, entitled "City of Toronto 2005 BAC Recommended Tax Supported Operating Budget" which was forwarded to all Members of Council with the February 10, 2005, agenda of the Budget Advisory Committee.)

In-camera

1(a). Confidential communication (February 7, 2005) from the Budget Advisory Committee forwarding confidential recommendations pertaining to the 2005 Operating Budget.

1(b). Presentation material dated February 10, 2005, respecting the City of Toronto 2005 Recommended Operating Budget.

2. City of Toronto 2005 Capital Budget

(Presentation Item)

(Note: The Corporate Report respecting the City of Toronto 2005 Capital Budget will be distributed as soon as it is available.)

2(a). In-camera

Confidential communication (February 10, 2005) from the General Secretary, Toronto Transit Commission respecting the Sheppard Subway.

3. 2005 Tax Levy By-laws and Related Matters.

Report (February 11, 1005) from the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer advising that the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer will be reporting on the municipal levy by-law directly to Council at its meeting scheduled for February 21-23, 2005, and to enact certain related by-laws.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer be authorized to report directly to Council at its meeting scheduled for February 21-23, 2005, with respect to the 2005 municipal levy by-law;
- (2) the City Clerk write to the Minister of Finance to request that the Ontario Minister of Finance file a regulation extending Council's ability to raise the tax rate on the commercial, industrial and multi-residential properties for the 2005 taxation year and file and/or announce its intention to file any other regulations pertaining to or potentially affecting 2005 municipal taxation by no later than February 21, 2005;
- (3) the City Clerk write to the Minister of Finance to request that the Ontario Minister of Finance file the regulation prescribing the 2005 education tax rates for Toronto no later than April 12, 2005;
- (4) the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer be authorized to report directly, if necessary, to Council at its meeting scheduled for April 12-14, 2005, with respect to the 2005 education levy by-law and the 2005 claw-back rates by-law;
- (5) Article IVA of Chapter 767 of the City of Toronto Municipal Code, respecting tax deferral for eligible low-income disabled persons and low-income seniors, and Article IVB of Chapter 767 of the City of Toronto Municipal Code, respecting tax cancellation for eligible low-income disabled persons and low-income seniors, be amended:
 - (i) to continue to provide for the deferral or cancellation of tax increases for eligible persons in 2005 and subsequent years, regardless of whether or not such years are reassessment years; and,
 - (ii) to extend the deadline for application for the deferral or cancellation programs to August 31st of the year for which the tax assistance is being sought; and,
 - (iii) to clarify and relax the eligibility criteria by requiring that there be no taxes owing from previous years; and

- (iv) to clarify that the relief applies to residential properties or residential portions thereof; and
 - (v) to add the option to allow eligible persons to apply any rebate of deferred or cancelled taxes made under this program as a credit to the property tax account;
- (6) Article VIII of Chapter 767 of the City of Toronto Municipal Code, respecting the Tax Rebate Program for Registered Charities, be amended by defining “Eligible Charity” to include Registered Canadian Amateur Athletic Associations as defined in subsection 248(1) of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) that has a registration number issued by the Canada Revenue Agency;
- (7) Council enact a by-law to establish a New Multi-Residential tax class for new multi-residential properties constructed in 2005, and that the applicable tax rate for this class be set at a tax rate equivalent to the 2005 residential tax rate; and,
- (8) authority be granted for the introduction of the necessary bills in Council.