

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Division

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee

Meeting No. 5

Monday, April 26, 1999

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee met on Monday, April 26, 1999, in Committee Room 1, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 9:00 a.m.

Attendance

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

	9:00 a.m. to 9:24 a.m.
Mayor Mel Lastman, Chair	X
Councillor Brian Ashton	-
Councillor Milton Berger	X
Councillor Lorenzo Berardinetti	-
Councillor Elizabeth Brown	-
Councillor Betty Disero	X
Councillor Dennis Fotinos	X
Councillor Tom Jakobek	X
Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski	X
Councillor Dick O'Brien	X
Councillor Case Ootes	X
Councillor Joe Pantalone	X
Councillor Michael Prue	X
Councillor Kyle Rae	X
Councillor Bill Saundercook	X

5-1. 1999 Operating Budget.

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee had before it the following reports and communication:

- (i) (April 24, 1999) from the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, entitled "Non-Program Expenditures - Tax Deficiencies", recommending a budget increase to tax deficiencies, based on a review of the 1999 assessment based to be used for the 1999 tax billing;
- (ii) (March 30, 1999) from the Chief Administrative Officer, addressed to the Budget Committee, entitled "Toronto Atmospheric Fund, 1999 Operating Budget", providing an analysis of the 1999 Operating Budget submission for the Toronto Atmospheric Fund; and forwarding recommendations in regard thereto;
- (iii) (April 26, 1999) from the Executive Director of Human Resources, addressed to City Council, entitled "Toronto Community Council Area - Front Line Staffing Levels", respecting front line staffing levels in the former City of Toronto in 1991 and 1997 and front line staffing levels at present in the Toronto Community Council area;
- (iv) (April 23, 1999) from the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, entitled "Parking Enforcement - Additional Tag Issuance", reporting, as requested by the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee at its meeting of April 20, 1999, respecting parking tag issuances; and advising that the Budget Committee did not direct, nor did it intend that officers would be expected to issue more tickets to meet a quota, or a revenue target; that considering the significant under expenditures in the Parking Enforcement program in prior years, Budget Committee directed that the program utilize its entire budget allocation, effectively eliminating any gapping, while generating additional revenues from having the approved number of officers on the street enforcing parking regulations; and
- (v) (April 21, 1999) from the City Clerk, advising that the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee at its meeting on April 20, 1999, tabled motions respecting the portion of the Operating Budget pertaining to TEDCO; and requested further staff reports pertaining to the 1999 Operating Budget;

The following Members of Council appeared before the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee in connection with the foregoing matter:

Councillor Olivia Chow, Downtown; and
Councillor Blake F. Kinahan, Lakeshore - Queensway.

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A. Councillor Jakobek moved that the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee:

(i) recommend to Council the adoption of the report (April 24, 1999) from the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, entitled "Non-Program Expenditures - Tax Deficiencies", wherein it is recommended that:

- (1) the tax deficiencies budget be increased by \$46.46 million in anticipation of additional 1999 tax deficiencies resulting from vacancy changes, capping/tax relief for new construction, the aggressive processing of assessment appeals, the tax imbalance (billing loss) of the residential phase-in program and maintenance of the frozen assessment listing in 1999, and that this expenditure increase be funded from potential new tax revenue arising from the 1999 assessment roll;
- (2) the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer report in October 1999, on the actual tax losses resulting from the issues noted in Recommendation No. (1) above;
- (3) the Province of Ontario be requested to proactively work with City of Toronto officials to review its policies and practices on vacancy changes and new construction; and
- (4) the Ontario Property Assessment Corporation (OPAC) focus resources to address the issues raised in this report, and potential errors identified on the assessment roll, in order that the City of Toronto and other Ontario municipalities be provided with sustainable, non-volatile, realizable tax revenue;

and that Recommendation No. (211) embodied in Clause No. 1 of Report No. 8 of the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee be amended accordingly; **(Carried)**

(ii) refer the report (March 30, 1999) from the Chief

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Administrative Officer, addressed to the Budget Committee, entitled "Toronto Atmospheric Fund, 1999 Operating Budget" to Council without recommendation; **(Lost)**

- (iii) advise Council that the Toronto Harbour Commission budget has been submitted in an acceptable form; and that given the subsidy level is the same as last year the THC Budget will be considered by the Budget Committee at its meeting on April, 30, 1999; **(Carried)**
- (iv) request the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer to ensure that the THC Budget is forwarded to Members of the Budget Committee at least 48 hours prior to the meeting of the Budget Committee; and **(Carried)**
- (v) receive the following report and communication:
 - (i) (April 23, 1999) from the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, entitled "Parking Enforcement - Additional Tag Issuance"; and
 - (ii) (April 21, 1999) from the City Clerk, advising that the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee at its meeting on April 20, 1999, tabled motions respecting the portion of the Operating Budget pertaining to TEDCO; and requested further staff reports pertaining to the 1999 Operating Budget. **(Carried)**

B. Councillor Rae moved that the report (April 26, 1999) from the Executive Director of Human Resources, addressed to City Council, entitled "Toronto Community Council Area - Front Line Staffing Levels" be received and forwarded to Council for information. **(Carried)**

C. Councillor Disero moved that the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee recommend to Council the adoption of the report (March 30, 1999) from the Chief Administrative Officer, addressed to the Budget Committee, entitled "Toronto Atmospheric Fund, 1999 Operating Budget", wherein it is recommended that:

"(1) the 1999 Operating Budget for the Toronto Atmospheric

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Fund totalling \$625.6 thousand (gross) and \$0 (net) be approved;

- (2) the 1999 Operating Budget for the Toronto Atmospheric Fund be forwarded to the Works and Utilities Committee for information; and
- (3) the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer be requested to report back, in consultation with the Toronto Atmospheric Fund, with a resolution on the Street Lighting and Lane Conversion Program loan prior to the consideration of the 2000 Operating Budget.” **(Carried)**

(City Council; Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer; Chief Administrative Officer; Executive Director of Human Resources - April 26, 1999)

5-2. 1999 Tax Levy - City and Education Purposes.

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee had before it a report (April 24, 1999) from the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer recommending that:

- (1) the levy and collection of a special charge for 1999 for the Upper Village (York) Business Improvement Area be authorized; and
- (2) authority be granted for the introduction of the necessary bills in Council to levy taxes for the year 1999 and to provide for the collection of taxes for 1999 other than those levied under By-law No. 960-1998, to impose a penalty charge for non-payment of taxes, to provide for interest to be added to tax arrears, and to levy a special charge for 1999 for certain Business Improvement Areas and provide for its collection, in the form or substantially in the form of the draft by-laws attached hereto.

Councillor Blake F. Kinahan, Lakeshore - Queensway, appeared before the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee in connection with the foregoing matter.

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The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the foregoing report and requested the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer to ensure that the Long Branch BIA is incorporated into the levying by-law.

(City Council; c. Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer; Chief Administrative Officer - April 26, 1999)

The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee adjourned its meeting at 9:24 a.m.

Chair.