

**FINANCE COMMITTEE  
AGENDA  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2012  
4:30 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL**

**ROLL CALL**

**1. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

**2. PRESENTATIONS / DELEGATIONS** (list, if any, available at meeting)

**3. CONGRATULATORY / CONDOLATORY RESOLUTIONS**

**4. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**4.1 [Review of Departmental Budgets](#) (CS2012-002)**

- A. THAT Report CS2012-002 regarding a review of Departmental Budgets BE RECEIVED; and
- B. THAT Finance Committee PROVIDE direction to Staff on the budgets to be reviewed, the timing of the reviews and the form the reviews will take.

**4.2 [Financing Lease Policy – Establish Non-Material Lease Categories for 2012](#) (CS2012-001)**

THAT pursuant to Policy Number: Finance 006, the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the City of Brantford hereby ACCEPTS and AGREES with the opinion of the City Treasurer, Director of Finance that the total number of all financing leases of the following categories, already entered into or proposed to be entered into during the year 2012, will not result in a material impact for the municipality:

- a. All existing non-material financing leases which have been duly entered into on or before the date hereof;
- b. Leases for photocopiers and facsimile machines which have been entered into pursuant to the City's Purchasing Policy;

- c. Leases of real property where the lease is for nominal or token consideration;
- d. Vehicle leases, including leases for cars, vans and pickup trucks, where replacement reserve funding is unavailable for such vehicles;
- e. Vehicle leases, including leases for cars, vans and pickup trucks, where such vehicles will be subject to extensive usage (mileage and/or hours) over a short lease period;
- f. Short-term rentals for vehicles, equipment and furnishings used in seasonal or project specific activities;
- g. Golf Cart leases where replacement reserve funding is unavailable for such equipment; and
- h. Cardio Fitness Equipment leases where the equipment is subject to high usage and high annual maintenance costs.

## 5. CONSENT ITEMS

### 5.1 Minutes

THAT the following Minutes BE APPROVED:

5.1.1 [Finance Committee](#) – December 14, 2011

5.1.2 **Finance Committee – Private & Confidential Minutes** – December 14, 2011

### 5.2 [Investment Report for December 2011](#) (CS2012-008)

THAT Report CS2012-008, Investment Report for December 2011 BE RECEIVED.

### 5.3 [Revised Five Year Capital Plan](#) (CS2012-005)

THAT Report CS2012-005, regarding the Revised Five Year Capital Plan BE RECEIVED.

### 5.4 [2012 Mileage Reimbursement Rate](#) (CS2012-004)

THAT Report CS2012-004 regarding 2012 Mileage Reimbursement Rates, BE RECEIVED.

<b>6. RESOLUTIONS</b>
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**6.1 [Taxpayers Bill of Rights](#)**

City Council at its meeting held December 19, 2011 REFERRED the following resolution to the Finance Committee to initiate the process of public consultation and implementation:

WHEREAS a rational and open tax policy is the goal of municipal Council; and

WHEREAS the citizens of the community have a right to have the free flow of information on how municipal government functions, and how the taxes they pay are assigned to each function; and

WHEREAS a Taxpayers Bill of Rights is an effective mechanism to draw the citizens of a community into a broader public discourse on the collection and allocation of tax dollars; and

WHEREAS a Taxpayers Bill of Rights will assist in moving the municipality to a longer term view of tax collection and allocation; and

WHEREAS a Taxpayers Bill of Rights should or could include the following elements:

- Right to answers to your tax questions
- Right to information in clear and simple language
- Right to access information in e-government format
- Right to know list of services and government units
- Right to know percentage values of taxation assigned to each unit
- Right to know percentage values for at least the last five years
- Right to know staffing levels
- Right to have access to public budgeting data as raw data
- Right to have multiple mechanisms to present to Council before and during budget process
- Right to know that measurable values are assigned to the services provided, and that service values are in a process of constant improvement
- Right to have two budget updates in April and early September of each year
- Right to have access to Council's 4 year strategic community plan and how percentage values are assigned to each strategy area

WHEREAS inflation and mandated government services must be identified and a percentage value tax increase be assigned to each category; and

WHEREAS increases larger than 1.5% or the rate of inflation (whichever is higher) are subject to a mandated consultation process; and

WHEREAS an increase within a four year Council mandate of above 3% is subject to a mandated consultation process; and

WHEREAS capital increases not to exceed 1% per term without a mandated consultation process, and including an identification of capital envelopes or projects assigned to the increase; and

WHEREAS an assessment increase matrix must be created in a format easily accessible by the public;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council accept the introduction of a Taxpayers Bill of Rights and that the Finance Committee initiate the process of public consultation and implementation; and

THAT, after the resolution is considered by the Finance Committee, that it be placed on the City's website and in the Civic News for public input before it comes forward to City Council for final approval.

<b>7. NOTICES OF MOTION</b>
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<b>8. PRIVATE &amp; CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS</b>
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<b>8.1 Ten Largest Property Tax Arrears Accounts as at December 30, 2011 (CS2012-009)</b>
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Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals

<b>9. ADJOURNMENT</b>
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