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Matthew Trennum  
City Clerk  
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February 24, 2025

***SENT ELECTRONICALLY***

**Re: Protecting Hamilton's Economy and Jobs: Strengthening Local Procurement and Resilience Amid U.S. Tariff Threats – REVISED**

Hamilton City Council, at its meeting held on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, passed the following resolution:

Item 10.5 of the General Issues Committee Minutes GIC 25-002:

**10.5 Protecting Hamilton's Economy and Jobs: Strengthening Local Procurement and Resilience Amid U.S. Tariff Threats – REVISED**

WHEREAS, the United States government, under President Donald Trump, had announced the imposition of 25% tariffs on Canadian goods effective February 1, 2025;

WHEREAS, the potential threat of tariffs on Hamilton's key industries poses significant risk to local businesses, workers, and the overall economic stability of our community;

WHEREAS, these tariffs could potentially reduce the city's GDP by up to \$1.1 billion, impacting key sectors such as manufacturing, construction, and the automotive industry;

WHEREAS, Hamilton's manufacturing sector employs over 28,000 workers locally and over 48,000 within the broader Hamilton CMA, and plays a critical role in the city's economic stability;

WHEREAS, the potential decline in Hamilton's largest export sector—iron and steel—could result in a \$3.6 billion reduction in export value;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton has significant purchasing power through its capital projects and infrastructure investments, which can be leveraged to support local and national businesses during this economic uncertainty;

WHEREAS, although a 30-day pause on the implementation of these proposed tariffs has been agreed upon by President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the potential threat remains, necessitating the exploration of proactive measures to protect and support Hamilton's local businesses, workers, and families to ensure economic resilience, growth, and long-term prosperity for our city;

WHEREAS, on January 15, 2025, Council referred Councillor Matt Francis's "Buy Local and Canadian First Procurement Policy" motion to the Procurement Sub-Committee for consideration with the intention to lay the groundwork for prioritizing local procurement;

WHEREAS, the current economic climate and the urgent threat posed by new tariffs necessitate accelerated action to expand on the aforementioned motion and reinforce Hamilton's economic resilience;

WHEREAS, municipalities, while traditionally constrained by trade agreements, can play a pivotal role in supporting Canadian businesses through strategic procurement practices;

WHEREAS, the recent announcement of the imposition of tariffs on steel and aluminum products by the United States will have a significant impact on Hamilton's economy, key industries, and the livelihoods of workers in our city;

WHEREAS, Hamilton is a national leader in primary steel production and secondary processing, and local companies have been a vital part of the city's economy and identity for generations;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton remains committed to supporting its local businesses, promoting local procurement, and protecting jobs for Hamiltonians;

WHEREAS, the government of Canada's response to the imposition of tariffs by the U.S. may impact the costs of municipal capital projects and other essential infrastructure investments; and,

WHEREAS, collaboration with all orders of government is critical to mitigate the impact of these tariffs and protect Hamilton's industries and workers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) Staff expedite the review of current procurement policies and report back to GIC on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 with preliminary recommendations on the feasibility of integrating "Buy Local and Canadian" policies effectively and urgently given the current economic uncertainty;
- (b) The City of Hamilton stands in solidarity with federal and provincial governments to advocate against U.S. tariffs and support a coordinated "Team Canada" response.
- (c) The City of Hamilton calls on the federal and provincial governments to collaborate with municipalities in identifying and removing barriers that prevent local governments from preferring Canadian businesses in procurement processes.

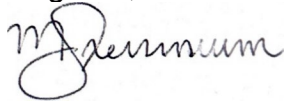
- (d) The City of Hamilton endorses the City of Burlington’s “Buy Canada” resolution, dated January 31, 2025, and that the clerk forward this resolution to the following organizations for their information:
- (i) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
  - (ii) Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
  - (iii) Ontario Big City Mayors Caucus
  - (iv) Hamilton Members of Parliament (MPs)
  - (v) Hamilton Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs)
  - (vi) Municipalities within the Greater Golden Horseshoe
- (e) That The Mayor with the support of staff identified by the City Manager’s office further explore opportunities to support our steel industry partners, hardworking Hamiltonians and the backbone of the economy of our City through measures such as but not limited to:
- (i) The re-orienting of our tendering and purchasing processes to build in the priority of sourcing steel and steel products from local companies first, and Canadian companies when necessary (in Sault Ste Marie for example). Also explore the sourcing of Canadian aluminum;
  - (ii) Calling on the senior orders of government to urgently facilitate the development of the supply chains necessary for municipalities around the country to source Hamilton steel and steel products for their capital works projects;
  - (iii) Calling on Ontario and Canada to begin to source their steel and steel products for their capital works projects from Hamilton companies ASAP;
  - (iv) Calling on the Federal and Provincial governments to encourage Canadian municipalities to begin to source Canadian steel and steel products for their municipal works projects and commit to developing programs to cover any cost inflation that may be incurred by municipalities, with or without retaliatory tariffs, to ensuring that any such costs are reimbursed to them by the Federal and Provincial governments;
  - (v) Demanding the Federal Government immediately establish a Canadian Border Service Agency customs office at the Hamilton’s HOPA port, as has been requested by HOPA, to facilitate the movement of steel, steel products and other goods manufactured or grown/produced in Hamilton and surrounding areas to markets across Canada and abroad;

- (vi) Calling on the Federal government to accelerate its efforts to facilitate access to new markets for Hamilton steel and steel products abroad;
- (vii) Calling on the Federal government, and the Ontario government to expedite the construction of the Hamilton LRT as a stimulus initiative and commit to sourcing necessary steel and steel products from Hamilton, and passenger trains built in Canada with a requirement that those trains be manufactured with Hamilton steel and steel products; and,
- (viii) Calling on the Federal Government to eliminate the two-week waiting period for Employment Insurance (EI) applications for workers affected by U.S. tariffs, ensuring they have immediate access to financial support.

The City of Burlington's "Buy Canada" resolution, as endorsed by Hamilton City Council, is appended to this letter for your information.

Hamilton City Council requests your endorsement of this resolution, and circulate your endorsement to the Province of Ontario.

Regards,



Matthew Trennum  
City Clerk  
:AM

cc.

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## **Regular Council**

### **Minutes**

**Date:** January 28, 2025  
**Time:** 9:30 am  
**Location:** Council Chambers, City Hall, second floor

**Members Present:** Mayor Marianne Meed Ward  
Councillor Kelvin Galbraith  
Councillor Lisa Kearns  
Councillor Rory Nisan  
Councillor Shawna Stolte  
Councillor Paul Sharman  
Councillor Angelo Bentivegna

**Staff Present:** Hassaan Basit, Chief Administrative Officer  
Blake Hurley, Commissioner, Legal and Legislative Services/City Solicitor  
Jacqueline Johnson, Commissioner, Community Services  
Curt Benson, Commissioner, Development and Growth Management  
Craig Millar, Chief Financial Officer  
Scott Hamilton, Commissioner Public Works  
Sue Evfremidis, Chief Human Resources Officer  
Samantha Yew, City Clerk/Director, Legislative Services  
Debbie Hordyk, Administrative Assistant to the City Clerk  
David Thompson, Specialist, Digital Communications  
Richard Bellemare, Specialist, Digital Communications

## 18. Motions of Members

Mayor Meed Ward passed the gavel to Deputy Mayor Stolte to chair this portion of the meeting.

### 18.1 Buy Canadian Resolution (ADM-01-25)

Note: changes in bold were moved as part of the main motion.

Moved by: Mayor Meed Ward

Seconded by: Councillor Galbraith

Whereas United States President Donald Trump has indicated he is planning to impose 25% tariffs on Canada February 1<sup>st</sup>; and

Whereas tariffs would lead to massive job losses and economic instability in both countries; and

Whereas municipalities will be on the frontlines of the economic fallout, and the **City of Burlington** wants to offer our support for a Team Canada response; and

Whereas municipalities have significant purchasing power through our capital and infrastructure programs; and

Whereas Burlington's capital program for 2025 is \$100 million; and

Whereas according to data from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, across Ontario municipalities are expected to spend \$250 - \$290 billion on infrastructure in the next 10 years; and

Whereas Federal and Provincial leaders are encouraging Canadians to Buy Canadian; and

Whereas municipalities have traditionally been prevented by trade agreements from giving preference to Buy Canadian; and

Whereas municipalities can assist in the Team Canada effort to combat tariffs and support businesses in our procurement for capital and infrastructure programs; **and**

**Whereas there are trade barriers between Canadian provinces.**



Now therefore be it resolved that Burlington Council:

Stand with Team Canada to persuade decision-makers that tariffs are not in the best interests of Canadian or American consumers and businesses; and

Endorse the federal and provincial call for Buy Canadian; and

Call on the federal and provincial governments to work with municipalities on measures to protect Canadian consumers and businesses; and

**Should Tariffs be imposed** ask the federal and provincial governments to remove any impediments to municipalities preferring Canadian companies for capital projects and supplies; and

**That the provincial and federal governments take action to remove trade barriers between provinces as a response to US tariffs and support Canadian businesses.**

Be it further resolved that the City Clerk forward this resolution to the following organizations along with the request to endorse the same or similar:

- Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- Ontario Big City Mayors Caucus
- Big City Mayors of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- Halton MPs
- Halton MPPs
- Halton Local Municipalities

IN FAVOUR: (7): Mayor Meed Ward, Councillor Galbraith, Councillor Kearns, Councillor Nisan, Councillor Stolte, Councillor Sharman, and Councillor Bentivegna

**CARRIED (7 to 0)**