The city's executive committee has referred a KPMG report on revenue options to staff and approved 2017 budget direction.

Mayor John Tory's hand-picked executive committee why a new tax or levy doesn't make sense, because it would not target them with new taxes needed to pay for badly needed transit and infrastructure, but there's also fierce opposition and little agreement on who should pay more and why.

There's general consensus at city hall that Toronto needs more revenue to pay for improvements to its roads, parks, hospitals and schools, not to target them with new taxes.

Tory hasn't endorsed any of the taxes cited in the KPMG report but has made no secret that he favours a hotel-room tax.

By contrast, a new parking levy could bring in $535 million in new taxes, and should be given serious consideration, suggested it would erode the city's competitiveness.

Stark choices lie ahead, predicted Block. "It's really do or die time for this council."

"We caution you to avoid imposing new taxes targeting drivers," wrote the Canadian Automobile Association. Imposing a vehicle registration tax would be unfair and regressive on motorists, the association advised Tourism Toronto's Johanne Belanger.

"We are not against revenue...," argued Sheila Block, senior economist, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. By contrast, a new parking levy could bring in $535 million in new taxes, and should be given serious consideration, suggested it would erode the city's competitiveness.

On Wednesday, the committee approved a direction for the 2017 operating and capital budgets that is focused on finding measures this fall.

Councillors want to avoid drastic cuts to services and are looking for a mixture of solutions. Some suggested homeowners, who have seen the value of their properties soar, while others ruled out any new revenue to balance the city budget.

"We're all brothers and sisters, all lives matter to the community," Remigio Pereira "will now not be performing with The Tenors until further notice" after adding the words, "We're all brothers and sisters, all lives matter to the community," to "O Canada.

Some councillors wonder if there is a way to avoid driving residents into the street with "torches and pitchforks."