



MINUTES

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA
(www.mississauga.ca)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2013 – 1:00 P.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, SECOND FLOOR, CIVIC CENTRE

300 CITY CENTRE DRIVE, MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO L5B 3C1

Members Present

Councillor Jim Tovey, Ward 1 (Chair)
Councillor Pat Saito, Ward 9 (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Chris Fonseca, Ward 3
Councillor George Carlson, Ward 11

Members Absent

Councillor Bonnie Crombie, Ward 5
Mayor Hazel McCallion (Ex-officio)

Staff Present

Janice Baker, City Manager and CAO
Brenda Breault, Commissioner, Corporate Services and Treasurer
Mary Ellen Bench, City Solicitor
Finola Pearson, Senior Advisor, Media Relations
Crystal Greer, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk
Diana Rusnov, Manager, Legislative Services and Deputy Clerk
Sacha Smith, Legislative Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER – 1:02 PM**DECLARATIONS OF (DIRECT OR INDIRECT) PECUNIARY INTEREST – Nil****APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Approved (Councillor Fonseca)

DEPUTATIONS

A. Item 2 Andrew Hamilton-Smith, Chair, Peel Poverty Action Group

See discussion under Item 2.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD – Nil**MATTERS CONSIDERED**

1. Approval of Minutes – May 13, 2013

Minutes of the Governance Committee meetings held on May 13, 2013.

Councillor Saito enquired about adding “Other Business/Announcements” to the General Committee Agenda and noted that it was not listed on the General Committee Agenda. Crystal Greer, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk advised that it was an oversight and would be included on future General Committee agendas.

Approved (Councillor Carlson)

2. Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program Procedure and By-law

Corporate Report dated May 28, 2013 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer with respect to the Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program.

Councillor Saito expressed concern about the comments provided by the Peel Poverty Action Group (PPAG) with respect to municipal election campaigns accepting contributions from corporations/developers. Councillor Saito further expressed concern with taxpayer's money funding a rebate program.

Andrew Hamilton-Smith, member, PPAG spoke to the matter and expressed concern about municipal candidates receiving campaign contributions from corporations/ developers.

Councillors Saito and Carlson expressed concern and spoke to municipal campaign spending. It was further noted that municipal spending limits are low and majority of the money goes towards printing and postage costs.

Mr. Hamilton-Smith further spoke to the matter and expressed the importance of individual contributions to municipal election campaigns and diversity on Council.

Councillor Fonseca expressed concern about the comments from PPAG and noted that the City has discussed ways to encourage residents to vote such as voting locations, advance voting times and accessibility.

In response to a question from Councillors Fonseca and Carlson, Mr. Hamilton-Smith advised that PPAG is opposed to a rebate program, however if there is a rebate the limit for contributions should be lowered so that more people would have the opportunity to contribute. He explained that the issue is the money for the rebate program would come from public money, which would be better spent on homeless shelters in Mississauga. Discussion ensued with respect to not implementing a rebate program.

In response to questions from Councillors Tovey and Fonseca, Crystal Greer, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk advised that there have been no observable increase in voter turnout in municipalities that have an election contribution rebate program. She further advised that there was no difference in the rebate amounts for mayoral candidates.

RECOMMENDATION

That the deputation by Andrew Hamilton-Smith, Peel Poverty Action Group with respect to municipal election campaign contributions, be received.

Received (Councillor Saito)

Recommendation GOV-0026-2013

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Corporate Report dated May 28, 2013 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer with respect to a pilot Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program be received.
2. That a pilot Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program not be implemented for the 2014 Municipal Election.

Approved (Councillor Saito)

Recommendation GOV-0027-2013

2. Governance Committee Outstanding Items List

Listing of outstanding items that were directed to staff by the Governance Committee

Crystal Greer, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk advised that she and the Integrity Commissioner have met with the chairs of committees and the Heritage Advisory Committee. She further advised that they would be meeting with all the Business Improvement Areas this month and the Integrity Commissioner intends to report back to the Committee in September.

RECOMMENDATION

That the listing of outstanding items presented at the June 12, 2013 meeting that were directed to staff by the Governance Committee, be received.

Received (Councillor Saito)

Recommendation GOV-0028-2013

OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Tovey spoke to all of the issues and items that the Governance Committee has accomplished.

In response to a question from Councillor Saito, Mary Ellen Bench, City Solicitor advised that there are no outstanding items from the Judicial Inquiry at the municipal level, however the bulk of the changes are for legislative changes and no response has been received from the Province. Janice Baker, City Manager noted that the Mayor has raised some of the issues in discussions with the Minister and the Premier.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council be requested to pass a resolution to follow up with the Province of Ontario

with respect to legislative amendments to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act and the Municipal Act, 2001 following the Judicial Inquiry.

Approved (Councillor Saito)
Recommendation GOV-0029-2013

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, September 16, 2013 at 1:00 P.M.

The committee came to a general consensus that the next meeting date should take place in September.

ADJOURNMENT – 1:45 PM