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Approved: December 14, 2016

## **Special Council**

### **Date**

2016/11/16

### **Time**

9:03 AM

### **Location**

Civic Centre, Council Chamber,  
300 City Centre Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, L5B 3C1 Ontario

### **Members Present**

Mayor Bonnie Crombie	
Councillor Jim Tovey	Ward 1
Councillor Karen Ras	Ward 2
Councillor Chris Fonseca	Ward 3
Councillor John Kovac	Ward 4
Councillor Carolyn Parrish	Ward 5
Councillor Ron Starr	Ward 6
Councillor Nando Iannicca	Ward 7
Councillor Matt Mahoney	Ward 8
Councillor Pat Saito	Ward 9 (arrived at 9:12 a.m.)
Councillor Sue McFadden	Ward 10
Councillor George Carlson	Ward 11

### **Staff Present**

Janice Baker, City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer  
Gary Kent, Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer  
Paul Mitcham, Commissioner of Community Services  
Geoff Wright, Commissioner of Transportation and Works  
Ed Sajecki, Commissioner of Planning and Building  
Mary Ellen Bench, City Solicitor, Legal Services  
Crystal Greer, Director of Legislative Services and City Clerk  
Diana Rusnov, Manager of Legislative Services and Deputy Clerk  
Karen Morden, Legislative Coordinator, Legislative Services Division

### **Find it online**

<http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/cityhall/councilcommittees>

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Mayor Crombie.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

2.1. Verbal Motion

Moved by: C. Fonseca                      Seconded by: R. Starr

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

3. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST** – Nil.

4. **DEPUTATIONS**

4.1. **Amendments to the Municipal Elections Act**

Diane Ploss and Tristin McCredie, Municipal Advisors, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing provided an overview of amendments to the Municipal Elections Act, identifying key changes pertaining to ranked ballots, campaign finances, third party advertising, compliance and enforcement, the election calendar, the voters' list, and accessibility.

Councillor Saito arrived at 9:12 a.m.

Councillors Parrish, Starr, Fonseca, and Iannicca spoke to concerns with the voters' list. Councillor Parrish suggested that enumeration should occur at least every ten years. Further, Councillor Parrish noted concerns with third party advertising, the need for an appropriate compliance audit process, and suggested that all third party advertising should have to be paid by certified cheque or credit card in order to be identifiable. Councillor Ras noted agreement with respect to concerns regarding third party advertising and was advised that penalties would be monetary.

Councillor Carlson spoke to unincorporated businesses campaign donations and was advised that a candidate is responsible for any campaign deficit. Councillor Starr inquired about third party advertising with respect to dollar limits and suggested that a "Frequently Asked Questions" document should be provided. Councillor Fonseca spoke to accountability and social media and inquired about contribution limits. Councillor Iannicca spoke to political action committees and his concerns with the dollar amount necessary to run for office.

Councillor Tovey spoke to concerns about candidates not filing financials and inquired whether there was a way to ensure all candidates filed, to which he was advised that those who don't file cannot run in the next election. Councillor Saito spoke to concerns with the consultation process and requested clarification regarding advertising. Further, Councillor Saito spoke to informing local MPPs of their concerns. Councillor Fonseca

spoke to special interest groups, the importance of engaging youth in the electoral process, and financial barriers in running for office. Councillor Kovac noted agreement with concerns with special interest groups and noted that the amendments regarding third party advertising would decrease transparency. Councillor McFadden commented that third party advertising could suppress an incumbent's work and decisions due to concern that they may negatively advertise against the candidate.

Mayor Crombie expressed concerns with many of the amendments, most notably with third party advertising and contributions. Further, Mayor Crombie advised Ms. Ploss and Ms. McCredie to take Council's comments and concerns back to the Province to be dealt with accordingly. Councillor Saito moved to direct staff to prepare a letter for the Mayor's signature outlining Council's concerns and issues pertaining to the changes to the Municipal Elections Act.

#### Resolution 0218-2016

#### 4.2. Municipal Election 2018 - Campaign Contribution Rebate Program

Brian Bonner, Elections Officer spoke about the Municipal Election 2018 - Campaign Contribution Rebate Program and provided benchmarked information from surrounding municipalities.

Councillor Parrish spoke in favour of implementing a rebate program for the 2018 election, noting that she felt it would bring out more voters and better candidates. Mayor Crombie agreed, noting that she felt it would enhance the democratic process. Councillor Iannicca commented that he does not support implementing a rebate program, to which Councillor Tovey agreed and noted that the benchmarking from other municipalities did not show an increase in voters or in contributions. Councillor Starr noted that he could support a smaller rebate to see how it would work but did not support the taxpayers paying for it. Councillor Saito noted that fundamentally, using tax dollars to fund election campaigns bothered her and suggested that smaller contributions could be given a rebate.

Councillor Parrish spoke to the dollar amounts paid for rebates in surrounding municipalities and moved to have staff bring a report back. Janice Baker, City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer spoke to maximum rebate numbers and suggested that Council decide on a maximum dollar amount to allow staff to develop a program to be brought back to Council for consideration, to which Councillor Parrish suggested that a maximum \$200,000 be allocated to the rebate program. Councillor Tovey spoke to the administrative costs of implementing a rebate program. Councillor Ras commented that she does not support a rebate program fundamentally and spoke to the lack of evidence that rebate programs increased candidate numbers. Councillor Fonseca spoke to how the rebate program may help younger people running in municipal elections and noted that she does not support a rebate program. Councillor Carlson spoke to supporting small donations receiving a rebate.

Councillor Parrish moved to have staff bring a report back, to which Ms. Baker advised that staff could bring back a report in January 2017 and noted the administrative costs of a rebate program that would be given in the report. Councillor Parrish requested a recorded vote.

Resolution 0219-2016

**Recorded Vote**

	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Mayor B. Crombie	X			
Councillor J. Tovey	X			
Councillor K. Ras	X			
Councillor C. Fonseca	X			
Councillor J. Kovac	X			
Councillor C. Parrish	X			
Councillor R. Starr	X			
Councillor N. Iannicca	X			
Councillor M. Mahoney	X			
Councillor P. Saito	X			
Councillor S. McFadden	X			
Councillor G. Carlson	X			

Carried (12,0) Unanimously

5. **PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD** – Nil.

(In accordance with Section 43 of the City of Mississauga Procedure By-law 0139-2013) Council may grant permission to a person who is present at Council and wishes to address Council on a matter on the Agenda. Persons addressing Council will ask their question; the time limit is 5 minutes for each question, as public question period total limit is 15 minutes.

6. **INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF CORPORATE REPORTS**

6.1. Report dated October 19, 2016, from the Commissioner of Planning and Building re. **Sign By-Law 54-02, Section 21, Election Signs.**

Councillor Parrish spoke to shortening the period of time permitted for displaying municipal election signs to 24 days, noting that the City of Brampton and the Town of Caledon also have a 24 day limit. Councillor Starr suggested a 30 day limit, to which Councillors Carlson and Mahoney agreed. Councillor Ras spoke in support of the staff recommendation of 45 days and noted that shorter time periods favour incumbents. Councillor Parrish commented that a shortened time period would encourage candidates to knock on doors to campaign and not rely on signs alone and moved that the time permitted be limited to 24 days. The motion was not seconded and failed.

Councillor Saito spoke to the need for a comparison chart and additional restrictions on municipal election signs and that all parts of the Sign By-law should be examined. Councillor Saito moved to defer and the motion failed.

Councillor Starr moved that the period of time permitted for displaying election signs to be 30 days, which was seconded by Councillor Mahoney.

#### Recommendation

That a by-law be enacted to amend the City of Mississauga's Sign By-law, 54-02, to establish the period of time permitted for displaying municipal election signs in the City of Mississauga to be 30 days, as outlined in the Corporate Report dated October 19, 2016 from the Commissioner of Planning and Building.

#### Resolution 0220-2016

Councillor Saito requested that staff report back on the sign by-law related to the Municipal Elections.

#### Resolution 0221-2016

### 7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### 7.1. *Information Items*

- 7.1.1. Corporate Report dated August 30, 2016 regarding the Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program for the 2018 Election.

#### Deputation 6.2.

#### Received for information

### 8. **RESOLUTIONS**

0218-2016 Moved by: P. Saito

Seconded by: J. Tovey

That staff be directed to prepare a letter for the Mayor's signature outlining Council's concerns and issues as raised at the Special Council meeting on November 16, 2016 related to the changes to the Municipal Elections Act and that the letter be forwarded to the Premier, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local MPPs, AMO, all municipalities within the Region of Peel and all Ontario municipalities with populations over 200,000.

#### **Recorded Vote**

	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Mayor B. Crombie	X			
Councillor J. Tovey	X			
Councillor K. Ras	X			
Councillor C. Fonseca	X			
Councillor J. Kovac	X			
Councillor C. Parrish	X			
Councillor R. Starr	X			
Councillor N. Iannicca	X			
Councillor M. Mahoney	X			
Councillor P. Saito	X			
Councillor S. McFadden	X			
Councillor G. Carlson	X			

Carried (12,0) Unanimously

0219-2016 Moved by: C. Parrish Seconded by: R. Starr

That staff be directed to report back on a potential rebate program by January 2017.

Carried

0220-2016 Moved by: R. Starr Seconded by: M. Mahoney

That a by-law be enacted to amend the City of Mississauga's Sign By-law 54-02, to establish the period of time permitted for displaying municipal election signs in the City of Mississauga to 30 days, as outlined in the Corporate Report dated October 19, 2016 from the Commissioner of Planning and Building.

Carried

0221-2016 Moved by: P. Saito Seconded by: N. Iannicca

That staff be directed to report back on the sign by-law related to the Municipal Elections related to the other aspects of the by-law and a comparison chart of the practices of other municipalities.

Carried

9. **INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS**

0242-2016 A by-law to amend the Corporation of the City of Mississauga's Sign By-law 54-02, as amended to establish the period of time permitted for displaying municipal election signs.

Resolution 0220-2016

10. **CONFIRMATORY BILL**

0243-2016 A by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Mississauga at its meeting held on November 16, 2016.

11. **ADJOURNMENT – 11:48 a.m.**

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Mayor

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Clerk