
Governance Committee

Date

2016/02/22

Time

1:00 PM

Location

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

Members Present

Mayor Bonnie Crombie	
Councillor Karen Ras	Ward 2
Councillor Carolyn Parrish	Ward 5
Councillor Ron Starr	Ward 6
Councillor Pat Saito	Ward 9
John Magill	Citizen Member
Sandy Milakovic	Citizen Member

Members Absent

Councillor Jim Tovey	Ward 1 (Other Municipal Business)
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Staff Present

Janice Baker, City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer
Gary Kent, Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer
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
Sacha Smith, Legislative Coordinator
Ivana Di Millo, Director, Communications
Carley Smith, Senior Communications Advisor

Find it online

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

1. CALL TO ORDER – 1:01 PM

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councillor Saito noted that she would like to add discussion on the Committee's workplan to the agenda.

Amended/Approved (Councillor Parrish)

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST – Nil

4. DEPUTATIONS - Nil

5. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD – Nil

6. MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED

6.1. Approval of Minutes - November 16, 2015

Approved (Mayor Crombie)

6.2. Elected Official Contributions to Teams and Community Improvements

Councillor Parrish noted that she agreed with Option #4 identified on page 4 of the report. However, she noted that community sport teams should be removed while school teams and music/dance/art clubs should remain.

In response to a question from John Magill with respect to the rationale for the \$500 limit, Gary Kent, Commissioner, Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer explained that elected officials can make donations to community groups with a \$500 maximum in a given year. Staff thought \$500 would be a good benchmark of past Mississauga Councils practices.

In response to a question from Sandy Milakovic with respect to criteria for determining what is of benefit to the local community, Mr. Kent advised that it should be Mississauga based, likely a charity, not-for-profit etc.

Councillor Starr spoke to the matter and noted that he would support changes to the Policy. He suggested that the \$500 limit per group be changed to \$750 and that the matter be reviewed after a year.

Councillor Ras suggested that examples be included with respect to the Community Improvement section of the Policy. Councillor Saito noted that Members of Council could send examples to staff to include in the Policy.

Mayor Crombie expressed concern with changing the maximum donation from \$500 to \$750, but she is in support of the wording changes to the Policy.

Discussion ensued with respect to examples for donations for community improvement such as benches and tree plantings. Councillor Saito noted that the Policy may need to have wording that community improvement matters go to Council for approval. Mayor Crombie noted that she agreed with Council reviewing the Community Improvement requests and if the amount needs to be increased it could be at that time.

Mark Beauparlant, Manager, Financial and Treasury Services advised that the Elected Officials' Policy was reviewed with the elected officials at the time and based on the feedback given to staff the amount was increased to \$500.

Direction was given to staff to circulate the wording for the Community Improvement section to all Members of Council for examples to be included.

GOV-0001-2016

1. That the Elected Officials Expense Policy be amended to incorporate Option 4 as amended in the Corporate Report dated February 8, 2016 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer regarding eligible expenses for teams and community improvements and further that donations to community sport teams not be included as an allowable expense.
2. That the Teams and Community Groups section of the Elected Officials Expense Policy be amended to change the annual donation maximum up to \$750 per group.
3. That the Community Improvement section of the Elected Officials Expense Policy be amended to change the annual contribution maximum up to \$750 per project.
4. That the amendments to the Elected Officials Expense Policy be reviewed in one year.

Amended/Approved (Councillor Parrish)
Recommendation GOV-0001-2016

Mr. Kent advised that staff would report back to General Committee with the amendments to the Policy.

6.3. Recorded Votes Information Report

Mayor Crombie noted that her office staff have received inquiries as to how Members of Council have voted on matters. She noted that it would be helpful for the public to know where a Councillor or the Mayor stands on certain issues.

Councillors Parrish, Ras and Saito spoke to the matter and noted they have no issues with implementing recorded votes at meetings.

In response to a question from Councillor Starr on inquiries about how Councillors have voted, Crystal Greer, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk advised that the Clerk's Office very infrequently receives requests on how members of Council have voted.

Discussion ensued with respect to implementing recorded votes at meetings. Direction was given to staff to report to General Committee on the wording for the Procedure By-law. Councillor Parrish requested that the report include how tie votes are handled at meetings. She requested that it be made clear to chairs of committees that they can vote on matters on the agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the report dated January 27, 2016 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer regarding the Recording of Votes at Council be received for information.
2. That the Procedure By-law be amended to include the recording of voting at Council and Standing Committees and that staff be directed to report back to General Committee on the final wording for the By-law.

Amended/Approved (Mayor Crombie)

Recommendation GOV-0002-2016

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Saito asked for an update on the status of a review of the Procedure By-law. Ms. Greer noted that she would be attending the review of the Procedure By-law at the Region of Peel. She further noted that staff are working with Finance staff to determine the appropriate process for the committee budgets. Councillor Saito requested that there be an update on the status of the workplan items on the next agenda.

Mayor Crombie enquired about the status of the review of the *Municipal Act*. Mary Ellen Bench, City Solicitor advised that there have been no updates since the consultation. Mayor Crombie further enquired about the issue of the campaign contributions. Ms. Greer advised that there have been no updates since the initial consultation on the *Municipal Elections Act*. Mayor Crombie expressed concern with the individual contributions for mayoral races. Ms. Greer advised that the contribution limits are prescribed in the legislation for all Ontario municipalities except for Toronto.

Janice Baker, City Manager and CAO advised that the matter was not included in the submission and suggested that the Mayor could write a letter to the Province on her own behalf.

Mayor Crombie enquired if it is a conflict of interest for Members of Council that are Rotarians to vote on rotary related issues. Ms. Bench advised that advice on conflict of interest matters should be posed to the Integrity Commissioner. Discussion ensued with respect to voting on the policy change for groups to have paid events at the Mississauga Celebration Square which included the Mississauga Rotary Ribfest.

Councillor Ras spoke to a lobbyist and gift registry at the City of Brampton and the Region of Peel is reviewing implementing one. She noted that the committee should have an update on a lobbyist registry at the Region of Peel.

Ms. Greer advised that the off-site Governance workshop is confirmed for Tuesday, May 24, 2016.

8. ADJOURNMENT – 2:02 PM