



MINUTES
SPECIAL GENERAL COMMITTEE
April 3, 2013
Meeting No. 8

Finance & Administrative Issues

Chair: Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Vice Chair: Councillor Carolina Moretti

Community Services Issues

Chair: Councillor Alex Chiu
Vice Chair: Councillor Howard Shore

Environment & Sustainability Issues

Chair: Councillor Valerie Burke
Vice Chair: Regional Councillor Joe Li

Building, Parks, & Construction Issues

Chair: Councillor Logan Kanapathi
Vice Chair: Councillor Colin Campbell

Alternate formats are available upon request.

Attendance

Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Joe Li
Councillor Valerie Burke
Councillor. Howard Shore
Councillor Don Hamilton
Councillor Carolina Moretti
Councillor Colin Campbell
Councillor Logan Kanapathi
Councillor Alex Chiu

Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer
Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services
Joel Lustig, Treasurer
Nasir Kenea, Chief Information Office
Fred Rich, Senior Business & Risk Analyst
Alida Tari, Council/Committee Coordinator

Regrets

Regional Councillor Jim Jones
Regional Councillor Gord Landon
Councillor Alan Ho

The General Committee convened at the hour of 9:08 a.m. with Councillor Carolina Moretti in the Chair. Mayor Frank Scarpitti assumed the Chair at 10:05 a.m.

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None disclosed.

1. COUNCILLOR EXPENSES (7.0)

Presentation

Fred Rich, Senior Business & Risk Analyst delivered a PowerPoint presentation regarding Councillor Expenses. The presentation included a detailed municipal comparison for reported expenses between the City of Markham to the Town of Richmond Hill and the City of Vaughan.

The Committee discussed and suggested the following relative to Councillor Expenses:

- Charitable and non-charitable donations
- Any expenses paid by the Corporation must be business related expenses
- Not permitting reimbursement for donations to religious or political organizations
- Opportunity for Councillors to use City booths at events not within their Ward
- Car allowance versus mileage reimbursement
- Discretionary budget has not changed in over 10 years
- Increasing the discretionary amount by \$1,500 specifically for mileage
- Transit reimbursement should be included
- Councillors should use the corporate cellular phone plan
- Whether Regional Councillors should be provided a corporate expense reimbursement for their website, distribution of a print newsletter or provided space in the Markham Life magazine
- Explore other communication vehicles for Regional Councillors
- Whether all copies of receipts submitted for Councillor expenses should be made available on-line
- Circumstances when reimbursement of expenses for alcoholic beverages should be permitted by Members of Councillor

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton

Seconded by Councillor Howard Shore

- 1) That the presentation by Mr. Fred Rich, Senior Business & Risk Analyst entitled “Councillor Expenses,” be received; and,
- 2) That **an additional \$1,500.00 discretionary expense be approved for mileage only** and be paid as incurred, **with the option of any additional mileage expenses above this allotment to be paid out of the Councillor's discretionary account,** and,
- 3) That smart phone costs (voice and data) remain a corporate expense; and,
- 4) That Councillors with personal smart phone account/plans will be reimbursed in an amount equivalent to the corporate plan & additional costs will become a discretionary expense; and,
- 5) That two newsletters per year per Ward Councillor remain as a corporate expense and all other newsletters be considered as a discretionary expense; and,

- 6) That the expenses related to Members of Council attending Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) and/or Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Conference(s) be considered as a non-discretionary expense. All other conferences will be considered as a discretionary expense unless otherwise pre-approved by Council; and,
- 7) That business travel expenses for Members of Council align with the policy requirements for Staff; and,
- 8) That the current per diem practice be replaced with an expenditure reimbursement; and,
- 9) That the reimbursement of alcohol expenses for **conventional business lunches, dinners, etc** be considered as an ineligible expense. **Expenses for alcoholic beverages will be reimbursed at certain Corporate hospitality, business and trade mission events when authorized by the Mayor or his designate; and,**
- 10) That Members of Council not be reimbursed for donations to individuals, **political, charitable and community** organizations; and further;
- 11) That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton

Seconded by Councillor Alex Chiu

That the Special General Committee meeting adjourn at 12:58 p.m.

CARRIED