

Council Expenses Reporting - Update

General Committee

June 25, 2012

Council Expenses Reporting - Update

Agenda

1. Background
2. Details of Review
3. Observations
4. Next Steps

Council Expenses Reporting – Update Background

The Municipal Act Section 284 requires municipalities to provide an itemized statement of remuneration and expenses paid to each member of Council on an annual basis.

Staff submitted the report to Committee at the meeting held on March 19, 2012

Staff were directed to examine the reporting of expenses by other comparable GTA municipalities including the level of detail reported out and a comparison of allowances for Members of Council

Council Expenses Reporting – Update Details of Review

Staff conducted a review of the reporting practices of Council expenses with GTA municipalities relating to:

- The extent of details provided in the annual report to Council as legislated by the Municipal Act
- Any additional reporting of the annual expenses on the internet other than what is provided in the report as above
- Any other reporting including frequency of reporting (e.g. monthly reporting, website updates)

Council Expenses Reporting – Update Details of Review

The municipalities that were reviewed included:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Oakville | 5. Newmarket |
| 2. Brampton | 6. Burlington |
| 3. Mississauga | 7. Richmond Hill |
| 4. Vaughan | 8. Toronto |

Refer to Exhibit A for details of review and comparison of reporting

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Observations

Extent of Details provided in the Annual Report to Council

- Oakville, Vaughan, Newmarket and Burlington provide expenses broken down into 3 categories
- Mississauga reports expenses under 4 categories
- Richmond Hill reports expenses under 5 categories
- Markham & Brampton expenses under 8 categories
- Toronto reports expenses under 13 categories

Note: Markham provides the second most detailed breakdown of expenses by category after Toronto

Council Expenses Reporting – Update

Observations

Additional Reporting other than Annual Report

- Markham, Brampton, Mississauga, Vaughan and Richmond Hill provide monthly reporting to Councillors for review
- Markham and Vaughan provide a copy of the monthly report to the Clerk's department

Reporting on the internet

- Brampton, Mississauga, Vaughan, Newmarket, Richmond Hill (effective June '12) and Toronto post the expenses report quarterly on the internet
- Burlington posts the expenses half yearly
- Oakville posts the report annually

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Next Steps

Report to Committee in the fall with recommendations from staff that will consider the reporting relating to:

Level of details of expenses that could be posted on the internet

Frequency of posting (i.e. monthly, quarterly)

Additional detailed information related to the expenses other than what is shown in the annual report

Comparison of the allowances provided to Members of Council

Staff will recommend an approach to reporting expenses that will balance legislated requirements with fiscal prudence, transparency and associated administrative costs

Council Expenses Reporting – Update

Questions?

