

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - DECEMBER 7, 2010

DEPUTY MAYOR BY-LAW

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services & City Solicitor and the City Clerk recommend:

- 1) That a By-law to establish the office and functions of the Deputy Mayor be enacted, and that By-law No. 90-2004 be repealed.

Contribution to Sustainability

The establishment of the position of Deputy Mayor provides for continuity of the functions of the Head of Council in circumstances where the Mayor is absent from the municipality or refuses to act, is absent due to illness, or where the office is vacant.

Economic Impact

There is no direct economic impact associated with the adoption of the proposed by-law.

Communications Plan

This report and the by-law to appoint a Deputy Mayor will be posted on the City's website in conjunction with the respective agendas and minutes for Committee of the Whole and Council.

Purpose

By its adoption of Committee of the Whole (Working Session) Report No. 29, Item 3, Council on June 29, 2010 adopted a recommendation that the Deputy Mayor position be established and that the position be filled by the Local and Regional Councillor who received the most votes in the last general municipal election. At its meeting of September 7, 2010 [Committee of the Whole Report No. 40, Item 28] Council directed the City Clerk to bring forward a report relating to the adoption of the necessary by-law to establish the office to the December 7, 2010 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Background - Analysis and Options

Section 242 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes the appointment of a member of Council to act in the place of the Head of Council when the Mayor is absent or refuses to act, or the office is vacant. Currently, By-law No. 90-2004 appoints a substitute for the Mayor to act in the place of the Mayor generally only in absence of the Mayor. According to the By-law, this role is filled by the Regional Councillors in descending order of the number of votes received in the last municipal election.

Though the *Municipal Act* sets out a role for the Mayor, the legislation does not separately identify a role for the Deputy Mayor. Based on the provision that enables an acting mayor to be identified, it may fairly be understood from the legislation that in the absence of the Mayor the Deputy Mayor has all the powers and duties of the Mayor.

In light of the scheduling demands placed on a mayor of a large, quickly urbanizing municipality with a diverse population, there is utility in establishing the following clearly identifiable roles and functions for the Deputy Mayor:

- Serving as the City's senior elected leader and spokesperson on community issues;
- Attending events, meetings, etc., as required
- Chairing meetings of Council
- Serving as the principal contact with other levels of government
- Advocating Council's agenda to other agencies and levels of government
- Representing Council, including as requested by the Mayor as situations demand

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council, particularly "demonstrate leadership and promote effective governance".

Regional Implications

The Deputy Mayor position has been established in the York Region municipalities of Richmond Hill and Markham.

Conclusion

In recognition of the demands placed on the Mayor of a large, quickly urbanizing municipality with a diverse population, it is recommended that a by-law be enacted to formally establish the position of Deputy Mayor, being the Local and Regional Councillor who receives the most votes in the preceding general municipal election. In the absence of the Deputy Mayor, the Local and Regional Councillor who received the second highest number of votes at the last municipal election, or in that person's absence, the Local and Regional Councillor who received the third most votes, should be authorized to carry out the role.

Attachments

None

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey. A. Abrams
City Clerk

Janice Atwood-Petkovski
Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services &
City Solicitor