

**CITY OF VAUGHAN**

**EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 24, 2009**

Item 1, Report No. 48, of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session), which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on November 24, 2009.

**1 TASK FORCE ON DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION & RENEWAL: FINAL REPORT**

(Referred Item)

**The Committee of the Whole (Working Session) recommends:**

- 1) **That the following recommendation contained in the memorandum of the City Clerk, dated October 29, 2009, be approved:**

**“That consideration of the Final Report of the Task Force on Democratic Participation & Renewal, referred to the November 2, 2009 Committee of the Whole (Working Session), be deferred to the November 9 meeting of the Committee.”**

Council, at its meeting of October 13, 2009, adopted the following (Item 1, Report No. 42):

The Committee of the Whole recommends:

- 1) That the following report of the Co-chairs, Task Force on Democratic Participation & Renewal, dated September 29, 2009, be received and referred to the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) meeting of November 2, 2009;
- 2) That reports be provided to the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) meeting of November 2, 2009 from the Co-chairs of the Task Force identifying recommendations that require provincial amendment or approval and from staff on the practical and financial implications for each recommendation in the document including any action on recommendations being adopted by the City Clerk;
- 3) That the Task Force's report be distributed to GTA municipalities and AMO for information;
- 4) That the following deputations and petition be received:
  - a) Mr. Steven Del Duca, 99 Wakelin Court, Vaughan, L4L 2P1, member of the Task Force;
  - b) Mr. Elliott Silverstein, 7460 Bathurst Street, Suite 201, Thornhill, L4J 7K9, member of the Task Force;
  - c) Ms. Deb Schulte, 76 Mira Vista Place, Woodbridge, L4H 1K8, member of the Task Force;
  - d) Ms. Rosanna Defrancesca, 87 Michelle Drive, Woodbridge, L4L 9B9, and petitions;
  - e) Mr. Savino Quatela, 134 Grand Valley Blvd., Maple, L6A 3K6; and
- 5) That the written submission from Mr. Cam Milani, 11333 Dufferin Street, P.O. Box 663, Maple, L6A 1S5, dated September 28, 2009, be received.

Report of Councillor Tony Carella and Steven Del Duca, Co-chairs, Task Force on Democratic Participation and Renewal, dated September 29, 2009

**Recommendation**

Councillor Tony Carella and Steven Del Duca, Co-chairs, Task Force on Democratic Participation & Renewal, recommends:

## CITY OF VAUGHAN

### EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 24, 2009

#### Item 1, CW(W) Report No. 48 – Page 2

- 1) That the following report be received;
- 2) That the recommendations contained in the attached 'Final Report' be approved by Council and the City Clerk, as appropriate; and
- 3) That the Clerk report to the Council meeting of December 14, 2009, the outcome of each of the recommendations in this document, including any action plan in respect of recommendations adopted by the Clerk or Council.

#### **Economic Impact**

Nil

#### **Contribution to Sustainability**

At a conceptual level, democracy---defined by Abraham Lincoln as "...government of the people, by the people, and for the people"---can only be sustained by the participation of the people in the most fundamental feature of representative democracy---the exercise of their right to elect their representatives. As well, at a practical level, this report recommends a number of initiatives which, if implemented, will reduce the need to expend finite resources such as paper ballots, newspaper advertising space, etc.

#### **Communications Plan**

Once received and adopted by Council, Corporate Communications shall issue a media release, indicating that the Final Report of the Task Force on Democratic Participation and Renewal has been adopted and will shortly be viewable at the City's website. In addition, a limited number of hard copies will be available upon request.

#### **Purpose**

To present the Task Force's final report, following on a series of interim reports on the work of the Task Force dated March 31, 2008, September 30, 2008, and March 31, 2009.

#### **Background – Analysis and Options**

The Task Force was appointed in 2007, with a mandate to make recommendations for increasing voter turnout from 38% to 50% across the City of Vaughan in the next municipal election (November 2010). Over the past two years, the Task Force has examined the challenges and opportunities for the City of Vaughan to reach this goal by focusing on three key areas:

- (1) why people do not vote,
- (2) ways to increase voting, and
- (3) strategies to increase awareness about the importance of voting.

To that end, three subcommittees of the Task Force met to discuss and collect research in each of these areas, in order to further discussion and identify recommendations for inclusion in the Task Force's final report to Council. Some of the issues addressed by the Task Force have included: patterns of voter participation in other municipalities and jurisdictions, both domestically and internationally; investigating the factors that result in lower voter turnout, and discussing remedial strategies. Members of the Task Force on Democratic Participation and Renewal have met monthly since its inception, to advance the initial research presented in the first and second reports detailing activities, and to identify its final recommendations based in part on its third report on March 31, 2009.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

**EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 24, 2009**

Item 1, CW(WS) Report No. 48 – Page 3

**Regional Implications**

Nil

**Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

**Attachment:**

Final Report of the Task Force on Democratic Participation and Renewal

**Conclusion:**

The Task Force has completed its mandate and herewith submits its final report.

**Report prepared by:**

Councillor Tony Carella, Steven Del Duca, Elliott Silverstein

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)

CITY OF VAUGHAN

**EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 24, 2009**

Item 2, Report No. 48, of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session), which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on November 24, 2009.

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**2                                    COUNCIL PRIORITIES PLAN 2009 THIRD QUARTER UPDATE**

The Committee of the Whole (Working Session) recommends:

- 1) That the following report of the Senior Manager of Strategic Planning, dated November 2, 2009, be received;
- 2) That the Communications Specialist or designate be assigned to produce media ready articles on each of the Council Priority items, and that these articles be disseminated as widely as possible through the corporate electronic newsletter, Councillor newsletters and by Corporate Communications through their media contacts;
- 3) That Councillor Yeung Racco be added as a co-sponsor of Initiative #10, given her status as Chair of the Economic Development Committee;
- 4) That based upon comments made at this meeting, that staff prepare a glossary of terms that will provide for consistent understanding of the Priorities Report (e.g., “pending”, “in process”, “in progress”, etc.); and
- 5) That the Business Community Roundtable, listed as a project milestone under Initiative #10, be deleted.

**Recommendation**

The Senior Manager of Strategic Planning in consultation with the City Manager recommends:

1. That the report including Attachment 1 –Council Priorities Plan 2009 Third Quarter Update Report be received

**Contribution to Sustainability**

The individual priority initiatives will address any contribution to sustainability.

**Economic Impact**

N/A

**Communications Plan**

Web new stories on each of the Council Priority Plan initiatives will be updated. An electronic newsletter is currently being developed to communicate the status of each of the initiatives.

**Purpose**

The Council Priorities Plan 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2009 update.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

The Council Priorities Plan was initially tabled at the Committee of the Whole meeting on January 13, 2009. The Plan was comprised of ten theme areas which were led by various Members of Council. To demonstrate progress in implementing the initiatives, it was decided that quarterly updates were necessary. Thus, the first and second quarterly updates were reported at the March 30 and June 22, 2009 Committee of the Whole (Working Session).

## CITY OF VAUGHAN

### **EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 24, 2009**

#### Item 2, CW(WS) Report No. 48 – Page 2

At the June 22, 2009 Council meeting a mechanism for publicizing the progress on the Council Priorities Plan was approved. This involved establishing a Council Priorities Plan web page which profiled stories on each of the initiatives and the respective Councillor who was identified as the initiative sponsor. Attachment 1 highlights the progress reports for all ten of the Council Priority Plan initiatives for the third quarter. The web stories for each of the initiatives will be updated and posted.

#### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan**

The Council Priorities Plan is aligned with the Vaughan Vision 2020 strategic plan. This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

#### **Regional Implications**

The individual priority initiatives will address any regional implications.

#### **Conclusion**

The Council Priorities Plan 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2009 Update is being tabled at the November 2, 2009 Committee of the Whole (Working Session) to provide a progress report on the plan to the community. It is recommended that the next update be provided in the first quarter of 2010.

#### **Attachments**

1. Attachment 1 - Council Priorities Plan 2009 Third Quarter Update Report

#### **Report prepared by:**

Thomas Plant MBA, MPA  
Senior Manager of Strategic Planning

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)