

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5, 2010

Item 1, Report No. 1, of the Audit and Operational Review Committee, which was adopted, as amended, by the Council of the City of Vaughan on February 5, 2010, as follows:

By approving the following:

That the Council Member Expense Policy that was adopted by Council on December 14, 2009 be reconsidered;

That Clauses 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 of the Audit and Operational Review Committee recommendation be approved; and

That the present Council Member Expense Policy, effective February 1, 2010, continue in effect until the Council meeting of March 9, 2010, at which time minor policy and administrative changes identified as both necessary and appropriate by Council shall be incorporated into the document.

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COUNCIL MEMBER EXPENSE POLICY

The Audit and Operational Review Committee recommends:

- 1) That the Council Member Expense Policy be reconsidered;
- 2) That this matter be deferred to a future Audit and Operational Review Committee meeting to be scheduled by the Chair;
- 3) That the present Council Member Expense Policy effective February 1, 2010, be held in abeyance until the Council meeting of March 9, 2010 and the previous policy be in effect until that time;
- 4) That the City Manager, the Integrity Commissioner, the City Auditor, and appropriate staff review the policies in place with the Audit and Operational Review Committee at a future meeting and provide a report to the Committee of the Whole meeting of February 23, 2010;
- 5) That the memoranda from the City Auditor, dated February 1 and 3, 2010, be received; and
- 6) That the deputation of Mr. Richard Lorello, and written submission, dated February 3, 2010, be received.

Recommendation

The City Auditor recommends:

1. That the Council Member Expense Policy that was adopted by Council on December 14, 2009 be reconsidered for further refinement and amendments; and
2. That the attached Council Member Expense Policy which incorporates the proposed changes be approved.

Contribution to Sustainability

The Council Member Expense Policy is being finalized.

Economic Impact

There is no economic impact.

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Communications Plan

Not applicable as the policy is a draft policy being tabled for discussion.

Purpose

The Council Member Expense Policy has been refined to provide more clarity by the City Auditor. The changes are from the discussions at the training sessions to Council Members and their executive assistants.

Background - Analysis and Options

The Preliminary Draft of the Council Member Expense Policy, prepared by the City Auditor, was introduced to the Audit and Operational Review Committee meeting of November 16, 2009 for discussion purposes.

The City Auditor was directed to post the Policy on the City of Vaughan's website and obtain comments from the public. This was done on the 17th November, 2009.

All Members of Council were also encouraged to provide written feedback to the City Auditor.

After considering comments received from residents and Council Members, the edited Preliminary Draft of Council Member Expense Policy was discussed at the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) on November 30th, 2009,

Additional comments were provided to the City Auditor.

The Preliminary Draft Council Member Expense Policy was refined after considering the comments received from the Committee of the Whole (Working Session).

The Draft Council Member Expense Policy was presented to the Audit and Operational Review Committee on December 10, 2009 for more discussion and further refinement.

The revised report was approved by Council on December 14, 2009.

Training sessions were held for Council Members and their executive assistants in January 2010. This resulted in more discussions on the understanding of the policy, and minor changes for improved clarity and understanding.

The edited Council Member Expense Policy was presented, with the changes (add-ons or strikeouts) **highlighted**, to the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) dated January 25, 2010. Due to insufficient time to review the changes, it was recommended that the revised report be brought forward to the Audit and Operational Review Committee at the earliest opportunity.

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.

Regional Implications

Not applicable

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Conclusion

The Council Member Expense Policy (which was approved by Council on December 14, 2009), has refined to provide more clarity and understanding. All changes have been highlighted for ease of review. The Policy is being brought forward at this time for further discussion and refinement.

Attachments

Report on the Council Member Expense Policy version R12C.

Report prepared by:

Michael Tupchong

(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.)

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Item 2, Report No. 1, of the Audit and Operational Review Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on February 5, 2010.

2 REPORT ON COMMUNITY EXPENSE – HOSTING EVENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

(Referred Item)

The Audit and Operational Review Committee recommends that this matter be deferred to a future Audit and Operational Review Committee meeting.

Council, at its meeting of January 26, 2010, adopted the following (Item 25, Report No. 1):

- 1) That this matter be referred to the Audit and Operational Review Committee; and
- 2) That the written submission submitted by Regional Councillor Rosati, dated January 12, 2010, be received.

Report of the Integrity Commissioner dated January 12, 2010

Recommendation

The Integrity Commissioner recommends to Council that there are no amendments required to be made to the Council Member Expense Policy, section titled “Community Expense (Hosting Events by Council Member) approved by Council on December 14, 2009.

Contribution to Sustainability

N/A

Economic Impact

N/A

Communications Plan

N/A

Purpose

At the December 14, 2009 Council meeting, the Council Member Expense Policy was approved with the exception of the part entitled “Community Expense: (Hosting events by Council Member)”. A motion of City Council stated:

That Attachment 1, Council Member Expense Policy, contained in the memorandum from the City Auditor, dated December 14, 2009, be approved, subject to the section titled ‘Community Expense (Hosting events by Council Member’ being deferred to the Committee of the Whole meeting of January 12, 2010, for a report from the Integrity Commissioner in consultation with the City Auditor, addressing the concerns raised.”

Background - Analysis and Options

Any donations cheques received by a Member of Council in relation to a Community Event should go directly to the event or organizing body or shall be made out to the City of Vaughan, if the Event relates to a Council approved City initiative.

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If a Member of Council receives monies (i.e. nominal amounts to purchase coffee or other refreshments for a town hall meeting-type of event, the Member must follow Rule 2 (1) of the Code of Ethical Conduct which outlines exceptions to the gifts and benefits rule. Members are reminded that they are strongly encouraged to list all gifts and benefits they receive, however, in the case of categories (b), (e), (f), (g), (h) and (i) of Rule 2 (1), where the value of the gift or benefit exceeds \$500, or if the total value received from any one source during the course of a calendar year exceeds \$500, the Member shall within 30 days of receipt of the gift or reaching the annual limit, list the gift or benefit on a Councillor information statement.

Relationship to 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. However, the recommendations are adopted, training on management of confidential City documents may impact allocated resources.

Regional Implications

There are no Regional implications to the recommendations contained in this report.

Attachments

Appendix A – Integrity Commissioner's Memorandum
Appendix B – Community Expense: (Hosting Events by Council Member)
Appendix C – Written submission of Regional Councillor Rosati dated January 12, 2010.

Report prepared by:

Suzanne Craig
Integrity Commissioner

(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.)