

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SEPTEMBER 17, 2007

APPOINTMENTS TO THE ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE

Recommendation

The City Clerk recommends that Council appoint two members of the public to the remaining positions on the Accountability and Transparency Committee.

Economic Impact

N/A

Communications Plan

The Corporate Communications Department issued a news release on the formation of the Committee. Advertisements seeking applicants for the positions on the Accountability and Transparency Committee were published on the City Page, in the local newspaper and on the City's website.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to consider Council appointments to the Accountability and Transparency Committee.

Background – Analysis and Options

On April 23, 2007, Council directed that an Accountability and Transparency Committee be established to review the City's current policies/practices pertaining to Council's Code of Conduct, confidentiality, accountability and transparency, and that this Committee also make recommendations to Council regarding the appointment of an Integrity Commissioner.

Council, at its meeting of June 25, 2007, approved (in part) the following:

That applications be invited from members of the public and local media interested in the three positions on the Committee and that the Clerks Department advertise for the positions;

That representatives from the public have qualifications and/or background in some of the following areas: legal, ethics, public administration, governance and policy development;

That the Committee's Terms of Reference include the following:

- *Review current policies/practices pertaining to Council's Code of Conduct, confidentiality, accountability and transparency;*
- *Review current policies and practices of other municipalities related to these matters;*
- *Make recommendations to Council regarding the appointment of the Integrity Commissioner;*
- *Review current Council Code of Conduct and draft Complaint Procedure with the Integrity Commissioner and make recommendations to Council regarding any revisions; and*
- *That the continuation of the Accountability and Transparency Committee be reviewed in two years.*

Due to the nature of the issues to be addressed by the Committee, it was recommended that representatives from the public have certain qualifications and/or background in some of the following areas:

- Legal
- Ethics
- Governance
- Public Administration
- Policy Development

The term of office for this Committee is two years. Continuation of the Committee is to be reviewed in two years.

The Application Package included the composition, objectives, term of office, frequency of meetings and qualifications and is attached for your information.

Ads ran for two (2) weeks from July 26 to August 10, 2007 in the following newspapers:

- Vaughan Liberal/Citizen City Page on August 2, 2007
- Vaughan Liberal/Citizen City Page on July 26, 2007 and August 9, 2007
- LoSpecchio on July 27, 2007
- Vaughan Weekly on August 1, 2007
- Vaughan Today on August 10, 2007

On August 7, 2007, 21 application packages were sent to representatives of various media including newspaper editors and radio and television stations. To date, no applications have been received from any media representatives. Accordingly, the position may remain vacant or be deleted.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council as it serves our citizens and promotes community safety, health and wellness.

Regional Implications

None

Conclusion

The establishment of the Accountability and Transparency Committee is in keeping with the recent amendments to the *Municipal Act*, promoting accountability and transparency in municipal government.

Attachments

Attachment 1 - Applications submitted – CONFIDENTIAL – Members of Council only, under separate cover

Report prepared by

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Respectfully submitted

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City Clerk

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