

## **COUNCIL - SEPTEMBER 21, 2009**

### **CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

(Deferred from the Council Meeting of June 30, 2009, Item 55, Report No. 35)

Council, at its meeting of June 30, 2009, adopted the following:

1. The Committee of the Whole recommendation of June 23, 2009:
  - (1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the Accountability and Transparency Committee, dated June 23, 2009, be approved, in principle;
  - (2) That the final decision on this matter be deferred to the Council meeting of September 21, 2009, to provide further opportunity for public input; and
  - (3) That the following deputations be received:
    - a) Reverend Jim Keenan, New Hope United Church, 9225 Jane Street, Suite 1416, Concord, L6A 0J7; and
    - b) Ms. Marilyn Iafrate, 55 Marwood Place, Maple, L6A 1C5.
2. The written submission from Reverend Jim Keenan, New Hope United Church, 9225 Jane Street, Suite 1416, Concord, L6A 0J7, dated June 23, 2009, provided at the Council meeting of June 30, 2009.

### **Report of the Accountability and Transparency Committee, dated June 23, 2009**

#### **Recommendation**

The Accountability and Transparency Committee, in consultation with the Integrity Commissioner, recommends:

1. That the attached Code of Ethical Conduct for Members of Council approved in principle by the Accountability & Transparency Committee on June 1, 2009, and posted to the City's Website for Public Information, be adopted.

#### **Contribution to Sustainability**

Not applicable.

#### **Economic Impact**

Not applicable.

#### **Communications Plan**

The Code of Ethical Conduct for Members of Council will be posted to the City's Website.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide an updated Code of Ethical Conduct for Members of Council.

## **Background - Analysis and Options**

- Council at its meeting of April 23, 2007 approved the position of an independent part-time Integrity Commissioner, and directed that an Accountability and Transparency Committee be established.
- Council at its meeting of November 26, 2007, recommended the appointment of Mr. Bill Fitzgerald and Ms. Joy Lerman to the Committee as the two (2) representatives from the public.
- Council at its meeting of April 14, 2008 appointed Mr. William (Bill) Weissglas as Vaughan's Integrity Commissioner.
- Council at its meeting of June 23, 2008 adopted the Complaint Protocol for Council Code of Conduct.
- On November 21, 2008, William (Bill) Weissglas tendered his resignation as Integrity Commissioner.
- Council at its meeting of February 24, 2009 appointed Ms. Suzanne Craig as Vaughan's Integrity Commissioner, effective April 6, 2009.

The Accountability and Transparency Committee was tasked, in conjunction with the Integrity Commissioner, to review and recommend revisions to the City of Vaughan's existing Code of Ethics and Conduct for Members of Council. The existing Code, Policy 01.06 dates back to 1996. The attached Code of Ethical Conduct for Members of Council is the result of lengthy consideration and deliberations, in consultation with both the former and current Integrity Commissioners, who reviewed numerous Codes of Conduct from other jurisdictions. The result is a comprehensive Code of Ethical Conduct which establishes a series of 21 rules that will guide Members of Council, each rule supported by commentary which may be supplemented by examples, to ensure a consistent understanding.

The Code of Ethical Conduct reflects an acknowledgement that ethics and integrity are at the core of public confidence in government and in the political process. In adopting this Code of Ethical Conduct, Council is recognizing that as leaders of the community, they are held to higher standards of behaviour and conduct, and that their conduct must reflect the highest ethical ideals so that it can bear the closest public scrutiny.

The Code of Ethical Conduct provides clear guidance regarding conflicts of interest, gifts and benefits, the handling of confidential information, use of City property and resources, election campaign work, improper use of influence and employment of family members among other matters, as well as provisions to enforce compliance with the Code.

## **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020**

The high ethical ideals embodied in the Code of Ethical Conduct reflect the City's values identified in the Vaughan Vision 2020.

## **Regional Implications**

None

## **Conclusion**

The attached Code of Ethical Conduct for Members of Council should be adopted by Council.

**Attachments**

1. Code of Ethical Conduct for Members of Council
2. Written Submission from Reverend Jim Keenan, dated June 23, 2009

**Report prepared by:**

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

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing is on file in the office of the City Clerk.)