
Governance Committee

Date: March 1, 2021
Time: 1:02 PM
Location: Online Video Conference

Members Present	Councillor Karen Ras	Ward 2
	Councillor Pat Saito	Ward 9 (Chair)
	Councillor George Carlson	Ward 11
	Councillor Carolyn Parrish	Ward 5
	John Magill	Citizen Member
	Sandy Milakovic	Citizen Member (Vice-Chair)

Members Absent Mayor Bonnie Crombie

Staff Present

Paul Mitcham, City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer
Andra Maxwell, City Solicitor
Diana Rusnov, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk
Gary Kent, Commissioner, Corporate Services and CFO
Sacha Smith, Manager, Legislative Services and Deputy Clerk
Michelle Sanstra, Legislative Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER - 1:02 PM

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved (S. Milakovic)

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST - Nil

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Governance Committee Draft Meeting Minutes - January 25, 2021

Approved (S. Milakovic)

5. PRESENTATIONS - Nil

6. DEPUTATIONS - Nil

7. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD - 15 Minute Limit - Nil

No members of the public registered to speak.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were approved on the consent agenda:

- 9.3 Status of the Governance Committee Work Plan
- 10.1 Amend the By-Law to include reading the agenda item and title for consent agenda as requested by the Accessibility Advisory Committee
- 10.2 Procedure By-law Review

Approved (Councillor K.Ras)

9. MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED

9.1 Options for Closed Meeting Investigation Services

Members in the Committee engaged in conversation regarding the option of moving from the Local Authority Services (LAS) to the Ombudsman. Diana Rusnov, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk advised that a report would be brought back to the Governance Committee before the next contract renewal with LAS.

RECOMMENDATION GOV-0004-2021

Moved By Councillor C. Parrish

That the Corporate Report from the City Solicitor dated February 18, 2021, entitled "Options for Closed Meeting Investigation Services" be received and referred to staff to report back closer to the end of the contract with Local Authority Services (LAS).

Approved

9.2 Governance Subcommittee Terms of Reference and Work Plan

As per Council Resolution 0017-2021, the Governance Subcommittee - Elections Terms of Reference was referred back to the Governance Committee.

John Magill and Sandy Milakovic, Citizen Members provided a document containing their recommendations to disband the subcommittee, for staff to update the report entitled "Ward Boundary Review – Preliminary Boundary Scenarios" and that the Committee add election and voting related issues to their work plan.

Committee Members engaged in discussion and Councillor Saito requested that the following topics be discussed at Governance Committee this year:

- The number of polling locations within the City, to have a discussion on that and to do a scan of the stations per population
- To discuss further advance polls, looking at what other municipalities did
- Councillor's that are running for other public office other than municipal, is there a cut off for them to use their City account, such as for sending out newsletters.

Diana Rusnov, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk advised that those topics were actively being looked; which included, the polling locations, the population, accessibility, and possible restrictions that may arise due to Covid. Ms. Rusnov advised that there was an election working group with the municipalities across southern Ontario that meet by-monthly to discuss best practices and ensure legislation is understood across the board. Ms. Rusnov further advised that an updated report would be brought back with an update of what those restrictions might be.

Gary Kent, Commissioner, Corporate Services and CFO responded to the question regarding the Councillors City account and advised that a report would be provided to either the General Committee or Governance Committee.

RECOMMENDATION GOV-0005-2021

Moved By J. Magill

1. That the Governance Subcommittee discussed election related matters be disbanded effective immediately.
2. That Staff be requested to update the report entitled "Ward Boundary Review – Preliminary Boundary Scenarios" dated January 14th, 2020 when the results of the 2021 census become available and bring it forward for consideration by the Governance Committee immediately following the 2022 election.
3. That any work undertaken by a new Subcommittee with respect to changes to ward boundaries should build upon the staff reports on the subject.
4. That the Governance Committee should add an item to its current work plan calling for the identification of any and all election and voting related issues and opportunities, including those which flow from potential new citizen attitudes and preferences following the COVID-19 pandemic, and any issues that may arise from the 2022 elections be referred to the new subcommittee.

Approved

9.3 Status of the Governance Committee Work Plan (CONSENT)

RECOMMENDATION GOV-0006-2021

Moved By Councillor K. Ras

That the status of the Governance Committee Work Plan items, updated for the March 1, 2021 Governance Committee meeting, be received

Received

10. MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE BY-LAW

10.1 Amend the By-law to include reading the agenda item and title for consent agenda as requested by the Accessibility Advisory Committee (CONSENT)

RECOMMENDATION GOV-0007-2021

Moved By Councillor K. Ras

That the Council Procedure By-Law 0139-2013, as amended, be amended to include reading the agenda item and title for the consent agenda as requested by the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Approved

10.2 Procedure By-law Review (CONSENT)

RECOMMENDATION GOV-0008-2021

Moved By Councillor K. Ras

That the Memorandum dated February 24, 2021 from Sacha Smith, Manager, Legislative Services and Deputy Clerk entitled "Procedure By-law Review" be received for information.

Received

10.3 Public Question Period – request for follow up question/clarification

Diana Rusnov, Director, Legislative Clerks and City Clerk, spoke to the amendments to the Council Procedure By-Law regarding public question period and advised that some residents had expressed concerns that they would like the opportunity to ask a follow up question or clarify, their question if needed. Members of the Committee engaged in discussion and Councillor Saito requested that the chair of the Committee ask "does that answer your question", if there is a need to follow up or clarify their microphone will be unmuted to clarify.

RECOMMENDATION GOV-0009-2021

Moved By Councillor K. Ras

That the verbal update from Diana Rusnov, Director of Legislative Services and City Clerk regarding the Public Question Period-request to follow-up question/clarification, be received.

Received

11. INFORMATION ITEMS - Nil

12. OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Councillor's use of Social Media

Diana Rusnov, Director, Legislative Clerks and City Clerk advised that a report was being drafted to address this matter. Ms. Rusnov advised that any questions pertaining to the Social Media Guidelines for Council can be directed to herself or the Integrity Commissioner.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - May 10, 2021

14. ADJOURNMENT - 1:43 PM (Councillor G. Carlson)