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## Governance Committee

**Date:** January 27, 2025  
**Time:** 1:00 PM  
**Location:** Council Chambers, Civic Centre, 2nd Floor  
300 City Centre Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, L5B 3C1  
and Online Video Conference

<b>Members Present</b>	Mayor Carolyn Parrish	Ex-Officio
	Councillor Dipika Damerla	Ward 7 (Chair)
	Deputy Mayor and Councillor Matt Mahoney	Ward 8 (Vice-Chair)
	Councillor Chris Fonseca	Ward 3
	Councillor Joe Horneck	Ward 6
	Councillor Brad Butt	Ward 11
	Jennifer Green Frank	Citizen Member
<b>Members Absent</b>	Harminder Dhillon	Citizen Member

### Staff Present

Geoff Wright, City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer  
Raj Sheth, Commissioner of Corporate Services  
Graham Walsh, City Solicitor  
Diana Rusnov, Director of Legislative Services and City Clerk  
Sacha Smith, Manager of Legislative Services and Deputy Clerk  
Heleana Tsabros, Legislative Coordinator

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Damerla, Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

### 2. INDIGENOUS LAND STATEMENT

Councillor Damerla, Chair, recited the Indigenous Land Statement.

### 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Diana Rusnov, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk, noted that resident Athina Tagidou withdrew her deputation request, and that item 7.1 could be removed from the agenda.

That the agenda of the January 27, 2025, at 1:00 pm Governance Committee meeting be approved as amended.

Approved (Councillor Horneck)

4. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 Governance Committee Draft Minutes - January 29, 2024

Approved (Deputy Mayor and Councillor Mahoney)

6. PRESENTATIONS - Nil

7. DEPUTATIONS

7.1 Athina Tagidou, Resident, regarding Councillor Governance Concerns (Deputant withdrew their deputation)

8. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD - Nil

9. CONSENT AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION GOV-0001-2025

Moved By Councillor Chris Fonseca

That the following items were approved under the consent agenda:

10.4 Status of the Governance Committee Work Plan

Carried

10. MATTERS CONSIDERED

10.1 Council Code of Conduct and the Municipal Accountability Act

Comment period for the proposed legislation is open until February 10, 2025

Item 12.1 was brought up for discussion under this item.

Members of Council engaged in a discussion with respect to the proposed legislation and made the following comments:

- The importance of understanding the upcoming legislative changes and increased penalties regarding the Code of Conduct.
- Whether the new Code of Conduct would override the existing one.
- The process for submitting comments on the new legislation, and whether feedback should come from individual members of Council or the City Council as a whole.

- The potential impact on the role of the provincial Integrity Commissioner and whether municipalities would still be required to seek information sessions or if a centralized model would be adopted.

Graham Walsh, City Solicitor responded to questions from Members of the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION GOV-0002-2025

Moved By Councillor Joe Horneck

That the letter dated December 12, 2024, from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to Heads of Council, with respect to the proposed Municipal Accountability Act, 2024, be received.

Received

10.2 Clarification on difference between Notice of Motions VS Council Direction

Councillor A. Tedjo requested clarification at the November 27, 2024, Council meeting.

Members of the Committee engaged in a discussion and spoke to the following:

- The need for clarity between staff direction and Council direction.
- The establishment of a threshold for providing direction, particularly in time-consuming matters.
- Updating the Council Procedure By-law to clarify the distinction between motions and direction.
- Educating citizens and Council on proper procedures and documentation.

Diana Rusnov, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk, responded to questions and clarified that direction is less formal than motions, with motions requiring staff work and being recorded. Geoff Wright, City Manager, noted that Members of Council should be consulting staff before drafting motions.

RECOMMENDATION GOV-0003-2025

Moved By Deputy Mayor and Councillor Matt Mahoney

That the Council Procedure By-law 0044-2022, as amended, be amended to include a definition for “direction” and provide greater clarity when a formal motion is required.

Approved

10.3 Chair and Vice Chair Roles at Advisory Committees

Councillor Alvin Tedjo requested discussion on this matter

Members of the Committee engaged in a discussion regarding the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair at advisory committees and spoke to the following:

- The potential for Members of Council to hold Chair positions instead of Citizen Members for Advisory Committees.
- Challenges in managing public interactions and controversial matters.
- Support for Citizen Members as Chairs in certain committees, such as Accessibility Advisory Committee due to lived experience.
- Concerns about Citizen Members' preparedness for contentious meetings.
- The need to review and update the Terms of Reference for Advisory Committees.
- The importance of training for Citizen Members in Chair or Vice-Chair roles.
- The suggestion to assess which Advisory Committees are suitable for Citizen Members and provide appropriate training.

RECOMMENDATION GOV-0004-2025

Moved By Councillor Brad Butt

1. That the verbal discussion with respect to the roles of the Chair and the Vice Chair in Advisory Committees, be received.
2. That staff be directed to implement training for Citizen Members appointed as Chair or Vice-Chair in Advisory Committees, commencing with the new term of Council and continuing thereafter.

Received

10.4 Status of the Governance Committee Work Plan (CONSENT)

RECOMMENDATION GOV-0005-2025

Moved By Councillor Chris Fonseca

That the status of the Governance Committee Work Plan items, updated for the January 27, 2025 Governance meeting, be approved.

Carried

11. MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE BY-LAW - Nil

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

12.1 Letter dated from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) with respect to the Municipal Accountability Act, 2024

No discussion took place under this item.

RECOMMENDATION GOV-0006-2025

Moved By Councillor Chris Fonseca

That the letter from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) with respect to the Municipal Accountability Act, 2024, be received.

Received

13. OTHER BUSINESS

In response to Councillor Damerla's inquiry with respect to asking deputants to state their address publicly, Diana Rusnov, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk, clarified that while it is a requirement at Planning and Development Committee meetings, it is not mandatory at other Committees, and that addresses must be obtained.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

March 31, 2025

15. ADJOURNMENT

1:43 PM (Mayor Parrish)