Hamilton

MINUTES 19-004

GOVERNANCE REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE
Thursday, May 28, 2019
1:00 pm, Council Chambers
Hamilton City Hall

Present: Councillors T. Whitehead (Chair), M. Wilson (Vice-Chair), M. Pearson, B. Clark, and L. Ferguson

Absent: Councillor A. VanderBeek - Personal

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REFERRED TO THE AUDIT, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. Pregnancy and Parental Leave for Members of Council Policy (CL19007) (City Wide) (Item 10.1)

(Pearson/Clark)
That Council approve the "Pregnancy and Parental Leave for Members of Council Policy" attached as Appendix 'A' to Report CL19007.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 4 to 0, as follows:

NOT PRESENT - Vice-Chair Maureen Wilson
YES - Chair Terry Whitehead
NOT PRESENT - Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
YES - Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
YES - Councillor Maria Pearson
YES - Councillor Brad Clark

2. Additional Administrative Support for Councillors' Offices (Item 11.1)

(Whitehead/Pearson)
WHEREAS, the current allotment for vacation and sick leave is insufficient for Councillor administrative staff whose accumulated vacation entitlement exceeds the amount of coverage currently provided in the ward office budgets (2 weeks);

WHEREAS, our social media and engagement policies and practices at the city have been successful in engaging more residents than ever before with their ward Councillors' offices subsequently requiring closer monitoring by staff and Councillor's to these outlets to efficiently respond to constituent concerns;

WHEREAS, a 0.5 FTE administrative support person would provide greater continuity in the office by facilitating coverage of the FTE person resulting in a more seamless exchange between the constituent and the ward office staff on a given issue or concern;

WHEREAS, a single staff person often deals with complex issues or projects to support their Councillor's initiatives requiring them to exercise greater responsibilities beyond basic constituency matters;

WHEREAS, the amount of work in each ward office is substantial and can be clearly demonstrated through activity levels there is a need to ensure we have the resources to protect the health and wellbeing of our admins who may incur negative impacts due to increased stress or burnout;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the administrative support previously allocated to old wards 7 & 8 of $177,000 to be equally allocated across all new wards (or $11,800 per ward), be approved.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 4 to 0, as follows:

NOT PRESENT - Vice-Chair Maureen Wilson
YES - Chair Terry Whitehead
NOT PRESENT - Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
YES - Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
YES - Councillor Maria Pearson
YES - Councillor Brad Clark

FOR INFORMATION:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 2)

The Committee Clerk advised that there were no changes to the agenda.

(Pearson/Ferguson)
That the May 28, 2019 Agenda of the Governance Review Sub-Committee be approved, as presented.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 4 to 0, as follows:

NOT PRESENT - Vice-Chair Maureen Wilson
YES - Chair Terry Whitehead
NOT PRESENT - Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
YES - Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
YES - Councillor Maria Pearson
YES - Councillor Brad Clark

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Item 4)

(i) April 25, 2019 (Item 4.1)

(Pearson/Clark)
That the Minutes of the April 25, 2019 meeting of the Governance Review Sub-Committee be approved, as presented.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 4 to 0, as follows:

NOT PRESENT - Vice-Chair Maureen Wilson
YES - Chair Terry Whitehead
NOT PRESENT - Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
YES - Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
YES - Councillor Maria Pearson
YES - Councillor Brad Clark

(d) MOTIONS (Item 11)

(i) Additional Administrative Support for Councillors' Offices (Item 11.1)

(Whitehead/Pearson)
That sub-section (a) to the motion respecting Additional Administrative Support for Councillors' Offices be amended by deleting sub-section (a) and replacing it with the following in lieu thereof:

~~(a) That an additional 0.5 FTE for administrative support at gross cost of $339,000 (or $22,600 per ward) starting on July 1st, 2019 and an annualized gross cost of $678,000 (or $45,200 per ward), be approved; and,~~

(a) That the year-end surplus of the Ward Office Budgets within the Legislative Reserve, be split evenly among the 15 Wards and the Mayor's Office on an annual basis.

Result: Amendment DEFEATED by a TIED vote of 2 to 2, as follows:

NOT PRESENT - Vice-Chair Maureen Wilson
YES - Chair Terry Whitehead
NOT PRESENT - Councillor Arlene VanderBeek
NO - Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
YES - Councillor Maria Pearson
NO - Councillor Brad Clark

(e) ADJOURNMENT (Item 15)

(Pearson/Clark)
That, there being no further business, the Governance Review Sub-Committee meeting be adjourned at 1:54 p.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor T. Whitehead, Chair
Governance Review Sub-Committee

Angela McRae
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk