

February 27, 2015

Chair and Members
Corporate Services Committee

Re: Council Policy 28(2) – Council Members’ Expense Account

The City Clerk will be reporting back in the near future in response to the following Council resolution:

“That the two communications for J. Kogelheide regarding the policy for Council Member’s expenses BE REFERRED to the review of the Council Members’ Expense policy that the City Clerk is being directed to undertake, in accordance with clause 14b) of the 1st Report of the Corporate Services Committee which states:

“the City Clerk BE DIRECTED to review the Council Members’ Expense Policy and report back on what changes might be in order in keeping with best practices, with a view to streamlining the process; it being noted that accountability and openness is accomplished through the regular posting of expenditures.”

Given the recent release of Council Members’ expenses for the Fourth Quarter of 2014, and the concerns raised by some citizens of London about a number of last minute claims, I respectfully request that the City Clerk be directed to address the following when reporting back on possible changes to the Council Members’ Expense Policy:

1. Incorporating a tighter deadline for expense claim to be made and provision that if a claim for expenses is made after that deadline, those expenses would be ineligible for reimbursement. These changes would ensure that request for reimbursement for expenses are quickly disclosed to the public.
2. Establishing a monthly transportation allowance within the existing expense allocation, with flexibility for Council Members to determine if they wish to forego the monthly transportation allowance and use the funds for other purposes permitted by the Council Policy. This would effectively set a cap on the allowable expenses related to the use of a Council Member’s personal vehicle for City-related business. It is also requested that information be provided on potential implications with respect to the provision of a monthly travel allowance.
3. A restriction be placed on the use of the Council Members’ expense account in a Municipal Election year, commencing Nomination Day until the end of the Council term.

Respectfully submitted,

Josh Morgan
Councillor Ward 7