



300 Dufferin Avenue  
P.O. Box 5035  
London, ON  
N6A 4L9

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CANADA

April 11, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Over the first few months of our term of Council, a number of us have raised items for consideration in terms of our own operations.

Some of these changes may not require a lot of time, for example should in-camera items at Council be moved to the end of the agenda as we do at committee meetings?

Others, such as the uneven workload carried by Councillors regarding our Agencies, Boards, and Commissions, how we select ourselves for Standing Committees, how we deal with appointments when vacancies on Agencies, Boards, and Commissions arise during a term, and how we modernize the use of our expense accounts for community engagement and community building activities, may require more discussion and debate.

Still others, such as formalizing the duties of the Deputy Mayor and Budget Chair, and the realities of the role of Councillors being full-time in a city fast approaching half a million people also need to be addressed in a manner that allows full thoughtful discussion and public engagement in order to have any changes in place well in advance of the next election. For example, should the Deputy Mayor automatically be the chair of Governance Working Group and the Budget Chair be the chair of the Audit Committee? Should the two positions be formalized as Deputy Mayor of Strategic Plan and Deputy Mayor of Finance? Should both positions receive an additional stipend for the additional workload? Likewise, does a stipend need to be provided for Boards and Commissions to compensate for the uneven workload carried by Councillors in this capacity?

With all of these items to consider, we are asking for your support for this motion:

*That Civic Administration be directed to call the first meeting of the Governance Working Group no later than May 18, 2023 and;*

*That the following matters BE REFERRED to the Governance Working Group for discussion and for potential recommendation(s) back to the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee:*

- a) *discussion related to the management of in camera items at Municipal Council meetings; it being noted that the current practice requires that the Chambers be vacated by the public immediately following the call to order of the Council meeting;*
- b) *discussion with respect to potential changes and/or clarification of the Council Members' Expense Account Policy, specifically related (but not necessarily limited) to permitting a Councillor to host community engagement and/or community building events that include recreational and/or social components at City-owned and operated facilities and other civic spaces;*
- c) *consideration of the development of new Council policies related to:*
  - i. *participation requirements for individual Council members related to the City's Agencies, Boards and Commissions, and compensation incentives for 'uneven' workloads and standing committee participation expectations by individual Council members, including a requirement that members rank all committees in terms of preference; it being noted that any associated change may require an update to the Selection Process Policy for Appointing Members to Committees, Civic Boards and Commissions;*
  - ii. *establishment of an appointment of Budget Chair Policy that would include a recommended additional stipend for the role;*



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d) *consideration of revisions to the following existing Council policies:*

- i. *the Appointment of Deputy Mayor Policy to add formality to certain job duties for the position and to consider additional compensation (or stipend) for the position of the Deputy Mayor;*
- ii. *the Remuneration for Elected Officials and Appointed Citizen Members Policy, to provide for the establishment of a new full-time compensation model for Councillors, for the start of the 2026 Municipal Council term, as well as a draft terms of reference for an independent task force to review and consult with the public with respect to same; it being noted that this may require additional revisions to associated Council Policies, such as Discussion of Remuneration for Elected Officials and Individuals Appointed by City Council to serve on its Committee or a Local Agency, Board or Commission Policy.*

e) *undertake a review of the appointment process for Boards, Agencies, and Commissions, with regard to the filling of vacancies during a council term including but not limited to:*

- i. *the potential for ABCs to review and identify recommended candidates based on their skill needs,*
- ii. *providing an evaluation matrix tool to assist councillors in reviewing applications,*
- iii. *consideration of an interview process*

We hope you will support this motion as a starting point for a “work plan” for the Governance Working Group to begin working on, noting that other items may be added by direction of Council or brought forward by members of the working group itself.

Sincerely,

Shawn Lewis  
Deputy Mayor  
Ward 2

Elizabeth Pelozo  
Budget Chair  
Ward 12