

Priorities Committee Governance Review



Governance

Final Recommendations

Priorities Committee

Governance Review

Governance

- Seven Governance Areas
- 36 Recommendations

Priorities Committee

Governance Review

The Five Criteria

- Strengthen Council's and Councillors' representative role
- Facilitate the role of Council as "Community Leaders"
- Build on the corporate reorganization
- Promote the Priorities Committee as the policy making body of Council
- Ensure meaningful public participation and transparency in Council's decision making processes

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Governance Review

Seven Governance Areas

- Procedure By-law Review
- Governance Statement
- Policy Analysis Team
- Councillor Information Requests
- Public Consultation
- Communications Plan
- Council Remuneration and Expenses

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Recommendation

- Governance Topics be given *approval in principle only* by the Priorities Committee

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Recommendation

- Appropriate Staff, in consultation with the Chief Administrative Officer, be directed to bring back to the Priorities Committee in this term of Council a policy report covering each of the Governance Topics
- Each report to contain specific recommendations for adoption

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Procedure By-Law Review

- Regular review of Council's Procedural Rules
- 2nd Year of each Council Term
- Review to include a survey of each Member of Council

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Governance Statement

- Do a Governance Statement for each term of Council
- Part of the Orientation Process
- Review to be part of the Annual Council Retreat

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Governance Statement

- Councils being elected by, representative of, and accountable to their community;
- Policies and programs reflecting the mandate Councils have received from electors;
- Policy enactment arising from the Council plan with appropriate performance management to assess the Council's progress;

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Governance Statement

- Community participation in governance;
- Mayor and Councillors providing leadership to the community and reflecting the community's collective aspirations;
- A management structure which implements the Council's goals in accordance with Council's priorities and approved budget;

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Governance Statement

- Provision of services which meet the community's needs (sometimes in partnership with other levels of government, business or community organizations);
- Local government being well placed to facilitate coordination and integration at a local level;
- Cooperation between local governments.

Code of Good Governance, The Municipal Association of Victoria and Victorian Local Governance Association (Australia, December, 1997)

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Governance Review

Governance Statement - Contents

- What is Governance/Principles of Governance
- The Structure of Council
- Leadership and Strategy/Ethics
- Communications/Delegations
- Risk Management
- Performance Review
- Key Governance Documents, Policies and Processes

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Policy Analysis Team

- Existing Staff:

- ▶ 2 or 3 staff seconded from City Departments
- ▶ Suggested period of two years

- Functions:

- ▶ Compile data base of municipal “best practices”
- ▶ Assist other staff in researching and preparing Policy Discussion Papers
- ▶ Work with Members of Council - new Policies or review of existing Policies

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Councillor Information Requests

- Develop a Protocol on Councillor's Information Requests
- Register of all information request to be maintained by City Clerk
- Summary of all such requests to be provided to Council annually by City Clerk
- Protocol to include a criteria for classifying information as confidential

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The Democratic Capital

“City Governments - like other political entities are faced with the challenge of declining participation in the democratic process. To renew the interest and activity of their citizens, cities have to develop ways to make themselves more accountable, increase the transparency of their decision making and engage citizens directly in the creation of policies and decisions.”

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The Democratic Capital

“Citizens become more than a voter or customer - they are engaged as co-producers in the policies that will shape the city’s future.”

Cities of the Future: Global Competition, Local Leadership,
Pricewaterhouse Coopers, 2006

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Public Consultation

- Set Guidelines for Public Consultation that are consistent across City Departments
- Each consultation to include a statement as to how feedback received from the Public will be considered by Council
- Consider using City of Portland, Washington's "*Public Involvement Task Force*"

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Communications Plan

- Communications Plan to be prepared, presented to and approved by the Priorities Committee at the start of each Council Term
- All Departments, including Council, to be bound by the Communications Plan to ensure consistency and accuracy of information
- Manager of Communications to report annually to the Priorities Committee on its effectiveness

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Council Remuneration and Expenses

“Remuneration is a difficult is not nearly impossible self-reflective decision-making process for elected bodies at all levels. Every option available is argued for and against. At the centre of the debate are those who are elected on the premise that they serve the greater good of the public and not seek personal gain. It is, ironically, the only issue with which a publicly elected body is least equipped to deal, yet nevertheless must ultimately render a decision.”

Report of the Citizens' Commission on Remuneration for Members of the Council of the Halifax Regional Municipality, April 20, 2004

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Council Remuneration and Expenses

“The primary and over-riding necessity for remuneration of elected official is not really about how much an individual or group receives from the public purse. Remuneration of elected public bodies is about establishing and maintaining an environment that creates neither incentives nor constructs barriers to attracting the widest possible cross section of qualified individuals from the community to serve that community. Councils ideally should represent the broad range of people who make up a community.”

Report of the Citizens' Commission on Remuneration for Members of the Council of the Halifax Regional Municipality, April 20, 2004

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Council Remuneration and Expenses

- Establish a Citizen Task Force appointed in the last year of each Council term
- Consider Council Remuneration, Resources, Code of Ethics, Guidelines for the use of City Resources and reporting of expenses outside of the Municipal Act
- Appointed by former Council with recommendations to take effect after general municipal election for new Council

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Council Remuneration and Expenses

- Membership to be advertised and selected by Nomination Committee of Council
- CAO's Report setting out proposed membership, budget, staff advisors, time line and terms of reference
- CAO's report to be in the form of a Policy Statement formally adopted by by-law of Council

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Council Remuneration and Expenses



Independent Council Compensation Committee

City of Edmonton

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Final Recommendations