

THE FORTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE PRIORITIES COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY

**Council Chamber
Tom Davies Square**

**Wednesday, April 5, 2006
Commencement: 5:35 p.m.**

Chair

COUNCILLOR CALDARELLI, IN THE CHAIR

Present

Councillors Berthiaume; Bradley; Craig; Dupuis; Gainer; Gasparini; Kett; Reynolds (A5:59pm); Rivest; Thompson; Mayor Courtemanche (D6:40pm)

City Officials

D. Nadorozny, Acting Chief Administrative Officer; C. Matheson, General Manager of Community Development; A. Stephen, General Manager of Infrastructure & Emergency Services; C. Hallsworth, Executive Director of Administrative Services; L. Hayes, CFO/Treasurer; H. Salter, Deputy City Solicitor; G. Lamothe, Manager of Communications & French Language Service; G. Clausen, City Engineer; D. Mathe, Manager of Supplies & Services; K. Rossi, Coordinator of Community Senior Services; B. Falcioni, Director of Roads & Transportation; A. Haché, City Clerk; F. Bortolussi, Planning Committee Secretary; CJ Caporale, Council Secretary

C.U.P.E.

W. MacKinnon, President, CUPE Local 4705

News Media

Sudbury Star; MCTV; CIGM; Channel 10 News; Le Voyageur; Northern Life; Big Daddy

Declarations of
Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Item 2
Bill 53 - City of
Toronto Act

Report dated 2006-03-30 from the Executive Director of Administrative Services regarding Municipal Legislative Reform: Bill 53 (City of Toronto Act) was received for information only.

Ms. Heather Salter, Deputy City Solicitor, gave an electronic presentation regarding the above. She provided a brief background on the history of the consultation and development of Bill 53 (City of Toronto Act, 2005). She indicated that it is anticipated that Bill 53 will be passed by the legislature this fall.

She also provided a summary of the key highlights of the First Reading version of Bill 53, including General Powers, Council Governance, Financial Administration and New Revenues.

Item 2
Bill 53 - City of
Toronto Act
(continued)

Ms. Salter stated that the new legislation recognizes the City of Toronto as a democratically elected government which is responsible and accountable. The purpose of the new Act is to put emphasis on broad general powers and enhance authority to delegate, but, notwithstanding the broad grants of authority, subject to provincial regulations and expanded conflict provision.

The Act will provide expanded powers to establish city boards and corporations and to assign functions to them. It will also ensure the accountability and transparency of the operations of the City. The City of Toronto will be required to establish a code of conduct and appoint an Integrity Commissioner, establish and maintain a lobbyist registry, and to appoint an Auditor General and an Ombudsman. The other significant change is a requirement for the City to adopt and maintain policies with items such as sale/disposition of land, hiring, procurement, public notice, etc.

Ms. Salter indicated that the Act will have fewer restrictions on natural person powers regarding financial administration and new revenues, subject to provincial regulations. The proposed Act provides new power to impose taxes on alcohol, entertainment and tobacco. A key change to traditional property taxes is the ability to write off taxes as uncollectible without the necessity of first having a tax sale. The City would also have the ability to impose area rates for any service identified in a bylaw, subject to provincial regulations.

Ms. Salter advised that the Province of Ontario intends to introduce Bill 53 into the Legislative Assembly and a new Municipal Act for the balance of Ontario's municipalities this fall and come into effect in January 2007.

Item 3
Purchasing

Report dated 2006-03-31 from the CFO/Treasurer regarding the Purchasing By-law, the Procurement Card Program, and the Bellamy Report was received for information only.

The Executive Summary dated 2005 from the Honourable Madam Justice Denise E. Bellamy, Commissioner regarding Toronto Computer Leasing Inquiry - Toronto External Contracts Inquiry was circulated under separate cover.

Mr. Darryl Mathe, Manager of Supplies & Services, provided the Committee with an electronic presentation regarding the Purchase By-Law 2003-300. He provided a brief description of the definition of "Lowest Total Acquisition Cost" and the General Procurement Policy.

He also provided restrictions set out in the Purchasing By-Law such as, no contract for Services shall be awarded where the services would result in the establishment of an employee-employer relationship, no employee shall purchase, on behalf of the City of Greater Sudbury, any Goods, Services or Construction, except in accordance with the Purchasing By-Law, etc.

Item 3
Purchasing
(continued)

Mr. Mathe indicated that the following contracts are subject to Council's approval, any contract requiring approval from the OMB, where the "Total Acquisition Cost" is greater than the Council approved budget, or where an irregularity precludes the Award of a Contract to the supplier submitting the lowest bid, etc.

He briefly outlined notification procedures for procurement opportunities, purchasing procedures, and purchasing cards. He indicated that purchases between \$500 and \$25,000 must be made by using purchasing card, purchase order, blanket order or contract. Purchases exceeding \$25,000, a Request for Tender (RFT) must be used subject to several criteria. A Request for Proposal (RFP) is used when one or more of the criteria for issuing a RFT cannot be met.

Mr. Mathe covered areas such as contracts without a budgetary appropriation, bids in excess of project estimates, emergency purchases, and bid irregularities.

Mr. Mathe gave an electronic presentation regarding the Purchasing Card Policy and outlined the objective. He stated that the goal of the City of Greater Sudbury is to give the end user a tool to purchase the low value maintenance repairable operating (MRO) items with as little red tape as possible.

The VISA procurement card will allow employees to make purchases directly from vendors and provide the City with a comprehensive management information reporting system. He indicated that 75% of the 100,000 invoices received annually by the City are less than \$500.00.

He advised that the advantage of the procurement card will allow management to concentrate and control the higher volume City expenditures.

Mr. Mathe provided an electronic presentation regarding the Bellamy Report which was issued after two separate inquiries into some of the procurement practices at the City of Toronto.

The report highlights the importance of having strong system of checks and balances in place, and sets a high standard of ethical conduct for anyone involved with purchasing. Mr. Mathe outlined several recommendations listed in the Bellamy Report that the City has completed or is working towards to put into place, such as having procurement managed by one department and a senior position, issue a procurement manual, assemble project teams for major City procurements, involve the Legal Services Division in major procurements, Council and Committees should make procurement decisions in public, etc.

MANAGERS' REPORTS

Item 4

Definition of a "Senior"

Report dated 2006-03-01 from the Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer regarding Establishing the Definition of a "Senior" in the Miscellaneous User Fee By-law was received.

Report dated 2006-04-04 from the Mayor and Council's Roundtable on Seniors' Issues regarding the Roundtable's response to the Definition of a Senior was tabled.

Letter dated 2006-04-05 from Councillor Callaghan, Chair, Mayor and Council's Roundtable on Seniors' Issues, endorsing the Roundtable's decision, was tabled.

The following recommendation was presented:

Bradley: THAT Council approve Option 2 Relating to the definition of a senior as described in the Miscellaneous User Fee By-Law;

AND THAT staff be directed to make the appropriate amendments to the Miscellaneous User Fee By-Law.

Amendment to the Recommendation

Councillor Dupuis requested the following amendment to the foregoing recommendation be inserted after the first paragraph:

2006-102 Dupuis: AND THAT staff be directed to find an appropriate funding source to fund the anticipated reduction in transit revenues in the estimated amount of \$170,000.

CARRIED

Proceed Past 8:00 p.m.

2006-103 Dupuis: THAT we proceed past the hour of 8:00 p.m.

CARRIED

Main Recommendation (as amended)

RECOMMENDATION 2006-104: Moved by Councillor Bradley:

THAT Council approve **Option 2** relating to the definition of a senior as described in the Miscellaneous User Fee By-Law;

AND THAT staff be directed to find an appropriate funding source to fund the anticipated reduction in transit revenues in the estimated amount of \$170,000.

AND THAT staff be directed to make the appropriate amendments to the Miscellaneous User Fee By-Law.

CARRIED

Main
Recommendation
(as amended)

Option 2 reads as follows

Senior defined as age 55+ applicable to all miscellaneous user fees, including transit, where a senior rate exists.

Report Requested

Councillor Reynolds asked the General Manager of Growth & Development if an effective date would be required in order that Transit could process seniors' bus passes. She also requested that staff provide a status report to Council within one year.

Mr. Nadorozny advised that he would provide an implementation date to Council as soon as possible.

Adjournment

RECOMMENDATION 2006-105: Moved by Councillor Gasparini:

THAT this meeting does now adjourn. Time: 8:05 p.m.

CARRIED

Councillor Caldarelli, Chair

Angie Haché, City Clerk