Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – June 25, 2014

Minute No. 422
Report – Governance Committee of Council – June 19, 2014

Item No. 1 Councillors' Representation Allowance (CRA) Review

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Governance Committee of Council, as amended, and submitted the following to Council:

1. A new section be created in the Office Equipment / Office Supplies Section of the Policy that explicitly allows expenses for Community Offices including rent, utilities and any other expenses normally associated with the running of a Community Office.

2. That the CRA policy, rules and regulations including the audit of these funds on a yearly basis be extended to apply to Chairmanship funds, that is the funds received by Councillors in recognition of the extra duties and expenses incurred by virtue of acting as a Chairman of a committee / member of Executive Policy Committee.

3. That the Disclosure section of the CRA policy be amended for the postings for December and January each year to occur within 75 days of month end, rather than 30 days for the other months of the year, in order to accommodate the City's year end processing.

4. That the City Clerk's Department work with the Corporate Finance Department to ensure as much clarity as possible in the online posting of transactions including identifying the original vendor.

5. That the ability of the Governance Committee to approve donations to community groups of over $5,000 be removed and left to Council for approval.

6. That the City Clerk consult with the Mayor's Office to determine the spending requirements of that office, in order to develop a set of criteria, including a yearly audit of spending, that would apply to the Mayor's Office spending, in keeping with the spirit of CRA policy.

7. That the Office Equipment section of the CRA Policy be changed to allow personal electronic devices / other similar devices purchased a minimum of 12 months prior to the end of a Council term be made available for sale to Councillors at fair market value, as determined by the City Clerk when they leave office, with this policy change to come into effect on July 1, 2014.

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8. That the name of the CRA policy be renamed to the Councillors' Ward Allowance (CWA) Policy.

9. That the Community Expenses section of the CRA Policy be changed to allow Councillors to initiate and undertake Community Events such as Neighbourhood Clean-ups and other similar events that are of benefit to the ward, with a $5,000.00 limit per event per year and a limitation that projects not be undertaken after the registration period start date in an election year.

10. That the Councillors' Representation Allowance Policy be amended to allow unexpended funds to be carried over to the following budget year, at the discretion of the ward councillor, up to a maximum of 10% of the total ward allocation.

11. That all changes specified above be implemented at the start of the next budget year, January 1, 2015, unless otherwise noted above.

12. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Browaty,

That the recommendation of the Governance Committee of Council be concurred in with the following amendment:

- Delete Recommendation No. 3, and renumber the balance of recommendations accordingly,

and forwarded to Council.

Carried

His Worship Mayor Katz and Councillor Wyatt asked to be recorded as having voted against the above motion, in accordance with Rule 47(7) of The Procedure By-law No. 50/2007.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 19, 2014, the Governance Committee of Council recommended to Council that the following changes be enacted to the Councillor's Representation Allowance Policy, and submitted the following to Council:

1. A new section be created in the Office Equipment / Office Supplies Section of the Policy that explicitly allows expenses for Community Offices including rent, utilities and any other expenses normally associated with the running of a Community Office;

2. That the CRA policy, rules and regulations including the audit of these funds on a yearly basis be extended to apply to Chairmanship funds, that is the funds received by Councillors in recognition of the extra duties and expenses incurred by virtue of acting as a Chairman of a committee / member of Executive Policy Committee;

3. That the Purchasing Card section of the CRA Policy be amended to not allow purchases made via a personal or other credit card, with only credit card purchases made by purchasing card issued by the City of Winnipeg being allowed;

4. That the Disclosure section of the CRA policy be amended for the postings for December and January each year to occur within 75 days of month end, rather than 30 days for the other months of the year, in order to accommodate the City's year end processing;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

5. That the City Clerk's Department work with the Corporate Finance Department to ensure as much clarity as possible in the online posting of transactions including identifying the original vendor;

6. That the ability of the Governance Committee to approve donations to community groups of over $5,000 be removed and left to Council for approval;

7. That the City Clerk consult with the Mayor's Office to determine the spending requirements of that office, in order to develop a set of criteria, including a yearly audit of spending, that would apply to the Mayor's Office spending, in keeping with the spirit of CRA policy.

8. That the Office Equipment section of the CRA Policy be changed to allow personal electronic devices / other similar devices purchased a minimum of 12 months prior to the end of a Council term be made available for sale to Councillors at fair market value, as determined by the City Clerk when they leave office, with this policy change to come into effect on July 1, 2014;

9. That the name of the CRA policy be renamed to the Councillors' Ward Allowance (CWA) Policy;

10. That the Community Expenses section of the CRA Policy be changed to allow Councillors to initiate and undertake Community Events such as Neighbourhood Clean-ups and other similar events that are of benefit to the ward, with a $5,000.00 limit per event per year and a limitation that projects not be undertaken after the registration period start date in an election year;

11. That the Councillors' Representation Allowance Policy be amended to allow unexpended funds to be carried over to the following budget year, at the discretion of the ward councillor, up to a maximum of 10% of the total ward allocation.

12. That all changes specified above be implemented at the start of the next budget year, January 1, 2015, unless otherwise noted above.

13. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.