Minute No. 288
Report – Executive Policy Committee – March 16, 2022

Item No. 5 Restrictions on Funding Announcements in an Election Year

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That Members of Council be prohibited from making any form of public funding announcement, including but not limited to press conferences, media releases and social media statements, pertaining to expenditures from Land Dedication Reserve, Community Incentive Grants, Per Capita grants and the Mayor's Civic Initiatives fund in the sixty (60) day period prior to the 2022 civic election.

2. That the Integrity Commissioner be directed to report back to Council through the Governance Committee of Council with amendments to the Members of Council Code of Conduct By-law 19/2018 to restrict funding announcements in an election year;

3. 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 His Worship Mayor Bowman,
That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted by consent.

Carried

David Grant submitted a communication in opposition to the matter.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 16, 2022, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the Council motion of January 27, 2022, with the following amendment:

- Delete Recommendation 1 and replace it with the following:

    1. That Members of Council be prohibited from making any form of public funding announcement, including but not limited to press conferences, media releases and social media statements, pertaining to expenditures from Land Dedication Reserve, Community Incentive Grants, Per Capita grants and the Mayor's Civic Initiatives fund in the sixty (60) day period prior to the 2022 civic election.

and submitted the matter to Council.

David Grant submitted a communication dated March 15, 2022, with respect to the matter.

On February 16, 2022, the Executive Policy Committee laid over the matter for 30 days.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On January 27, 2022, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Mayes,
Seconded by Councillor Sharma,

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

WHEREAS in response to concerns raised during the 2014 Civic Election, on February 22, 2018 Council placed a moratorium on any funding announcements pertaining to expenditures from Land Dedication Reserve, Community Incentive Grants and Per Capita grants in the sixty (60) day period prior to the 2018 civic election;

AND WHEREAS Council has not adopted any permanent policy regarding the prohibition of funding announcements in an election year;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Members of Council be prohibited from making any funding announcements pertaining to expenditures from Land Dedication Reserve, Community Incentive Grants and Per Capita grants in the sixty (60) day period prior to the 2022 civic election;

2. That the Integrity Commissioner be directed to report back to Council through the Governance Committee of Council with amendments to the Members of Council Code of Conduct By-law 19/2018 to restrict funding announcements in an election year;

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