Minutes – Governance Committee of Council – April 15, 2026

REPORTS

Item No. 3 Appointment of Interim Integrity Commissioner

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Governance Committee of Council recommended to Council:

1. That Kathleen Coutts be appointed as Interim Integrity Commissioner effective May 1, 2026, until March 31, 2027 or other such time as determined by Council.

2. That subject to the approval of Recommendation 1, the existing contract for Integrity Commissioner services be amended to implement Recommendation 1 in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth herein and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

3. That the City Clerk be directed to initiate a recruitment process for the appointment of the next City of Winnipeg Integrity Commissioner, following the 2026 General Election.

4. 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:

The Chairperson called Councillor Browaty to the Chair in order to move the following motions:

Moved by Councillor Sharma,

That Rule 10(3) of The Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 be suspended in order that the following item, which was received less than four business days preceding the committee meeting, be considered by Committee.

Carried

Councillor Allard was absent from the vote on the above motion.

Moved by Councillor Sharma,

WHEREAS Sherri Walsh was appointed as Council's first Integrity Commissioner in 2017;

AND WHEREAS Sherri Walsh has provided exceptional service and guidance to Members of Council in this role;

AND WHEREAS Sherri Walsh recently advised Council that she would be resigning as Integrity Commissioner effective April 30, 2026;

AND WHEREAS it is imperative to have continuity of services of the Integrity Commissioner, including advice and guidance to Members of Council in relation to the Members of Council Code of Conduct;

AND WHEREAS Kathleen Coutts has demonstrated that she meets the experience requirements for the position, including serving as Independent Investigator and external counsel to the Manitoba Human Rights Commission, conducting workplace investigations and providing advice related to employment law for private, institutional, and post-secondary clients;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Kathleen Coutts be appointed as Interim Integrity Commissioner effective May 1, 2026, until March 31, 2027 or other such time as determined by Council.

2. That subject to the approval of Recommendation 1, the existing contract for Integrity Commissioner services be amended to implement Recommendation 1 in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth herein and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

3. That the City Clerk be directed to initiate a recruitment process for the appointment of the next City of Winnipeg Integrity Commissioner, following the 2026 General Election.

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

Carried

Councillor Allard was absent from the vote on the above motion.

Councillor Sharma resumed the Chair.