

Planning Services Funding Review and Staff Increase

ACS2019-PIE-PS-0095

City Wide

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## **Report Recommendations**

**That Planning Committee recommend Council approve:**

- 1. amendments to Planning Applications fees as set out in By-law 2019-95, as detailed in Document 1;**
- 2. the addition of seven full-time equivalent (FTE) positions for the Planning Services and Legal Service Areas, at an annual approximate cost of \$800,000.00, funded entirely from the increase in fee-generated revenues, noted in recommendation 1.**

Lee Ann Snedden, Director, Planning Service; Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development (PIED) provided a presentation and responded to questions. A copy of the presentation is held on file.

Following the staff presentation, the committee heard from one delegation:

Ted Phillips, on behalf of Greater Ottawa Home Builders' Association (GOHBA), indicated he had two requests he would like the committee to consider.

- have a reserve account created to capture the existing reserves as well as any future reserves that may be generated, which would allow for the ability to retain staff, given the increase in applications one year would potentially balance a decrease the following year
- have the legal fees the industry is paying (as a result of the increase in fees) be put towards the creation of a legal team that would report to the Director of

Planning Service, PIED, as in-house counsel.

Planning committee CARRIED the report recommendations as presented with the following direction to staff:

Whereas Planning Committee is considering a report with respect to fees and staffing; and

Whereas the *Planning Act* requires that fees imposed under the *Act* for planning applications only be utilized in respect of the costs of dealing with such applications; and

Whereas it is also desirable that there be stability with respect to fees from year to year;

Further, whereas the report on staffing recommends creation of a position in Legal Services as well as positions within Planning Services; and

Whereas it is key to the successful processing of planning applications that there be integration between Legal Services and Planning Services; and

Whereas a review of the Planning Agreement process is shortly to be underway;

1. The Director, Planning Services and General Manager, Financial Services/City Treasurer be directed to submit to Planning Committee and Council a report with respect to the desirability of creating a reserve fund for Planning Fees; and
2. The Director, Planning Services and City Solicitor be direct to submit a report with respect to improving the co-ordination of Legal Services with Planning Services
3. Both of the above reports be submitted no later than the second quarter of 2020.