



Finance and Economic Development Committee

Minutes 35

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

9:30 am

Electronic Participation

This Meeting will be held through electronic participation in accordance with Section 238 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* as amended by the *COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020*. Persons wishing to view the meeting or provide comments on any of the agenda items should refer to the process detailed in and attached to this agenda as an annex.

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- Notes:
1. *Please note that these Minutes are to be considered DRAFT until confirmed by Committee.*
 2. *Underlining indicates a new or amended recommendation approved by Committee.*
 3. *Except where otherwise indicated, reports requiring Council consideration will be presented to Council on March 23, 2022 in Finance and Economic Development Committee Report 35.*

Present:

Chair: Mayor J. Watson
Vice-Chair: Councillor L. Dudas
Councillors: J. Cloutier, C. Curry, G. Darouze, E. El-Chantiry, G. Gower, A. Hubley, M. Luloff, S. Moffatt, T. Tierney

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were filed.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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CONFIRMED

COMMUNICATIONS

Response to Inquiries

- OCC 21-16 Presiding Officer

FINANCE SERVICE

1. 2021 STATEMENT OF REMUNERATION, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES PAID TO MEMBERS OF COUNCIL AND COUNCIL APPOINTEES

ACS2022-FSD-FSP-001

Citywide

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

That the Finance and Economic Development Committee and Council receive this report for information.

RECEIVED

2. RESIDENTIAL VACANT UNIT TAX

ACS2022-FSD-REV-0001

Citywide

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the That the Finance and Economic Development Committee recommend that Council:

- 1. Adopt the Vacant Unit Tax (VUT) program outlined in this report starting in 2023 for the 2022 vacancy period.**
- 2. Approve a one percent vacant unit tax on the current value assessment of the residential properties that meet the vacant unit tax definition.**
- 3. Appoint the Review authority and Program Administrator for the Vacant Unit Tax Program as outlined in this report.**
- 4. Direct the Deputy City Treasurer, Revenue Services, to apply to the provincial Minister of Finance requesting Ottawa be designated as an eligible municipality to levy a vacant unit tax and to place the draft by-law substantially in the form attached as Document 3 on an agenda of Council for enactment, following such designation by the Province.**
- 5. Approve the Vacant Unit Tax program delivery annual operating costs, start-up costs and permanent and temporary full-time equivalent positions, as outlined in this report.**
- 6. Direct the net revenues from the vacant unit tax towards affordable housing as outlined in the Housing Services Long Range Financial Plan.**

Wendy Stephanson, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Services (FS) and Joseph Muhuni, Deputy City Treasurer, Revenue, FS spoke to a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which is held on file with the City Clerk.

Committee heard from the following delegations:

*Salma Al-Shehabi provided a slide presentation and noted her opposition to the report recommendations, urging the Committee to assess other jurisdictions that have better outcomes.

*Alex Cullen, President, Federation of Citizens Association (FCA) spoke in opposition of the report, noting that the FCA was not part of the consultation process. He also noted his concern with the use of negative option billing and urged Committee to reject the report.

*Cheryl Parrott, Co-Chair Security Committee, Hintonburg Community Association spoke in support of the report and suggested that a review be conducted within two years to see if the one per cent tax is sufficient to affect the required change.

*John Dickie, Chair, Eastern Ontario Landlord Organization outlined the positive and negative impacts of the vacant unit tax and urged the Committee to include the revision to the purchase exemption.

*Jean Mullan, Bel-Air Community Association spoke in support of the report recommendation, however suggested that staff develop a simple easy-to-use method for non-vacancy declarations that does not require computer literacy.

Tony Miller, Ottawa Small Landlords Association supports the staff report however recommended that staff be directed to ensure the tax exemptions are not penalizing property buyers.

Written correspondence was also received by the Greater Ottawa Home Builders' Association and Heritage Ottawa. All written correspondence and public delegations' presentations are held on file with the City Clerk.

Questions and comments from members of Council touched on the vacancy periods during property sales; property owners residing in retirement homes; regulations regarding derelict homes, additional by-law services funding, and providing communication/information in more languages other than French and English.

After discussion, the Committee CARRIED the item as presented.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

3. OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

ACS2022-OCC-GEN-0007

Citywide

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Finance and Economic Development Committee recommend that City Council:

- 1. Receive this report; and**
- 2. Approve the amendments to Schedule "A" of the Records Retention and Disposition By-law as outlined in this report and set out in Documents 7 and 8.**

RECEIVED and CARRIED

4. UPDATE ON THE 2022 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO ELECTION-RELATED BY-LAWS AND POLICIES

ACS2022-OCC-GEN-0003

Citywide

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Finance and Economic Development Committee recommend that City Council:

- 1. Receive the update on the 2022 Municipal Elections for information;**
- 2. Approve and enact a By-Law to Authorize the Use of an Alternative Voting Method, attached as Document 1, to permit the use of a special mail-in ballot that does not require electors to attend at a voting place in order to vote in accordance with Section 42 of the Municipal Election Act, 1996, for the 2022 Municipal Elections and**

any by-elections that may occur during the 2022-2026 Term of Council, as described in this report;

- 3. Approve amendments to election-related by-laws and policies as described in this report, including:**
 - a) The Contribution Rebate Program By-law (By-law No. 2018-33), as attached in Document 6; and**
 - b) The Election-Related Resources Policy, including establishment of the Election-Related Blackout Period Procedures, as described in this report and set out in Documents 7 and 8.**
- 4. Approve the establishment of the 2022-2026 Election Compliance Audit Committee, as described in this report and including:**
 - a) The Terms of Reference for the Election Compliance Audit Committee as outlined in Document 9;**
 - b) Delegating the authority to appoint the members of the Committee to the City Clerk, the Auditor General and the Integrity Commissioner; and**
 - c) Exempting the Election Compliance Audit Committee from Section 2.6 of the Appointment Policy for citizen members of City advisory committees, boards, task forces, external boards, commissions, and authorities.**

In response to questions regarding the 60-day blackout period, Rick O'Connor, City Clerk referenced the definition of the *Emergencies Act* and advised that Councillors can apply for exemptions through the Elections Office website.

After discussion, the Committee RECEIVED and CARRIED the report as presented.

5. STATUS UPDATE – FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE INQUIRIES AND MOTIONS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 17, 2022

ACS2022-OCC-FED-0002

CITY WIDE

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

That the Finance and Economic Development Committee receive this report for information.

RECEIVED

PLANNING, REAL ESTATE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

6. LAND EXCHANGE OF 529 TREMBLAY ROAD AND 530 TREMBLAY ROAD WITH HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA

ACS2022-PIE-CRO-0002

Alta Vista (18)

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Finance and Economic Development Committee recommend Council approve the following:

- 1. Declare a portion of 529 Tremblay Road legally described as part Lot 11, concession Gore Junction, Part 1, 2 and 3, on 5R9226; part blocks K and M, Plan 84, Part Catherine Street, Plan 84, Part 4, 5R9226, Gloucester, now in the City of Ottawa, containing approximately 1.184 hectares (2.926 acres) subject to final survey and shown annexed as Location Map 1 on sketch as surplus to City's requirements;**
- 2. Approve the Memorandum of Agreement, attached as Document 2**

dated January 2022 between the City, Public Works and Government Services Canada, and Canada Lands Company Limited; and

- 3. Authorize and Delegate the Director Corporate Real Estate Office to negotiate, conclude, amend, and execute all documents incidental, necessary or desirable to give effect to the Memorandum of Agreement on behalf of the City, including the final documents to complete this transaction.**

During the consent agenda portion of the meeting, the Committee considered the following motion to defer this item, as follows:

MOTION No FEDC 2022 01/35

Moved by Councillor J. Cloutier

WHEREAS a pedestrian bridge over the Queensway to connect to the St. Laurent LRT Station is an important missing link and additional time is needed to review this component and its role in the Memorandum of Agreement with Public Services Procurement Canada and Canada Lands Company;

THEREFORE BE IT REVOLVED That the Land Exchange of 529 Tremblay Road and 530 Tremblay Road with Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, listed as Item 6 on the Finance and Economic Development Committee (FEDC) Agenda 35 of the March 1, 2022 meeting be deferred to the next FEDC meeting on April 5, 2022.

CARRIED

The Committee DEFERRED this item and provided the following Direction to staff:

DIRECTION TO STAFF

That staff provide more information on the path forward for affordable housing on this property (*being 529 Tremblay Road and 530 Tremblay Road*), when the report is considered at Committee on April 5, 2022.

IN CAMERA ITEMS*

INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY DISTRIBUTED

A TRANSFER OF 199 LANGSTAFF DRIVE TO THE HUNTLEY CURLING CLUB

ACS2022-PIE-CRO-0001

B ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE Q2 2021 AND Q3 2021

ACS2022-PIE-EDP-0003

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 am.

Committee Coordinator

Chair