

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH, 2006 AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, BRANDON, MANITOBA

PRESENT: Mayor D. Burgess in Chair, Councillor V. Barletta, Councillor E. Black, Councillor M. Blight, Councillor L. Brown, Councillor M., Campbell, Councillor R. Chrest, Councillor G. Rice, Councillor B. Smale

ABSENT: Councillor D. Jessiman, Councillor D. Paterson

READING OF THE CALL:

At the direction of the Chair, the City Clerk read the following:

“Your Worship on February 24th, 2006, in accordance with the requirements of The Municipal Act, written notice of this meeting was delivered to all members of City Council, including that member absent from the Chamber, advising that a Special Meeting of City Council would be convened on this date to discuss the report from the Citizens’ Commission to Review the Salaries and Benefits of Council Members. As there is a quorum of City Council present, it is lawful to proceed with the meeting.”

REPORTS:

(A) **THE CITIZENS’ COMMISSION REPORT ON THE SALARIES AND BENEFITS OF BRANDON CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

City Council considered the Citizens’ Commission Report on the Salaries and Benefits of Council Members dated February, 2006 in conjunction with a verbal presentation by Dr. Meir Serfaty, Chair of the Commission.

1551 **Barletta-Chrest**
That the report of the Citizens’ Commission to Review the Salaries and Benefits of Council Members dated February, 2006 be received. CARRIED.

It was noted that if any of the following motions were adopted, same would be brought forward in a by-law to amend or replace the existing Indemnity By-law.

1552 **Black-Brown**
Report Recommendation (1)
That the practice of dividing the salary component into one-third non-taxable and two-thirds taxable be continued for the positions of both Mayor and Councillors. CARRIED.

1553 **Chrest-Barletta**
Report Recommendation (2)
That, effective January 1st, 2007, the annual salary of the Mayor be set at \$64,000. CARRIED.

1554 **Rice-Blight**
Report Recommendation (3)
That effective January 1st, 2007, all Councillors, other than the Deputy Mayor, continue to receive their current salary, subject to the annual adjustment provided for in Report Recommendation #10 below. CARRIED AS AMENDED.

AMENDMENT

Black-Barletta

1555 That the above motion be amended by deleting therefrom the words: “continue to receive their current salary” and substituting therefor the words: “be paid an annual indemnity of \$16,000”. CARRIED.

Chrest-Barletta

Report Recommendation (4)

1556 That effective January 1st, 2007, all Councillors receive a per diem/professional allowance to a maximum of \$1,540 and the allocation be split equally between per diems and expenses; and further, that the actual per diem allocation be set at \$150 per day or \$75 per half day; that for purposes of this provision, meetings that last more than three and half hours be deemed as constituting a full day. Further, that Councillors be permitted to claim expenses and per diems for all meetings outside regular Council meetings, including special meetings, retreats, and other meetings included in section 4 (e) of the current Indemnity By-law; that there be no distinction made between meetings that take place within or outside so-called normal working hours, or within or outside City limits; and that per diems for special meetings of Council and retreats be automatically disbursed by the City Clerk’s Office without the need to complete an expense report. CARRIED.

Following the above motion being voted on, His Worship the Mayor called a recess for 7 minutes, whereby the meeting reconvened at 10:10 p.m.

Rice-Blight

Report Recommendation (5)

1557 That Councillors who hold positions in external by virtue of their role as Councillors be permitted to claim expenses and per diems from their individual per diem allocations for attending these meetings; that they be no longer reimbursed for expenses incurred while attending these meetings out of the City’s general accounts, unless they are attending them outside City limits and as direct representatives of the Mayor and in his/her absence, or unless their attendance is for a purpose that has been duly authorized by Council; further, that Councillors continue to receive per diem remuneration outside their own per diem allocations when attending meetings as City representatives on the Association of Manitoba Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, when these meetings occur outside the City of Brandon. CARRIED AS AMENDED.

AMENDMENT

Black-Rice

1558 That the above motion be amended by adding thereto, after the words: “hold positions in external”, the word: “bodies”, and by deleting therefrom after the words: Federation of Canadian Municipalities” the words: “when these meetings occur outside the City of Brandon”. CARRIED.

Brown-Barletta

Report Recommendation (6)

1559 That the Deputy Mayor’s indemnity be 25 per cent greater than that of Councillors, and that all other aspects of the salary package remain the same for that post as it is for Councillors. CARRIED.

Black-Brown

Report Recommendation (7)

1560 That provision be made for the City to open an RRSP plan for the Mayor; that the Mayor be permitted, at his/her own discretion, to contribute up to the allowable rate of the taxable portion of the salary he/she receives; and that the cost of purchasing an RRSP be split equally between the City and the Mayor, provided the City’s contribution will not exceed seven per cent of the total annual cost. CARRIED.

Brown-Rice

Report Recommendation (8)

1561 That the vehicle allowance for the use of the Mayor's private vehicle while conducting City business within the corporate limits of the City be set at \$350 per month; that should the Mayor opt to lease a vehicle, a cost-neutral alternative inclusive of the out-of-city per kilometer allowance be arrived at by the City Treasurer. In the latter circumstance, however, the Mayor shall be responsible for reimbursing the City for any costs above and beyond the allowance provided. CARRIED.

Brown-Rice

Report Recommendation (9)

1562 That the benefits package entitlement of Deputy Mayor and Councillors remain as it is now. CARRIED.

Blight-Smale

Report Recommendation (10)

1563 That annual adjustments in the salaries of Mayor and Councillors take place each January 1st until a new review occurs; and that these adjustments be equal to the Manitoba CPI, calculated as the year over year change as of November 30th of the year prior to the adjustment. CARRIED.

Smale-Black

Report Recommendation (11)

1564 That there be no further annual adjustments in the amount of the daily per diems allocated to all members of Council until 2015 or until Council determines to conduct a new review, whichever occurs first. CARRIED AS AMENDED.

AMENDMENT

Black-Barletta

1565 That the above motion be amended by adding thereto after the words: "conduct a new review", the words: "of the daily per diems". CARRIED.

Barletta-Blight

Report Recommendation (12)

1566 That the actual annual per diem and professional allowances that Councillors receive be adjusted annually in the same manner as the salary component, namely by the annual CPI. CARRIED AS AMENDED.

AMENDMENT

Rice-Chrest

1567 That the above motion be amended by adding thereto after the words: "namely by the annual" the word: "Manitoba" CARRIED.

Chrest-Smale

Report Recommendation (13)

1568 That the number of regular and special Council meetings that Councillors, including the Deputy Mayor, are allowed to miss without penalty be six per year, and that the penalty for each subsequent meeting from which they are absent without a Council resolution authorizing the absence remain at \$100. CARRIED.

Rice-Smale

Report Recommendation (14)

1569 That the number of unauthorized absences from regular and special Council meetings that the Mayor is allowed to miss without penalty be six per year, and that the Mayor be subject to a penalty of \$300 for each subsequent meeting from which he/she is absent without a Council resolution authorizing the absence. CARRIED AS AMENDED.

AMENDMENT

Brown-Barletta

1570 That the above motion be amended by deleting therefrom the word: “unauthorized absences from”.
CARRIED.

Smale-Barletta

Report Recommendation (15)

1571 That prior to the 2006 election, Council amend its Organizational By-law—or alternatively add an adequate provision to the Indemnity By-law—establishing the types of Council members’ absences it will authorize as being permissible and not subject to possible penalty, and that henceforth all such authorized absences be approved by Council resolution at the meeting in which they occur. CARRIED AS AMENDED.

AMENDMENT

Black-Barletta

1572 That the above motion be amended by adding thereto: “whereby a list of examples for authorized absences shall be established”. CARRIED.

Black-Blight

Report Recommendation (16)

1573 That the next review of salaries and benefits take place at least one full year prior to the scheduled 2014 election. CARRIED.

Black-Smale

1574 That the members of the Citizens’ Commission to Review the Salaries and Benefits of Council Members be recognized for their efforts. CARRIED.

Following the above motion being voted on, the members of City Council applauded the members of the Commission for their tremendous report.

ADJOURN:

Rice- Black

That the meeting do now adjourn. (10:43 p.m.) CARRIED.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK