



Minutes

City Council – Special Meeting

The Corporation of the City of Brampton

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

Members Present:

Mayor P. Brown
Regional Councillor R. Santos
Regional Councillor P. Vicente
Regional Councillor N. Kaur Brar
Regional Councillor D. Keenan
Regional Councillor M. Medeiros
Regional Councillor P. Fortini
Regional Councillor G. Singh Toor
City Councillor R. Power
Deputy Mayor H. Singh

Members Absent:

Regional Councillor M. Palleschi (other municipal business)

Staff Present:

M. Kallideen, Chief Administrative Officer
S. Ganesh, Commissioner, Planning, Building and Growth
Management
A. Milojevic, Commissioner, Corporate Support Services
S. Akhtar, Acting Commissioner, Legislative Services
H. Dempster, General Manager, Transit
S. Ross, Acting City Solicitor, Legislative Services
P. Fay, City Clerk
S. Hans, Program Manager, Elections
T. Brenton, Legislative Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. and adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Brown noted that all Members were present in the meeting, with the exception of Regional Council Palleschi who was absent due to other municipal business.

2. Approval of Agenda

Mayor Brown outlined the purpose for the Special Meeting, and noted that under Council's meeting rules, no new business could be added to the agenda.

The following motion was considered.

C330-2023

Moved by Regional Councillor Keenan

Seconded by Regional Councillor Santos

That the agenda for the Special Council Meeting of December 20, 2023 be approved as published and circulated.

Carried

3. Declarations of Interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act

Nil

4. Delegations/Correspondence

- 4.1 Presentation by Dr. Mike Moffatt, Senior Director of Policy and Innovation, Smart Prosperity Institute, and Assistant Professor, Business, Economics and Public Policy Group, Ivey Business School, Western University, re: International Student Housing

See Item 5.1

Dr. Mike Moffatt, Senior Director of Policy and Innovation, Smart Prosperity Institute, and Assistant Professor, Business, Economics and Public Policy Group,

Ivey Business School, Western University, provided a presentation titled: “International Students and Population Growth”, which included:

- Ontario’s Population is Booming
- Ontario Added Nearly One Million More Persons in the Last 8 Years than in the Previous 8
- Non-Permanent Residents now the Largest Sources of Population Growth in Ontario
- International Students make up a Large and Growing part of the Non-permanent Resident Population
- International Students/Grads are the Bulk of Non-permanent Residents in Ontario
- Ontario has more International Students than All Other Provinces/Territories Combined
- Growth Largely at the College Level
- Notes on International Student Growth
- Single/Semi-Detached Starts vs. Population Growth
- How did we get here – Provincial role
- How did we get here – Federal role
- Recent Federal Reforms
- Summary

Dr. Moffatt responded to questions of clarification from Council.

Council expressed thanks to Dr. Moffatt for his comprehensive and insightful presentation.

The following motion was considered.

C331-2023

Moved by Deputy Mayor Singh

Seconded by Regional Councillor Keenan

That the presentation by Dr. Mike Moffatt, Senior Director of Policy and Innovation, Smart Prosperity Institute, and Assistant Professor, Business, Economics and Public Policy Group, Ivey Business School, Western University,

re: **International Student Housing**, to the Special Council Meeting of December 20, 2023, be received.

Carried

5. Business Matters

5.1 Discussion Item at the Request of Mayor Brown, re: International Student Housing within the City of Brampton

See Item 4.1

A motion, moved by Mayor Brown and seconded by Regional Councillor Keenan, was introduced, fine-tuned and displayed for Council's reference, with the final operative clauses as follows:

Therefore be it resolved that the City of Brampton advocate to the Federal Government:

- Requesting that for every student visa issued, a direct linkage to appropriate accommodation, as coordinated by post-secondary institutions, referencing a home/housing address in close proximity to their community of study consistent with local municipal housing by-laws; and
- To implement a more restrictive visa policy, including a cap on student permits issued annually and prioritization of student permits for post-secondary institutions implementing student housing plans;
- Federal funding for housing supportive infrastructure required to support international students residing within municipalities.

That Council's Resolution be shared with AMO, FCM, Brampton MPs and MPPs and the Region of Peel;

That Strategic Communications staff be requested to support the City's advocacy on this matter.

Mayor Brown outlined the purpose of the motion.

The motion was considered as follows.

C332-2023

Moved by Mayor Patrick Brown

Seconded by Regional Councillor Keenan

Whereas the City of Brampton is a mosaic of cultures that embraces diversity and inclusion, which attracts new international students studying locally and in other institutions outside of Brampton;

Whereas City Council recognizes that Ontario has more international students than all other provinces and territories combined, and a substantial portion of new international students settle in Brampton where they face issues of affordability particularly related to housing, where many end-up in insufficient living conditions;

Whereas public and private colleges have significantly increased international enrollment subsequently significantly increasing their revenue/profits, over the last 10 years but have added very little to no new on-campus housing, leading to students living in Brampton but attending schools in other regions such as Kitchener, Northern Ontario, Montreal, Windsor, and more;

Whereas post-secondary institutions (public and private colleges and universities) have increasingly relied on online learning platforms, further incentivizing learners to live in Brampton while studying outside of the city; and

Whereas the City of Brampton has taken a proactive response within our jurisdiction, in leading to address some of these issues through the “Brampton Charter for Improving the International Student Experience”, committing to working in partnership with non-profit organizations, local hospital, the Region of Peel, Peel Regional Police, and various post-secondary institutions;

Whereas the Federal Government recently announced they will significantly limit the number of study permits issued and raise the financial requirement for prospective students;

Therefore be it resolved that the City of Brampton advocate to the Federal Government:

- Requesting that for every student visa issued, a direct linkage to appropriate accommodation, as coordinated by post-secondary institutions, referencing a home/housing address in close proximity to their community of study consistent with local municipal housing by-laws; and
- To implement a more restrictive visa policy, including a cap on student permits issued annually and prioritization of student permits for post-secondary institutions implementing student housing plans;
- Federal funding for housing supportive infrastructure required to support international students residing within municipalities.

That Council's Resolution be shared with AMO, FCM, Brampton MPs and MPPs and the Region of Peel;

That Strategic Communications staff be requested to support the City's advocacy on this matter.

A recorded vote was requested and the motion carried as follows.

Yea (10): Mayor Patrick Brown, Regional Councillor Santos, Regional Councillor Vicente, Regional Councillor Kaur Brar, Regional Councillor Keenan, Regional Councillor Medeiros, Regional Councillor Fortini, City Councillor Power, Deputy Mayor Singh, and Regional Councillor Singh Toor

Absent (1): Regional Councillor Palleschi

Carried (10 to 0 with 1 absent)

A motion, moved by Mayor Brown and seconded by Regional Councillor Santos, was introduced, fine-tuned and displayed for Council's reference, with the final operative clauses as follows:

Therefore be it resolved that the City of Brampton advocate to the Provincial Government:

- To immediately double the Heads and Beds levy to ensure additional funding is available to municipalities who provide municipal services for international students; and
- To strengthen regulations and data requirements, including the municipality in which the student resides, for private and public post-secondary institutions to hold them accountable to the international students enrolled in their programs and more accurately and equitably distribute the Heads and Beds levy according to which municipality the student resides.

That Council's Resolution be shared with AMO, FCM, Brampton MPs and MPPs and the Region of Peel;

That Strategic Communications staff be requested to support the City's advocacy on this matter.

Councillor Santos outlined the purpose of the motion.

The motion was considered as follows.

C333-2023

Moved by Mayor Patrick Brown

Seconded by Regional Councillor Santos

Whereas the City of Brampton is a mosaic of cultures that embraces diversity and inclusion, which attracts new international students studying locally and in other institutions outside of Brampton;

Whereas City Council recognizes that Ontario has more international students than all other provinces and territories combined, and a substantial portion of new international students settle in Brampton where they face issues of affordability particularly related to housing, where many end-up in insufficient living conditions;

Whereas public and private colleges have significantly increased international enrollment subsequently significantly increasing their revenue/profits, over the last 10 years but have added very little to no new on-campus housing, leading to students living in Brampton but attending schools in other regions such as Kitchener, Northern Ontario, Montreal, Windsor, and more;

Whereas post-secondary institutions (public and private colleges and universities) have increasingly relied on online learning platforms, further incentivizing learners to live in Brampton while studying outside of the city; and

Whereas the City of Brampton has taken a proactive response within our jurisdiction, in leading to address some of these issues through the “Brampton Charter for Improving the International Student Experience”, committing to working in partnership with non-profit organizations, local hospital, the Region of Peel, Peel Regional Police, and various post-secondary institutions;

Whereas the Heads and Beds Levy is the formula which empowers municipalities to levy an annual amount per student and has remained unchanged since 1987, despite year after year advocacy efforts to the province;

Whereas the levy is currently fixed at \$75 per student per year, and had it been indexed to inflation, the levy would stand at \$158 per student today, equating to \$117.2M annually, a simple yet significant improvement to help Brampton deal with the increasing costs to support the disproportionate (relative to other municipalities) number of international students’ municipal service needs such as transit, community and recreation amenities, community safety, and more.

Therefore be it resolved that the City of Brampton advocate to the Provincial Government:

- To immediately double the Heads and Beds levy to ensure additional funding is available to municipalities who provide municipal services for international students; and
- To strengthen regulations and data requirements, including the municipality in which the student resides, for private and public post-secondary institutions to hold them accountable to the international students enrolled in their programs and more accurately and equitably distribute the Heads and Beds levy according to which municipality the student resides.

That Council's Resolution be shared with AMO, FCM, Brampton MPs and MPPs and the Region of Peel;

That Strategic Communications staff be requested to support the City's advocacy on this matter.

A recorded vote was requested and the motion carried as follows.

Yea (10): Mayor Patrick Brown, Regional Councillor Santos, Regional Councillor Vicente, Regional Councillor Kaur Brar, Regional Councillor Keenan, Regional Councillor Medeiros, Regional Councillor Fortini, City Councillor Power, Deputy Mayor Singh, and Regional Councillor Singh Toor

Absent (1): Regional Councillor Palleschi

Carried (10 to 0 with 1 absent)

6. By-laws

Nil

7. Public Question Period

The public was given the opportunity to submit questions via e-mail to the City Clerk's Office regarding any decisions made during the meeting. Peter Fay, City Clerk, confirmed that no questions were submitted.

8. Closed Session

Nil

9. Confirming By-law

- 9.1 By-law 234-2023 – To confirm the proceedings of Council at its Special Meeting held on December 20, 2023

The following motion was considered.

C334-2023

Moved by Regional Councillor Santos

Seconded by Regional Councillor Keenan

That the following by-law before Council at its Special Meeting of December 20, 2023, be given the required number of readings, taken as read, and signed by the Mayor and the City Clerk, and the Corporate Seal affixed thereto:

By-law 234-2023 – To confirm the proceedings of Council at its Special Meeting held on December 20, 2023.

Carried

10. Adjournment

The following motion was considered.

C335-2023

Moved by City Councillor Power

Seconded by Regional Councillor Kaur Brar

That Council do now adjourn to meet again for a Regular Meeting of Council on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. or at the call of the Mayor.

Carried

P. Brown, Mayor

P. Fay, City Clerk