



Minutes

City Council - Special Meeting

The Corporation of the City of Brampton

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Members Present:

Mayor P. Brown
Regional Councillor R. Santos
Regional Councillor P. Vicente
Regional Councillor M. Palleschi
Regional Councillor G. Dhillon
City Councillor C. Williams
City Councillor H. Singh

Members Absent:

Regional Councillor M. Medeiros (personal)
Regional Councillor P. Fortini (personal)
City Councillor D. Whillans (personal)
City Councillor J. Bowman (vacation)

Staff Present:

D. Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer
R. Forward, Commissioner, Planning, Building and Economic Development
M. Kallideen, Commissioner, Legislative Services
M. Parks, Director, Road Maintenance and Operations and Fleet, and Acting Commissioner, Public Works and Engineering
N. Damer, Treasurer, Corporate Support Services
B. Boyes, Fire Chief, Fire and Emergency Services
A. Milojevic, General Manager, Transit
S. Akhtar, City Solicitor
P. Fay, City Clerk
C. Gravlev, Deputy City Clerk
T. Brenton, Legislative Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m. and adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

1. Call to Order

As this Special Meeting of Brampton City Council was conducted with electronic participation by Members of Council, the meeting started with the City Clerk calling the roll for attendance at the meeting, as follows.

Members present during roll call: Regional Councillor Santos, Regional Councillor Vicente, Regional Councillor Palleschi, City Councillor Williams, City Councillor Singh, Regional Councillor Dhillon, and Mayor Brown

Members absent during roll call: City Councillor Bowman (vacation), City Councillor Whillans (personal), Regional Councillor Medeiros (personal), Regional Councillor Fortini (personal)

2. Approval of Agenda

Mayor Brown outlined the purpose of the Special Meeting to consider the Government of Quebec's Bill 21. The Mayor noted that, in accordance with Council's meeting procedures, no other items could be added to the agenda.

The following motion was considered.

C436-2021

Moved by City Councillor Singh

Seconded by City Councillor Williams

That the agenda for the Special Council Meeting of December 15, 2021 be approved as published and circulated.

Carried

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

Nil

4. Delegations

4.1 Delegations re. Matters regarding the Government of Quebec Bill 21

For the benefit of Council and the delegations, Mayor Brown introduced a proposed motion on this topic, moved by the Mayor and seconded by Regional Councillor Dhillon and City Councillor Singh.

The Mayor suggested that all Members of Council second the motion. It was later clarified that the motion would be seconded by all Members who were present at this meeting.

The proposed motion was displayed as follows.

Moved by Mayor Brown

Seconded by All Present Members of Council

Whereas Bramptonians value the Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

Whereas Brampton Council believes we cannot allow the defense of the Charter and the foundational value of religious freedom to be on the backs of racialized communities against the Province of Quebec with unlimited legal resources; and

Whereas, if Canada's Big Cities assist to fund the legal challenge, then we level the playing field since it is not a fair legal fight in the absence of federal government involvement; and

Whereas a Supreme Court decision allowing the infringement of religious freedom would have negative consequences for Bramptonians and all Canadians;

Therefore Be It Resolved:

1. That the City of Brampton support the current legal challenge against the discrimination of freedom of religion in Quebec's Bill 21 – An Act respecting the laicity of the State; and
2. That the Council of The Corporation of the City of Brampton provide a one-time 2021 contribution of up to \$100,000 to the joint legal challenges of Bill 21 by National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM), the World Sikh Organization of Canada (WSO) and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA), with staff identifying the appropriate funding source; and
3. That a copy of this Resolution be sent to:
 - a. the Canadian Big City Mayors, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

(AMO) requesting they share with all their member municipalities inviting municipal contributions to support the legal challenge; and

b. the Region of Peel, City of Mississauga, Town of Caledon and all Members of Parliament and Ontario Members of Provincial Parliament, requesting their support.

Mustafa Farooq, Chief Executive Officer, National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM), and Sharanjeet Kaur, Senior Vice President, National, World Sikh Organization of Canada, provided information on their organizations, outlined the efforts by their organizations and others in the legal challenge, highlighted the importance of defending civil liberties for all Canadians, and provided comments in support of Council's proposed resolution.

Due to connectivity issues, Irene Galadza, St. Elias Ukrainian Catholic Church was unable to participate in the meeting.

The following motion was considered.

C437-2021

Moved by City Councillor Singh

Seconded by Regional Councillor Santos

That the following delegations re. **Matters regarding the Government of Quebec Bill 21**, to the Special Council Meeting of December 15, 2021, be received:

1. Mustafa Farooq, Chief Executive Officer, National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM); and,
2. Sharanjeet Kaur, Senior Vice President, National, World Sikh Organization of Canada.

Carried

5. Reports from Corporate Officials

Nil

6. Related Business

6.1 Discussion Item re. Matters regarding the Government of Quebec Bill 21

Council discussion took place on the proposed motion introduced under Item 4.1. Council Members outlined comments in support of the motion and against

Quebec's Bill 21, and highlighted the importance of Brampton taking the lead in denouncing Quebec's Bill 21 and providing its support for the legal challenge against the Bill.

An amendment to the motion was introduced by Regional Councillor Palleschi and accepted by the Mayor, as mover, to indicate that the City would contribute "up to \$100,000" toward the legal challenge. Councillor Palleschi outlined the rationale for his amendment.

The motion, as amended, was considered as follows.

C438-2021

Moved by Mayor Brown

Seconded by All Present Members of Council

Whereas Bramptonians value the Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

Whereas Brampton Council believes we cannot allow the defense of the Charter and the foundational value of religious freedom to be on the backs of racialized communities against the Province of Quebec with unlimited legal resources; and

Whereas, if Canada's Big Cities assist to fund the legal challenge, then we level the playing field since it is not a fair legal fight in the absence of federal government involvement; and

Whereas a Supreme Court decision allowing the infringement of religious freedom would have negative consequences for Bramptonians and all Canadians;

Therefore Be It Resolved:

1. That the City of Brampton support the current legal challenge against the discrimination of freedom of religion in Quebec's Bill 21 – An Act respecting the laicity of the State; and
2. That the Council of The Corporation of the City of Brampton provide a one-time 2021 contribution of up to \$100,000 to the joint legal challenges of Bill 21 by National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM), the World Sikh Organization of Canada (WSO) and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA), with staff identifying the appropriate funding source; and
3. That a copy of this Resolution be sent to:
 - a. the Canadian Big City Mayors, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) requesting they

share with all their member municipalities inviting municipal contributions to support the legal challenge; and

b. the Region of Peel, City of Mississauga, Town of Caledon and all Members of Parliament and Ontario Members of Provincial Parliament, requesting their support.

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

Yea (7): Mayor Patrick Brown, Regional Councillor Santos, Regional Councillor Vicente, Regional Councillor Palleschi, City Councillor Williams, City Councillor Singh, and Regional Councillor Dhillon

Absent (4): City Councillor Whillans, City Councillor Bowman, Regional Councillor Medeiros, and Regional Councillor Fortini

Carried (7/0/4)

7. Correspondence

Nil

8. Public Question Period

Members of the public were given the opportunity to submit questions via e-mail to the City Clerk's Office regarding any decisions made at this meeting.

Peter Fay, City Clerk, confirmed that no questions were submitted regarding decisions made at this meeting.

9. Closed Session

Nil

10. Confirming By-law

10.1 By-law 294-2021 – To confirm the proceedings of Council at its Special Meeting held on December 15, 2021

The following motion was considered.

C439-2021

Moved by Regional Councillor Santos

Seconded by City Councillor Williams

That the following by-law before Council at its Special Meeting of December 15, 2021, 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 294-2021 – To confirm the proceedings of Council at its Special Meeting held on December 15, 2021

Carried

11. Adjournment

The following motion was considered.

C440-2021

Moved by Regional Councillor Vicente

Seconded by Regional Councillor Dhillon

That Council do now adjourn to meet again for a Regular Meeting of Council on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. or at the call of the Mayor.

Carried

P. Brown, Mayor

P. Fay, City Clerk