

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 22, 2016

Item 9, Report No. 12, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on March 22, 2016.

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**STATUS REPORT
AWARDS AND HONOURS ESTABLISHED IN RECOGNITION
OF CITY'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY**

The Committee of the Whole recommends:

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the City Clerk, dated March 1, 2016, be approved; and**
- 2) That Communication C5 from Mr. Kevin Hanit, Queensbridge Drive, Concord, dated February 29, 2016, be received.**

Recommendation

The City Clerk recommends:

1. That the City Clerk continue to assist the Deputy Chief Herald in the design of a Coat of Arms for the City of Vaughan; and
2. That the City Clerk be requested to seek public input on a motto for the Coat of Arms.

Contribution to Sustainability

The awards and honours described in the report are in addition to the Civic Hero program which is managed by the Ward Council offices. The periodic granting of recognition to members of the broader community serves to establish a culture of public service and servant leadership.

Economic Impact

Pursuant to the authority granted by Item No. 16 of Report No. 40 of Committee of the Whole, the City Manager has been authorized to allocate funds to the 25th Year Anniversary initiatives. Staff are in the process of identifying sources of funding, including sponsorship revenue.

Communications Plan

Separate communication plans will be assembled for the solicitation of nominees and the announcement of recipients for the Order of Vaughan and the Key to the City programs. Formal communication of the grant of arms for the City will appear in the Canada Gazette, but will also be widely communicated to the community at the appropriate time.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present to Council and inform the public on the status of a program of honours to be initiated in the 25th anniversary year of the City. Two of the honours will be in the form of programs to recognize both citizens and significant visitors to the City. The third honour sought will be a gift of Arms, known more commonly as the granting of a Coat of Arms, from the Canadian Heraldic Authority. The Canadian Heraldic Authority is headed by His Excellency the Governor General of Canada and administered by several other officers.

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Background - Analysis and Options

Council, by its adoption of the Mayor's Member's Resolution as Item No. 16 of Report No. 40 of the Committee of the Whole on November 17, 2015, authorized a number of celebrations and events to recognize the City's 25th anniversary since gaining City status. An extract to the Member's Resolution is set out at Attachment 1 to this report.

As a component of the 25th anniversary celebrations, a series of award programs are in the process of being established. The Order of Vaughan and the Key to the City Program facilitate the honouring of citizens and significant visitors to the City respectively. The grant of arms from the Canadian Heraldic Authority, will, if granted, be an enduring honour for the City linked in perpetuity to its receipt in the 25th year of city status.

1. Order of Vaughan

The Order of Vaughan will be presented as Vaughan's highest honour. It will be granted to a maximum of ten individuals annually, with 25 awards to be granted in the first year (2016) to symbolically recognize the contributions individuals have made to the City over its first 25 years with that status.

Recipients will become Members of the Order of Vaughan, and will be permitted to indicate such by wearing a subtle pin, the design of which is not yet complete. The initiative is modelled after the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario.

To qualify for the Order of Vaughan, an individual must have a significant and enduring relationship with the City and be capable to be recognized as being engaged in a beneficial activity in Vaughan in one or more of the following categories:

- Arts and Entertainment
- Media and Communications
- Athletics
- Health and Wellness
- Business
- Philanthropy
- Public Service
- Education
- Science and Technology
- Not-For-Profit
- Equity and Diversity
- Accessibility
- Environment
- Spirituality

The nomination process for the award will be rigorous. The Order of Vaughan Selection Committee will be comprised of the following persons, who shall receive nominations and make recommendations to Council for the appointment of Members of the Order of Vaughan:

1. City Manager
2. Deputy City Manager, Community Services
3. City Clerk (Chair)
4. CEO of Vaughan Public Libraries
5. Representative of the Vaughan Chamber of Commerce
6. City Archivist
7. Past Recipient (future years)

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The Selection Committee shall be responsible for meeting annually in June or July to consider the nomination and prepare recommendations to Council. Public announcement of the honourees is expected to take place in the Fall each year. Nominations for the Order of Vaughan will be received from November 1st to June 1st annually.

Given its significance, a process for the revocation of the award is necessary. Membership in the Order of Vaughan may be revoked if a petition is received by the City Clerk from at least 25 members of the public. If a petition is received, the City Clerk shall determine whether the petition is complete, and non-frivolous. The City Clerk may make such inquiries as he/she determines necessary in order to make the determination. If the determination is made that the petition will not be processed further, the petitioners will be so informed and no further action will be taken. If the City Clerk determines that the petition is complete and is not frivolous, the petition shall be presented to the Selection Committee which shall convene to review the complaint. The Committee shall deliberate on the matter and may invite any person to come before it to assist it in coming forming it recommendations to Council on the petition. The City Clerk shall be responsible for informing the petitioner and the member under review of the status of the Selection Committee's deliberations, and the date at which the matter will be presented to Council.

2. Key to the City

In contrast to the Order of Vaughan, the Key to the City is an honour bestowed upon a visitor to the City in recognition of their contributions made elsewhere, which nonetheless are recognized as important and worthy of recognition by the City. Intended recipients could come from a broad range of endeavours and occupations, including residents and former residents who have made contributions outside of Vaughan, visiting dignitaries (Royalty, diplomatic representatives, foreign and domestic public officials), and prominent entertainment and sports figures.

The Mayor will be responsible for recommending deserving candidates to Council, and may do so on the advice of other Members of Council or the City's administration. Council shall by majority vote approve the award of a Key to the City to the nominee, and typically will present the award at the same Council meeting. The City Clerk's Office shall be responsible for administering the Award process for procuring a suitable memento for recipients. There will be no official upper or lower limit placed on the number of Keys to be awarded each year.

Council may by majority vote revoke the award of a Key to the City. In the event that Council revokes an Award, the City Clerk shall be responsible for informing the award recipient of that fact.

3. Coat of Arms

The City of Vaughan has no official coat of arms, though it has used a badge resembling a coat of arms on its corporate seal, uniforms, official pins and the like. As the City of Vaughan celebrates its 25th Anniversary of attaining City-status, the receipt of an official coat of arms will serve as a permanent symbol of our modern, prosperous and engaged community. Creating a coat of arms for a municipality is a collaborative process between the Canadian Heraldic Authority (headed by the Governor General of Canada) and the City of Vaughan. Requests for new arms or registrations of existing arms take the form of a "petition" addressed to the Chief Herald of Canada, who must assess and approve the request before a warrant for the grant can be signed by the Herald Chancellor or the Deputy Herald Chancellor. A herald then works with the petitioner to create a design, which is then rendered artistically, in two separate stages, by an artist assigned by the Authority. Completed grant or registration documents are recorded in the Public Register of Arms, Flags and Badges of Canada, and the notice of the grant or registration is published in the Canada Gazette.

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A petition for the grant of arms has been submitted and the City has commenced work with Deputy Chief Herald on design. At this stage historic, archival, geographic and other information about the City's corporate history are being assembled for sharing with the Deputy Chief Herald to inform the work of that office. Time is of the essence in order to ensure receipt of the honour of a grant of arms within the 25th anniversary year.

The Deputy Chief Herald will produce a word description of the coat of arms prior to commencing the production of art work for the ultimate design. A specific page on the City's web site will be set up to inform Members of Council and the public of the status of the award.

A prominent feature of most coats of arms is the motto that can appear on a scroll below the arms. As a rule of thumb, a motto should be a short descriptive or inspirational saying, or consist of a word or series of words, no longer than 25 characters in length. The motto can be in any language, although comprehension should be a consideration. The most frequently granted mottoes by the Canadian Heraldic Authority are in English, French, or Latin.

Though time is truly of the essence in assisting the Deputy Chief Herald in creating a design for the coat of arms, the creation of a motto can be done in parallel. As such, the design of the motto can be the subject of a short public consultation process. The timing of that process, however, will be subject to any time constraints imposed by the Deputy Chief Herald in order to achieve the grant of arms by October of this year.

Relationship to Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map (2014-2018)

The initiatives in this report support the following initiatives set out in the Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map:

Term of Council Priorities:

- Support and promote arts, culture, heritage and sports in the community
- Enhance civic pride through a consistent city-wide approach to citizen engagement

Regional Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

The formal recognition programs set out in this report, including the potential for a gift of a coat of arms under the auspices of the Governor General of Canada, represent important honours that will in perpetuity be linked to the City's 25th anniversary of it being granted City status.

Attachment

1. Item No. 16 of Report No. 40 of the Committee of the Whole
Adopted by Council on November 17, 2015, entitled "25th Anniversary of the City of Vaughan"

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(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)