

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 10, 2013

Item 1, Report No. 16, of the Finance and Administration Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on December 10, 2013.

1 GFOA DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD

The Finance and Administration Committee recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Acting Commissioner of Finance & City Treasurer, dated November 25, 2013:

Recommendation

The Acting Commissioner of Finance & City Treasurer recommends:

1. That the following report and formal presentation on the receipt of the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the City's 2013 Budget be received.

Contribution to Sustainability

The GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award encourages governments to prepare and issue budget documents of the highest quality. This is essential for our citizenry to be fully informed of the City's policies, corporate initiatives, and financial plans. Better budget documents also contribute to better decision making and enhanced accountability.

Vaughan has always taken the management and stewardship of public funds very seriously and continues to demonstrate financial leadership and discipline, ensuring residents receive value for their tax dollars. Obtaining the 2013 GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is another example of Vaughan's pursuit of organizational excellence and the dedication of staff associated with its publication, (i.e. Budgeting, Financial Services, Corporate Communication and City Departments).

Economic Impact

Not applicable - There are no direct financial implications.

Communications Plan

N/A

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise the Finance and Administration Committee of the receipt of GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the City's 2013 Budget. This is Vaughan's fifth consecutive year receiving this prestigious and most coveted budget award.

Background - Analysis and Options

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)

The Government Finance Officers Association is a nonprofit international professional association serving more than 17,800 government finance professionals throughout North America. It has experienced a steady growth in the past 10 years, adding more than 5,000 finance professionals to their organization. It provides top quality publications, training programs, services, and products designed to enhance the skills and performance of those responsible for government finance policy and management.

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The GFOA has a very strong Canadian presence, which is demonstrated by Canadians holding the Executive Board positions, which included past GFOA President, Mr. Len Brittain, Director of Corporate Finance, City of Toronto and current Executive members such as ***Eric Sawyer***, Chief Financial Officer City of Calgary, Alberta, as well as ***Mr. John Martin***, City Treasurer and CFO, City of Moncton, New Brunswick. Other Canadian representatives serving on many GFOA policy committees, also include: ***Catherine Brubacher***, City Treasurer, City of Brantford, Ontario ***Trevor Bingler***, Director of Municipal Finance Policy Branch at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, ***Ronald Kaufman***, Deputy CAO/Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer, Town of Caledon, ON.

The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Award Program has been promoting the preparation of high quality budget documents for more than 28 years. Currently, more than 1,350 governments of all levels across North America have received this award, including Canadian cities such as, Barrie, Calgary, North & West Vancouver, Toronto, and Mississauga. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

City of Vaughan receives the GFOA Budget Award

The Government of Financial Officers Association presented the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to the City of Vaughan, Ontario for its annual budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1st, 2013. The award represents a significant achievement by the City of Vaughan, as it reflects the commitment of the municipality and staff to meet the highest principles of Government budgeting. In order to receive this budget award, the City of Vaughan had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. The 2013 budget document was rated by 3 independent reviewers on 27 criteria, covering 4 categories. These guidelines are designed to assess how well the budget document serves as:

- A policy document
- A financial plan
- An operational guide
- A communications device

Having successfully achieved this goal, the City and the Budgeting and Financial Planning Department have received certificates of recognition. Copies of these are enclosed as an attachment.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

Obtaining the 2013 GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is another example of Vaughan's dedication to the pursuit of organizational excellence.

Regional Implications

There are no Regional implications associated with this report.

Conclusion

The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award Program actively strives to assist organizations achieve the goal of improving their budget document. As a program participant City Finance staff benefit from access to a wealth of financial guidance and independent budget document review. This is extremely helpful and aides the City in its pursuit of developing a better budget document, which contributes to better decision making and enhanced accountability.

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The City of Vaughan Budgeting and Financial Planning Department, Financial Services Department and Corporate Communications Department are extremely proud to receive the City's fifth consecutive Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the GFOA for its 2013 Budget.

Attachments

Attachment 1: 2013 Certificate of Recognition & Budget Award

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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.)