

Subject to adoption by City Council

Wednesday, March 25, 2020
Special Meeting

Members Present via Electronic Meeting Participation:

Mayor P. Brown
Regional Councillor P. Vicente – Wards 1 and 5
Regional Councillor R. Santos – Wards 1 and 5
Regional Councillor M. Palleschi – Wards 2 and 6
Regional Councillor M. Medeiros – Wards 3 and 4
Regional Councillor G. Dhillon – Wards 9 and 10
City Councillor D. Whillans – Wards 2 and 6 ()
City Councillor J. Bowman – Wards 3 and 4
City Councillor H. Singh – Wards 9 and

Members Present in Chambers:

Regional Councillor P. Fortini – Wards 7 and 8
City Councillor C. Williams – Wards 7 and 8

Members Absent: nil

Staff Present:

D. Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer
J. Pittari, Commissioner, Legislative Services
D. Sutton, Treasurer, Finance, Corporate Services
B. Boyes, Fire Chief, Fire and Emergency Services
A. Milojevic, General Manager, Transit
D. Soos, Acting City Solicitor, Legislative Services
P. Morrison, Director, Enforcement and By-law Services,
Legislative Services
M. Finnegan, Senior Manager, Revenue, Finance, Corporate
Services
A. Normand, Manager, Emergency Measures, Fire and
Emergency Services
P. Fay, City Clerk
C. Gravlev, Deputy City Clerk
T. Brenton, Legislative Coordinator, City Clerk's Office

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Note: In consideration of the current COVID-19 public health orders prohibiting public gatherings of more than 50 people and requirements for physical distancing between persons, in-person attendance at this Special Council meeting was limited to Members of Council and essential City staff only. Physical distancing was maintained in Council Chambers at all times during this special meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. and adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

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

Mayor Brown outlined the purpose of the Special Council Meeting, as follows:

1. To consider and enact amendments to the Procedure By-law to allow Members to participate in meetings electronically during conditions of an emergency, as legislatively defined
2. To consider other statutorily-required and/or time-sensitive matters related to the City's response to the ongoing COVID-19 emergency, including but not limited to:
 - a. Brampton Transit matters
 - b. Property tax matters

The Mayor noted that, under Council's meeting rules, no other business could be considered at this special meeting

Mayor Brown and David Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer, provided opening statements in which they outlined actions taken in response to the COVID-19 emergency since Council's last meeting.

The Mayor and CAO acknowledged and thanked staff for their ongoing efforts during these challenging times.

The following motion was considered.

C087-2020 Moved by City Councillor Whillans
Seconded by Regional Councillor Palleschi

That the agenda for the Special Council Meeting of March 25, 2020, be approved as published and circulated.

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A recorded vote was taken, with the results as follows:

<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Santos	nil	nil
Vicente		
Whillans		
Palleschi		
Bowman		
Medeiros		
Williams		
Fortini		
Singh		
Dhillon		
Mayor		
		Carried
		11 Yeas
		0 Nays
		0 Absent

The following items, listed on the agenda for distribution prior to the meeting, were published on the City's web portal on March 24, 2020:

- 3.3. Staff Report re: **Property Tax Assistance – City Response to COVID-19.**
- 3.4. Staff Report re: **Legislative and Enforcement Responses to COVID-19.**

The following was received by the City Clerk's Office after the agenda was published and related to published items on the agenda (Council approval was not required for addition of these items in accordance with Procedure By-law 160-2004, as amended):

- 4.1. Correspondence re: **Brampton's Response to the COVID-19 Emergency:**
 - 1. Todd Letts, Chief Executive Officer, The Brampton Board of Trade, dated March 24, 2020
- 2. **Declarations of Interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act** – nil
- 3. **Presentations and Reports**
 - 3.1. Staff Report re: **Bill 187, *Municipal Emergency Act, 2020*, Emergency Electronic Meetings and COVID-19 Emergency.**

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In response to questions from Council, staff provided information on the following:

- provisions of the *Municipal Act, 2001* and Procedure By-law as they relate to calling of special meetings of Council during both regular and emergency circumstances
- resumption of meetings of committees of Council (dependent on input and advice from Fire Chief Boyes and Emergency Measures staff, and subject to Council approval)

The following motion was considered.

C088-2020 Moved by City Councillor Singh
Seconded by Regional Councillor Santos

1. That the report titled: **Bill 187, *Municipal Emergency Act, 2020, Emergency Electronic Meetings and COVID-19 Emergency***, to the Special Council Meeting of March 25, 2020, be received;
2. That Council enact amendments to Procedure By-law 160-2004, as amended, in the form attached as Appendix 1 hereto to enable electronic meetings to be held during a period of declared emergency;
3. That Council approve the Emergency Electronic Meeting Protocol attached as Appendix 2 hereto to be applied to any electronic meeting held in conjunction with the amendments to Procedure By-law 160-2004, as amended, enacted under paragraph 2 of this Recommendation;
4. That amendments to the Emergency Electronic Meeting Protocol be permitted to be made by simple majority vote of Council to accommodate an effective and efficient meeting so long as any such amendments are consistent with the intent of the Procedure By-law and do not directly conflict with the Procedure By-law or are contrary to prevailing Provincial legislation or orders;
5. That any notice requirement under Procedure By-law 160-2004, as amended, be hereby waived for the purpose of this Resolution, in accordance with Section 21.4 (d), on the basis that the COVID-19 emergency and related social distancing and self isolation constitute, and are considered to be of an, urgent or time sensitive nature, and affect the health or well-being of the residents or property in the municipality.

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A recorded vote was taken, with the results as follows:

<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Santos	nil	nil
Vicente		
Whillans		
Palleschi		
Bowman		
Medeiros		
Williams		
Fortini		
Singh		
Dhillon		
Mayor		
		Carried
		11 Yeas
		0 Nays
		0 Absent

3.2. Staff Report re: **Changes to Brampton Transit Service and Fares in Response to COVID-19.**

In response to questions from Council, staff provided information on the following:

- measures being taken to protect Transit operators, including physical distancing, fully extended operator shields and maintaining 50% load capacity
- enforcement of 50% load capacity and physical distancing on Transit vehicles
- impact of a potential Federal or Provincially-mandated shut down of all services

Council consideration of this matter included a request to staff to review, where logistically feasible, the potential of utilizing Security Guards on Transit vehicles to enforce the 50% load capacity and social distancing.

Peter Fay, City Clerk, noted changes to the published recommendations in Clause 3 of the staff report resulting from the Mayor's recent declaration of a State of Emergency in the City of Brampton.

The following motion was considered.

C089-2020 Moved by Regional Councillor Santos
Seconded by City Councillor Williams

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1. That the report titled: **Changes to Brampton Transit Service and Fares in Response to COVID-19** (IB.C), to the Special Meeting of Council of March 25, 2020, be received; and
2. That Council enact the by-law attached as Appendix 1 hereto to amend Schedule G (Transit Division User Fees & Charges) of the User Fee By-law 380-2003 to defer the effective date of increases to Brampton Transit Fares from April 13, 2020 until August 31, 2020, or such earlier date as may be later set by Council; and
3. That Council enact the by-law attached as Appendix 1 to confirm and endorse the emergency action taken by Brampton Transit in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to discontinue fare collection, until no later than five (5) days after the Declaration of Emergency made by Brampton's Head of Council under section 4 of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, R.S.O.1990, c. E. 9 has been terminated, as part of the comprehensive plan to provide for social distancing and rear door only loading of buses for the safety of transit operators and customers.

A recorded vote was taken, with the results as follows:

<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Santos	nil	nil
Vicente		
Whillans		
Palleschi		
Bowman		
Medeiros		
Williams		
Fortini		
Singh		
Dhillon		
Mayor		
		Carried
		11 Yeas
		0 Nays
		0 Absent

3.3. Staff Report re: **Property Tax Assistance – City Response to COVID-19.**

In response to questions from Council, staff provided information on the following:

- process for participation in and availability of communications about property tax assistance for residents and businesses

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- collection of and penalties relating to property taxes in arrears after the deferral period
- methods for residents and businesses to continue payment of property taxes, including City drop box, financial institutions, direct withdrawal
- availability of payment plans for residents and businesses
- payment of property taxes through mortgage payments (must be done through financial institutions)
- financial modeling incorporating impacts from the COVID-19 emergency
- staff discussions on this topic with other municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

Council consideration of this matter included:

- request to staff for the following:
 - briefing notes and timely information to Members of Council regarding decisions made during this emergency situation, including property tax decisions
 - updates for City Councillors regarding Region of Peel matters
 - enhanced communication in multiple languages regarding the deferral of property taxes and waiving of penalties for 5 months, to address any confusion on the part of residents and businesses, to include the availability of payment plans, changes to tax payments through mortgages (must be done through financial institutions)
 - highlight on the City's web portal the availability of information in multiple languages regarding the COVID-19 emergency
 - details regarding the City's financial status, to include financial models to address various scenarios

The following motion was considered.

C090-2020 Moved by City Councillor Singh
Seconded by Regional Councillor Vicente

1. THAT the report titled: **Property Tax Assistance – City Response to COVID-19** to the Special Council Meeting of March 25, 2020 (R93/2020), be received; and,
2. THAT the City of Brampton suspend charging penalty and interest on any tax arrears effective March 18, 2020 until August 19, 2020 (the 'waiver period') through an amendment to Interim Tax Levy By-law 276-2019; and
3. THAT the City of Brampton allow residents the ability to choose to defer outstanding interim property tax payments until August 19, 2020.

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4. THAT the City of Brampton waive the fee (\$15) for residents that request the City to suspend the processing of their post-dated cheque (“pull requests”) for the April 22nd interim tax due date.
5. THAT the City of Brampton waive the fee (\$35 plus HST) for non-sufficient funds (NSF) on Pre-Authorized Tax Payment cancellation requests that could not be processed prior to the scheduled withdrawal during the waiver period.
6. THAT the Region of Peel be requested to amend their interim by-law to receive only the payment amounts collected by the City of Brampton instead of the full instalment which is due on April 23, with the remaining amount to be paid in full, with no interest charges, on August 20, 2020 unless further COVID-19 measures are implemented.
7. THAT the Province of Ontario amend legislation to allow municipalities to remit only payments collected to each of the school boards and not the full amount of June and September instalments. The remaining amount due would be paid in full on the December instalment.

A recorded vote was taken, with the results as follows:

<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Santos	nil	nil
Vicente		
Whillans		
Palleschi		
Bowman		
Medeiros		
Williams		
Fortini		
Singh		
Dhillon		
Mayor		

Carried
11 Yeas
0 Nays
0 Absent

3.4. Staff Report re: **Legislative and Enforcement Responses to COVID-19.**

In response to questions from Council, staff provided information on the following:

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- outreach plan, including availability of information in multiple languages, information on the City's web portal, service updates, media releases, town halls, Mayor and Councillor newsletters
- potential use of text messaging for communications
- current role of the City's Municipal By-law Enforcement Officers in the enforcement of social/physical distancing (education and seeking voluntary compliance)

Council consideration of this matter included:

- future report from staff regarding the City's enforcement abilities and potential fines
- need for reinforcement of social/physical distancing
- concerns from residents regarding social/physical distancing in work places
- request that staff provide Council Members with the Provincial hotline number for inquiries about essential services, and Peel Regional Police contact for addressing concerns from employees regarding social/physical distancing at work places

The following motion was considered.

C091-2020 Moved by Regional Councillor Dhillon
Seconded by City Councillor Singh

That the staff update re: **Legislative and Enforcement Responses to COVID-19**, to the Special Council Meeting of March 25, 2020, be received.

A recorded vote was taken, with the results as follows:

<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Santos	nil	nil
Vicente		
Whillans		
Palleschi		
Bowman		
Medeiros		
Williams		
Fortini		
Singh		
Dhillon		
Mayor		

Carried
11 Yeas
0 Nays
0 Absent

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4. Correspondence

- 4.1. Correspondence from Todd Letts, Chief Executive Officer, The Brampton Board of Trade, dated March 24, 2020, re: **Brampton's Response to the COVID-19 Emergency**.

In response to questions from Council, staff provided details on planned and existing measures to address the concerns, questions and recommendations outlined in the subject correspondence from The Brampton Board of Trade.

The following motion was considered.

- C092-2020 Moved by City Councillor Bowman
Seconded by Regional Councillor Medeiros

That the correspondence from Todd Letts, Chief Executive Officer, The Brampton Board of Trade, dated March 24, 2020, to the Special Council Meeting of March 25, 2020, be received:

A recorded vote was taken, with the results as follows:

<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Santos	nil	nil
Vicente		
Whillans		
Palleschi		
Bowman		
Medeiros		
Williams		
Fortini		
Singh		
Dhillon		
Mayor		

Carried
11 Yeas
0 Nays
0 Absent

5. Public Question Period

During the Special Meeting, the public was given the opportunity to submit questions via e-mail to the City Clerk's Office regarding any decisions made at this meeting.

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Peter Fay, City Clerk, outlined questions from Christine Massey, Brampton resident, and noted the questions related to Region of Peel matters.

Mayor Brown requested that the City Clerk respond to Ms. Massey and inform here that the questions would be forwarded to the Region of Peel for response.

6. By-laws

The following motion was considered.

C093-2020 Moved by Regional Councillor Fortini
Seconded by City Councillor Williams

That By-laws 51-2020, 52-2020 and 53-2020, before Council at its Special Meeting of March 25, 2020, be given the required number of readings, taken as read, and signed by the Mayor and City Clerk, and the Corporate Seal affixed thereto.

51-2020 To amend Procedure By-law 160-2004 to permit Electronic Meetings during a period of Emergency (see Item 3.1)

52-2020 To amend User Fee By-law 380-2003, as amended, regarding Brampton Transit Fees in response to the COVID-19 Emergency (see Item 3.2)

53-2020 To amend By-law 276-2019, to provide for property tax assistance to Brampton taxpayers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency (see Item 3.3)

A recorded vote was taken, with the results as follows:

<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Santos	nil	nil
Vicente		
Whillans		
Palleschi		
Bowman		
Medeiros		
Williams		
Fortini		
Singh		
Dhillon		
Mayor		

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Carried
11 Yeas
0 Nays
0 Absent

7. Confirming By-law

The following motion was considered.

C094-2020 Moved by City Councillor Bowman
Seconded by Regional Councillor Medeiros

That the following by-law before Council at its Special Meeting of March 25, 2020, 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:

54-2020 To confirm the proceedings of Council at its Special Meeting held on March 25, 2020

A recorded vote was taken, with the results as follows:

<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Santos	nil	nil
Vicente		
Whillans		
Palleschi		
Bowman		
Medeiros		
Williams		
Fortini		
Singh		
Dhillon		
Mayor		

Carried
11 Yeas
0 Nays
0 Absent

8. Adjournment

The following motion was considered.

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C095-2020 Moved by Regional Councillor Vicente
Seconded by Regional Councillor Santos

That Council do now adjourn to meet again for a Regular Meeting of Council on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. or at the call of the Mayor.

A recorded vote was taken, with the results as follows:

<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Santos	nil	nil
Vicente		
Whillans		
Palleschi		
Bowman		
Medeiros		
Williams		
Fortini		
Singh		
Dhillon		
Mayor		

Carried
11 Yeas
0 Nays
0 Absent

P. Brown, Mayor

P. Fay, City Clerk