



**Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 22, 2018**

Date: November 16, 2018
From: Councillors Loveday and Isitt
Subject: Improving Governance and Transparency

Background

Members of the public including the Grumpy Taxpayers of Greater Victoria have called on local governments in the Capital Region to implement improvements to regional governance and transparency.

These recommendations include implementing a Voting Dashboard, publishing elected officials' annual Financial Disclosure Statements, improving proactive disclosure of closed meeting business, publishing information on elected officials' expenses, publishing a Highlights Report following each council meeting, and providing clear summaries of financial information in the local government's annual report and in budgeting documents.

Improving governance and transparency contributes to better decision making, and can also serve to strengthen public confidence in local government. It is therefore prudent to embrace measures that will improve transparency and strengthen the connection between the city and members of the public.

Several of these actions are already underway in the City of Victoria, including introduction of a Council Member Voting Dashboard and a Council Meeting Highlights Report, demonstrating the city's leadership toward open, accountable, transparent local government. It is therefore recommended that the City of Victoria endorse and move forward on the suite of actions outlined below, in order to improve governance and transparency, and continue to demonstrate leadership to other local governments in the region and beyond.

Recommendations

That Council:

1. Endorse in principle the following best practices in governance and transparency.
 - (1) Expand the **Council Member Voting and Attendance dashboard** implementation retroactively to the beginning of the Council term, to ensure transparency of the voting record of each Council member on each item of Council and Committee business, adopting the best practice from the City of Vancouver;

- (2) Publish Council members annual **Financial Disclosure Statements** (submitted according to the requirements of the BC Financial Disclosure Act) online and update these disclosure statements on an annual basis, adopting the best practice from the City of Vancouver;
 - (3) Improve **Proactive Disclosure of Closed Meeting Business**, including decisions made and reports considered by Council, as soon as the need for confidentiality has ceased to exist, adopting the best practice from the City of Vancouver;
 - (4) Publish information on **Council Member Expenses** on a quarterly basis, adopting the best practice from the City of North Vancouver;
 - (5) Continue to publish a **Council Meeting Highlights Report** following Council meetings, to make information on key Council decisions accessible to the general public, affirming the best practice from the City of Victoria;
 - (6) Provide clear and accessible **Summaries of Financial Information** in the municipality's Annual Report and in annual financial planning documents, and provide prominent, easily accessible links to this information on the municipality's website, focusing on clarity and transparency in the presentation of this information to the public.
2. Direct staff to report back to Council with recommendations for the timely implementation of each of these items and include information on any financial implications of implementation.
 3. Request that the Mayor, on behalf of the Council, forward these recommendations to member local governments in the Capital Region and Capital Regional District Board, encouraging favourable consideration and action.

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Loveday



Councillor Isitt