

# Direction of Accountability and Transparency Sub-Committee

**File:** A-2100 / A-2110 / A-2120 / A-2140 / C-4100

**Meeting Date:** January 17, 2008

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**Distribution:**

**ATSC-08-03**

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To > H. Break, R. Foster

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## CARRIED

ATSC-08-03 Bill Longworth – Request to address Sub-Committee

(All Wards)

Moved by Councillor Nicholson,

“That Correspondence ATSC-08-03 dated December 10, 2007 from Bill Longworth be tabled to the next Accountability and Transparency Sub-Committee meeting to provide an opportunity for Sub-Committee to review a copy of Bill Longworth’s written comments and respond to his request.” CARRIED

*Mary Medeiros*

Manager, Support Services

**Mary Medeiros**

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**From:** Mary Medeiros  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 11, 2007 4:09 PM  
**To:** MFIPPA S. 14 (1)  
**Cc:** Lon Knox  
**Subject:** RE: Request to address Transparency and Accountability Committee

Bill,

The next Accountability and Transparency Sub-committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 17, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. I have added your name as a delegation.

Mary Medeiros  
Manager, Support Services  
City Clerk Services  
City of Oshawa  
Tel: 905-436-5636 ext. 2239  
Fax: 905-436-5697

**S.14 (1), Municipal Freedom of Information and  
Protection of Privacy Act**

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**From:** Bill Longworth [mailto:bill.longworth@oshawacouncil.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 10, 2007 1:27 AM  
**To:** clerks  
**Subject:** Request to address Transparency and Accountability Committee

Once again I request to appear as a delegation at the transparency and accountability committee meeting and **would appreciate notice of when this meeting will be held.** I was not given the expected notice of the last meeting and thus did not attend as I was not aware of the meeting. I have in the past received notice of delegation status at council and committee meetings and note that **such written notice is given to council members as a matter of policy on the operation of council and its committees and would certainly expect the same formal notice for members of the public who have requested to appear as a delegation.** The issues I want to address are found on the agenda of the Dec. 6 transparency and accountability committee.

**Bill Longworth,**  
**Founder & Chair of VOTES (Vote to Eliminate Self Serving Politicians)**  
[www.oshawaspeaks.ca](http://www.oshawaspeaks.ca)

**S.14 (1), Municipal Freedom of Information and  
Protection of Privacy Act**

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01/11/2008

## Bill Longworth

### Presentation to Accountability and Transparency Committee

January 17, 2007

Point of Information...350 pages of oshawaspeaks.ca 2007 blog posts soon to be publicly available on line with table of contents, "key-word" index and in searchable pdf format.

Want to assure council my information campaign will continue throughout this council or until council rejects the general vote as undoubtedly Oshawa is the largest city in the free world to use this system without the use of political parties

Therefore I pledge the following:

...that I will be tenacious and relentless in focusing attention on the general vote issue

...that I will be communicating with and trying to enlist the aid of as many gov't and public interest and policy groups and organizations as I can

...that I will be a council watchdog exposing all actions that I judge to be irresponsible or wasteful extravagances

...that I am campaigning for legislative change to allow civic political parties if Oshawa's general vote is going to be allowed to stand and that I have been assured by the minister of municipal affairs and housing that this will be considered in the short term as the municipal elections act is revised.

Now all of this effort is not something that I want to do but feel necessary as a responsible citizen to see that democracy and the "real" vote prevails both of which would be completely wiped out in this city if Oshawa becomes the largest city in the free world to have the general vote without pairing it with political parties.

I am here today to request 7 things

- 1) That the Auditor General conduct investigations to answer the 18 questions I posed to the transparency and accountability committee in my correspondence to the Mayor and Council on December 3, 2007 including a rationale of why the question was asked when the general vote is

not used in any city the size of Oshawa in Canada or the free world without being paired with municipal political parties which are at present prohibited by Ontario Municipal Elections Law, a rationale for the multiple revisions of the plebiscite question and the degree of "negotiation" of the plebiscite wording "In-Camera", the adequacy of City Council's efforts to promote public discourse and discussion on this important issue and to make sure that the public understood the question and its ramifications and the Mayor's assertions that City Council had no responsibility to communicate these details to the public insisting it was private citizen's responsibility to do so despite the fact that 3<sup>rd</sup> party campaigning is prohibited by the Ontario Municipal Elections Act.

- 2) That in the interests of transparency, links to all citizen letters sent to the Mayor and Council be included on the agenda's and minutes of city council where the official decisions on the issue take place so that interested citizens do not have to search through committee agendas to find the items relating to the city agenda and archives.

Right now, links to some correspondence appear on council agendas and minutes while some appears only on committee agendas and minutes.

City Council should follow policies that make it easier for citizens to follow issues rather than more difficult by hiding the item remote from the place where official council votes are taken.

The citizen correspondence and the specific action taken by council on the issue should appear in one place...the city council agenda which is then republished as the minutes showing distinct council action taken on the specific item of correspondence....by hiding citizen input from the scrutinizing eyes of the interested public, you are neither demonstrating accountability nor transparency

Many items for discussion and for votes appear only as agenda item numbers making it extremely difficult for ordinary interested citizens to follow and so a system should be devised to refer to issues by name rather than number.

- 3) That links to full, detailed and complete accounting records of council members expenses including all receipts and invoices, itemized expense allowances, entertainment expenses, travel expenses, automobile allowances, advertising budgets, office expenses, blackberry charges, complete listing of all compensations and honorariums including those amounts paid to politicians to chair/vice chair council committees, honorariums for sitting on citizen boards and committees like art gallery, senior citizen centers, CLOCA, total amounts of tax free monies received, etc., be published for each member of city council on the city web site.

That all councillor expenses be subject to an audit.

That an "oversight" committee be established to review and approve all councilor expenses with the power to deny unusual and extraordinary claims.

It is not transparent at all to publish reports on politicians accounts by council/minute items like 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 of the Finance and Admin Committee Report to Nov. 5 City Council Meeting.

Such postings as requested above have been suggested by the City of Toronto Auditor General.

- 4) That City Council discontinue the practice of preceding every City Council Meeting with "In Camera" Council Meetings. Provincial Law clearly limits the content of closed meetings and such issues would not arise prior to every council meeting. All council business must be conducted in public and in such a way that citizens can follow what is being discussed and what decisions are being taken.
  
- 5) That Formal notice should be given to delegations when they are scheduled to speak to council or committees. Politicians get such notice...surely it is not too much to ask that the same courtesy be extended to those who have expressed an interest in presenting to committee. (I missed this committee last month because I was not notified I was on the agenda...didn't hear until phoned by a politician after supper that night). I have at times received notice but request that it always be done as a matter of policy rather than haphazardly.
  
- 6) That the city publicly release all construction costs and funding details of the GM Centre beyond operating losses to include interest costs/dividend losses of "monetizing" city ownership of Oshawa PUC Networks Inc.
  
- 7) That the auditor general investigate all details leading up to the purchase of the Cullen Garden Miniatures including any and all ethical questions and potential conflicts of interest and report publicly on his findings including the city plans for the disposition of the properties and the revenues received for their disposition.