Minutes of the FOURTH meeting of the Accountability and Transparency Sub-Committee of the Committee of the Whole being a special meeting held at the South Oshawa Community Centre, 1455 Cedar Street, Meeting Rooms 1 and 2 on Thursday, March 27, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

Present:  
Mayor Gray, Chair  
Councillor Henry, Member  
Councillor Neal, Member  
Councillor Nicholson, Member  
Councillor Parkes, Member (entered at 7:30 p.m.)

Also Present:  
H. Break, Director, Corporate Strategic Initiatives  
L. Knox, Senior Solicitor  
M. Medeiros, Manager, Support Services

Absent:  
None.

The Accountability and Transparency Sub-Committee met with the Community Leaders Roundtable to consult on the Draft Accountability and Transparency Policy and the Draft Council Charter.

Members of the Community Leaders Roundtable (CLRT) in attendance were:  
S. Pigden, Chairperson, Oshawa accessibility Advisory Committee; A. Visconti, Downtown Board of Management; D. Schwinghammer, College Park 7th Day Adventist Church; M. Fournier, Durham Regional Labour Council; J. Irani, Dr. Colin Carrie, MP, Oshawa’s Office; P. Christi, Durham Family YMCA; L. Stocco, Tribute Homes; Staff Sergent B. Korack, Durham Regional Police Services; J. Vesters, Oshawa Senior Citizens Centres and C. Younie, South Oshawa Youth Advisory Committee. Also in attendance were:  
S. Wagenberg and P.A. Larose.

The Mayor provided an overview of the mandate of the Accountability and Transparency Sub-Committee and introduced the Senior Solicitor who provided overview of the changes to the Municipal Act from Bill 130. The Senior Solicitor advised Bill 130 implements substantial amendments to the Municipal Act, including a new part that is entitled Accountability and Transparency, and which introduces both mandatory and optional provisions. Mandatory changes are: Council must develop an Accountability and Transparency Policy and recommend a closed meeting investigator model. Optional changes are: Council may develop a set of guidelines to follow when conducting municipal business (Council Charter) and appoint discretionary accountability officers.

The Senior Solicitor provided an explanation of Closed/In-camera meetings and advised that Council approved an Accountability and Transparency Policy as per attachment 2 of the package. In addition, the Senior Solicitor advised that Council will not be appointing a Meetings Investigator but has decided that the Ontario Ombudsman would perform meetings investigations for Oshawa.
In response to questions from members of the Community Leaders Roundtable (CLRT), the Senior Solicitor advised that Section 239 (2) of the Municipal Act states only seven reasons why a matter may be considered in closed session and that the requirements of Bill 130 requirements apply to all local boards but not to the Oshawa Senior Citizens Centres.

The Senior Solicitor now provided an overview of the Accountability and Transparency Policy advising that the purpose is to document how the municipality will try to ensure that it is accountable to the public for its actions and the manner in which its actions are transparent to the public.

Councillor Parkes entered the meeting.

The Senior Solicitor provided the reasons for an Accountability and Transparency Policy.

Paul-André Larose requested that a fourth point may be added as follows:

“To ensure that representatives in public functions abide by the highest of moral and ethical standards.”

Moved by Councillor Nicholson,

“That the Sub-committee recess.” CARRIED

The Accountability and Transparency Sub-Committee recessed at 7:55 p.m. and reconvened at 8:05 p.m. with the following in attendance: Mayor Gray, Councillors Henry, Neal, Nicholson and Parkes. Also in attendance were: the Director, Corporate Strategic Initiatives, the Senior Solicitor, the Manager, Support Services, S. Pigden, Chairperson, Oshawa accessibility Advisory Committee; A. Visconti, Downtown Board of Management; D. Schwinghammer, College Park 7th Day Adventist Church; M. Fournier, Durham Regional Labour Council; P. Christi, Durham Family YMCA; L. Stocco, Tribute Homes; Staff Sergent B. Korack, Durham Regional Police Services; J. Vesters, Oshawa Senior Citizens Centres and C. Younie, South Oshawa Youth Advisory Committee; S. Wagenberg and P.A. Larose.

The Director, Corporate Strategic Initiatives provided an overview of why have a Council Charter, the purpose of the Charter, the Authority to establish a code of conduct for members of Council, the proposed implementation and proposed guiding principles.

Members of CLRT and the Accountability and Transparency Sub-Committee were divided as to whether the Charter should be mandatory or a guideline for Council.
Paul-André Larose requested that Item 4 of the Council Charter be amended to read: “ Truly, faithfully and impartially exercise his or her public office to the best of his or her knowledge and ability, while recognizing limitations in such knowledge if and when appropriate.”

In addition, he requested that Item 10 of the Council Charter be amended to read: “Utilize the diverse knowledge, expertise and talents of all Council members to optimal advantage and solicit external expertise when required, while demonstrating open-mindedness, vision and willingness to amend personal views when objectivity and facts so dictate.”

Mayor Gray thanked the members of CLRT and the community and asked that any additional suggestions/comments be forwarded to the Sub-committee to be taken under advisement.

Moved by Councillor Henry,

“That the meeting adjourn.” CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.