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Coming up at 6 pm, it's this month's regular council meeting. This is what's on the agenda:



City Council Preview – What's on the Agenda for the April 16 Meeting?

We're wrapping up the month at council pretty early all things considered. Our first meeting post-Ramadan brings council back to a later start time around the dinner hour, and it also brings ...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2024/04/05/city-council-preview-whats-on-the-agenda-for-the-...>


Closed meeting summary:

- Downtown Land Disposition Update: Staff was given direction
- Downtown Guelph Business Association Board of Directors appointments: Jordyn Foster and Kristel Manes approved.


Mayor Guthrie has called the open session of council back to order.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof? Nope.


Consent agenda:

- 6.1 2023 Water Services' Annual Report, Summary Report and Water Efficiency Strategy Progress Report - 2024-133** 


Recommendation:

 1. That Guelph City Council approves the 2023 Water Services' Annual Report and Summary Report.
 2. That Guelph City Council receive the 2023 Water Efficiency Strategy Progress Report.
- 6.2 Guelph Greener Homes Loan Program By-law (2023) - 20764 Update - 2024-141** 


Recommendation:

 1. That Council authorize the updates to Guelph Greener Homes Loan Program By-law (2023) - 20764
- 6.3 A By-law Authorizing a Special Charge under the Guelph Greener Homes Program in Accordance with O. Reg. 586-06 - 2024-148** 

Recommendation:

 1. That the Special Charge By-law under the Guelph Greener Homes Program, included as Attachment-1 be approved.
 2. That Council permit the subsequent amendments of the Special Charge By-law under the Guelph Greener Homes Program directly onto future Council agendas without a corresponding staff report.
- 6.4 Sewer Use By-law Update - 2024-149** 

Recommendation:

 1. That City Council approve the updated Sewer Use By-law Number (2024) - 20911 as well as repeal and replace the past Sewer Use By-law (1996) -15202
- 6.5 Water By-law Update - 2024-150** 

Recommendation:

 1. That City Council approve the updated Water By-law (By-law (2024) - 20910) as well as repeal and replace the past Water By-law (By-law (1991) - 13791)

The consent agenda is approved.

First in-depth item: Municipal Accommodation Tax Update and Administration Policy. There's one delegate for this (no new info from staff) and it's John Fisher from the Guelph Hiking Trail Club.

Fisher says he's been impressed with the work of Destination Marketing Guelph and City staff, notes that Tourism Advisory Committee has endorsed 2 project they're involved in, the finished G2G Trail and OR Lands National Park. Also, they recommend downtown revitalization.

Fisher says that he's sure the City will argue that these things are underway, but he's not sure people are seeing the initiative, and thinks that DT should be looked at through a tourism lens and be redeveloped as the base for those development efforts.

Recommendation:

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Municipal Accommodation Tax Administration Policy, included as Attachment-1 to Report 2024-132, dated April 3, 2024, be approved.
 2. That the annual Destination Animation Program, as outlined in Attachment-1 to Report 2024-132, dated April 3, 2024, to commence second quarter (Q2) 2024, be approved.
 3. That the annual Gather Here Sponsorship Program as outlined in Attachment-1 to Report 2024-132 dated April 3, 2024, to commence in Q2 2024, be approved.
 4. That the Destination Gaps and Needs funding Program as outlined in Attachment-1 to Report 2024-132, dated April 3, 2024, to commence in Q2 2024, be approved.
 5. That the authority to award funding programs through the Municipal Accommodation Tax Administration Policy be delegated to the Deputy Chief Administration Officer of Public Services, as outlined in Attachment-1 to Report 2024-132, dated April 3, 2024.

Gibson asks about the meaning of tourism for infrastructure. If we host a cricket tournament and need to work on fields to accommodate, can the MAT be used for that. Staff says yes, but keep in mind that there's only \$100k put aside per year.

Gibson says she's always wanted to link the MAT tax to where it's coming from and that means primarily sporting events. He thinks it's been lost in the conversation when we're talking about art or other things. He hopes majority of council keeps that in mind.

Klassen asks if the DGBA could apply for the programs funded by the MAT. GM of Economic Development and Tourism Goodram says yes. Klassen adds that allowing small and med. orgs to support tourism can put Guelph on the map.

O'Rourke asks if public art is in the realm of MAT tax. Goodram says yes, and that has to go through the Public Art Advisory Committee obviously.

O'Rourke asks for confirmation that \$50k will go to Gather Here fund for at least two fully funded grants. Goodram says that it's in there, was originally \$10k.

O'Rourke asks if he needs a motion. Goodram says no, it will be in the package going out.

O'Rourke: When will applications open?

Goodram: Sometime in May, they're just getting ducks in a row and the Manager of Tourism is presently on vacation. Chamber's got same timeline, no wrong door policy.

O'Rourke says that the more we can do for overnight hotel stays, we need to be stimulating that as much as possible.

Recommendations approved unanimously.

Mayor skipped approval of the minutes (again), so open Council Meetings held February 27, March 20, and 26, 2024, and the minutes of the open Committee of the Whole Meeting held March 5, 2024 be confirmed as recorded and without being read are approved!

Lobbyist Registry Review. There's no information here either, but there's one delegate: Susan Watson. She almost missed her shot, but she's here now!

Watson says she's been pushing for registry for four years, and since Guthrie took on Strong Mayor Powers after promising not to, it's now more important. She recommends stronger penalties and asks that staff apply some OECD Principles on lobbying.

<https://www.oecd.org/governance/ethics/lobbying.htm>

Watson says that they wish that the City had a lobbyist register when council decided to put the GID Secondary Plan "in the shredder". Someone made millions last night and they didn't even have to show up, Watson said.

Watson says "sucker citizens" will once again be picking up the shortfall and notes that Guthrie and Gibson got max donations in the 2022 elxn from the land owner of the GID.

Klassen asks about the legal consequences on not following the lobbyist bylaw in other places. Watson notes that the Toronto one does have those because otherwise it's kind of a slap on the wrist. It's serious that these rules be followed.

Recommendation:

That the City Clerk be directed to draft a Lobbyist Registry By-law and Lobbyist Registry Code of Conduct, consistent with the details of report 2024-108 dated April 3, 2024, and report back to Council in Q3 2024.

Caron says that in her 4 previous terms she's never seen a political enviro where a lobbyist registry is need more than now. When you think about 413, Greenbelt, et al you see the importance.

Allt says he will support it but wants to be clear: It's about transparency and integrity, but it's not about personalizing, it's about establishing a code for everyone, and protecting the community.

Allt says he wants to be constrained by a registry and feels like he's been lobbied too hard by some people and has sought integrity commissioner insight.

Goller asks about CoW discussion about including non-profit groups, any update? Deputy Clerk McMahon says it would apply equally where there's a financial interest, ie grants. Report in July will have options for issues-based lobbying.

Goller asks if he knows how onerous the process will be. McMahon says it will be as easy and as convenient as possible, likely a couple of online forms.

Gibson says he agrees with comments so far, and notes planners lobby in the public forum at meetings, and that should be reflected when they lobby offline too. He notes that he's been uncomfortable, like when council talked GEARS and one delegate was a solar panel installer.

Klassen asks about legal consequences, will there be any? McMahon says he's not sure about definition of "legal" could be monetary like Toronto, contravention of Criminal Code, but that's outside City control. Can consider fines.

Klassen: Limitation of activities?

McMahon: Current version has longer and longer penalties in terms of time off from lobbying.

O'Rourke says he first job was in government relations, and it was pretty easy to apply as a lobbyist. Networking is also a kind of form of lobbying, there's relationship building before an ask & it's not a bad thing, lobbying, broadens the considerations so long as transparent.

Caron wants to ensure that there's no impression left that when someone is delegating that council is not wilfully blind. There's a huge spectrum of ppl that can be defined under the registry, and without that register there's no mechanism to declare, but council not ignorant.

Busuttill asks if a staff report will include a list of lobbyists involved when policy is developed. That's more of a takeaway, but it would be interesting information to have since all councils don't have the same networks.

McMahon says they'll consider that, and notes that a lot of lobbying takes place after a report comes to council.

Recommendations approved.

Next, Code of Conduct Investigation Report - Complaints. There was a delegate for this item, but they seem to have pulled out.

The report itself is received unanimously, so we turn to some motions from Cllr Caton.

- 1) Review Code of Conduct about use of corporate vs private accounts
- 2) Social media training for council.

**Code of Conduct Investigation Report -
Complaints 2023-02, 2023-03, 2024-1**
Motion Councillor Caton



1. That the City Clerk be directed, in collaboration with the Integrity Commissioner, to review the Code of Conduct for Council and Local Boards and the Use of Corporate Resources During an Election Policy as they relate to the use of personal versus corporate social media accounts and administered groups and report back as a part of the 2025 Governance Review.
2. That the General Manager of Strategic Communications and Community Engagement be directed to offer social media training, including accessibility standards and guidelines, to members of City Council.

Caton says the current policies need to be reviewed and made more robust for social media age and that council is aware of standards and practices.

Klassen asks if this for elections, or if will be more broad. Caton says more broad.

Gibson asks about "corporate social media account"? Caton says that they're all technically personal accounts now, since there's no policy about difference.

Gibson asks if there needs to be direction from council, can't Caton just go to I.C.? Caton says they're asking for policy review since it's presently a grey area that needs more specificity.

Gibson asks if the I.C. gives no direction, will staff offer a few of their own? McMahon says there are other municipalities that have more social media provisions in the Code than Guelph and they will review those and see what's appropriate for Guelph.

Billings asks if the I.C. asked for any advice to changes to the Code they'd like to see?

McMahon says there were no requested changes from the recent investigation.

Billings ask to separate review of Code of Conduct and Elections Policy reviews in two separate motions. (It's worth pointing out that Cllr Billings is the only member of council with *no* social media presence.)

Caron says that while there were no recommendations, there were some questions about personal accounts being used to do corporate business. She wants to make sure that what we're talking about is not an account owned by City, but used for City business.

Busuttill asks if this also includes the use of websites. Guthrie says that's a good point but out of this scope.

Billings asks if council could ask for social media training now? Lee says they could add that in with other modules but they've got nothing set up right now.

Clause #1: unanimous.

Clause #2: unanimous.

Clause #3: (Guthrie says he will take them up in the offer) It's unanimous too.

**Code of Conduct Investigation Report -
Complaints 2023-02, 2023-03, 2024-1**
Motion Councillor Caton



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**Code of Conduct Investigation Report -
Complaints 2023-02, 2023-03, 2024-1**
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2. That the City Clerk be directed, in collaboration with the Integrity Commissioner, to review the Use of Corporate Resources During an Election Policy as it relates to the use of personal versus corporate social media accounts and administered groups and report back as a part of the 2025 Governance Review.

That the General Manager of Strategic Communications and Community Engagement be directed to offer social media training, including accessibility standards and guidelines, to members of City Council.

Bylaws of the week approved.

By-laws

Resolution to adopt the By-laws. (Councillor Klassen)

Recommendation:

1. That by-laws (2024) - 20910, (2024) - 20911, (2024) - 20926, (2024) - 20927, (2024) - 20936 and (2024) - 20937 be approved as amended and subject to Section 284.11 (4) of the Municipal Act.

***9.1 By-law Number (2024) - 20910**

Being a by-law to regulate the supply of water in the city of Guelph and to repeal By-law Number (1991) - 13791 and By-law Number (2000) - 16352 and By-law Number (2008) - 18660.



***9.2 By-law Number (2024) - 20911**

A By-law to regulate discharges to the Sewage Works and Drainage Works of the City of Guelph, and to provide for the protection of these systems and the Natural Environment.



***9.3 By-law Number (2024) - 20926**

Being a by-law to amend By-law Number (2023) - 20764 in respect of the Guelph Greener Homes Program



***9.4 By-law Number (2024) - 20927**

Being a by-law to authorize the imposition of special charges on private residential property under the Guelph Greener Homes Program



***9.5 By-law Number (2024) - 20936**

A by-law to amend the Traffic and Parking By-law Number (2022) – 20698, as amended, being a By-law to regulate the use of Highways within the City of Guelph and the Traffic and Parking thereon



***9.6 By-law Number (2024) - 20937**

A by-law to confirm the proceedings of a meeting of Guelph City Council held April 16, 2024.



Meetings adjourned!



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