

**For consideration by the Council
of the City of Barrie on January 17, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lehman at 7:02 p.m. and the following were recorded as being present:

- COUNCIL:** Mayor, J. Lehman
Councillor, B. Ainsworth
Councillor, L. Strachan
Councillor, D. Shipley (left the meeting at 8:39 p.m.)
Councillor, B. Ward
Councillor, P. Silveira
Councillor, M. Prowse
Councillor, J. Robinson
Councillor, B. Jackson
Councillor, A. Nuttall (left the meeting at 8:36 p.m.).
- ABSENT:** Councillor, J. Brassard.
- STAFF:** City Clerk, D. McAlpine
Deputy City Clerk, C. deGorter
Director of Communications and Intergovernmental Affairs (Interim), C. Glaser.
- ALSO PRESENT:** J. Craig, Integrity Commissioner.

The General Committee met and reports as follows:

11-G-012 COUNCIL ORIENTATION SESSION BY THE INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER CONCERNING THE CODE OF CONDUCT

J. Craig, the Integrity Commissioner for the City of Barrie provided a presentation to the members of City Council concerning the Code of Conduct for members of City Council, Local Boards and Council Committees. He highlighted the role of Council and Council members and discussed ethics in government. J. Craig presented an overview of the regulatory environment related to the conduct of members of City Council including information concerning Federal and Provincial legislation as well as various municipal policies and procedures. He supplied information concerning the duties of the Integrity Commissioner.

J. Craig summarized the City of Barrie's Code of Conduct for members of City Council, Local Boards and Council Committees, commenting on the application of the Code, the general provisions related to the actions of members, the specific provisions, standards, duties and definitions contained within the Code and requirements related to disclosure statements. He outlined information related to compliance with the Code and the process related to both informal and formal complaints made under the Code. J. Craig provided details concerning the reporting requirements for the Integrity Commissioner.

11-G-012 Continued ...

J. Craig noted that the duties of the Integrity Commissioner include providing:

- Information to members of City Council concerning their obligations;
- Advice for members regarding specific situations as they relate to the application of the Code and other policies and procedures that relate to the ethical behaviour of members including general information on conflict of interest matters;
- Information to the public regarding the Code and the obligations of members; and
- An annual report to City Council on the activities of the Integrity Commissioner.

J. Craig concluded his presentation by providing some examples of frequently asked questions and the responses to those questions.

Members of the Committee asked questions and received responses concerning:

- The handling of complaints related to complaints concerning matters outside of the Integrity Commissioner's jurisdiction;
- The confidentiality of advice received by individual members and the advisability of applying previously advice to circumstances with a similar nature;
- The application of the Code as it to matters concerning spouses, family members and individuals representing members such as staff or volunteers;
- The provision of comments by members at information sessions or meetings concerning Planning matters;
- Specific scenarios related to the acceptance of gifts or tokens of appreciation for attendance at events or speaking engagements, the determination of when a gift is received if delivered by mail or dropped off, and the definition of gifts received as an incident of protocol or social obligation;
- Who can make complaints to the Integrity Commissioner;
- Invitations to charitable and non-charitable events, performances and golf tournaments;
- The requirements related to Disclosure Statements for gifts or benefits;
- Requirements related to participation/declaration of conflicts in meetings relating to Code of Conduct complaints;
- Invitations, gifts or donations from businesses hoping to do business with the City; and
- Soliciting donations from organizations or businesses that lobby or do business with the City for activities/events that may involve fundraising on behalf of community organizations.

11-G-012 Continued ...

J. Craig concluded by noting that individual circumstances are not necessarily black or white and may be subject to interpretation based on the specific details of the situation. He provided his contact information and invited members to speak with him to discuss specific scenarios or questions.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

CHAIRMAN