

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA

COUNCIL AGENDA REVISED ADDENDUM

Wednesday, March 26, 2014
7:00 PM

15. COMMUNICATIONS

15.2 Disposition/Proclamations

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- 15.2.9 Helmut Kik suggesting reductions in grants to the Chamber of Commerce, Georgina Arts Centre and Splash Festival in order to fund construction of bus shelters at all bus stops throughout the Town.

(Advisement: Mr. Kik will be in attendance to voice his suggestion)

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- 15.2.10 Hajnalka Hartwick regarding grant funding for the Georgina Arts Centre and Gallery, Georgina Trades Training Inc. (GTTI) and the Georgina Chamber of Commerce.

Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 4:00 PM
To: Rebecca Mathewson
Subject: bus shelters

Town of Georgina
26557 Civic Centre Road
Keswick Ontario
L4P 3G1

April/19/2014

Mayor Grossi and Council,

Rebecca Mathewson
Director of Administrative Service & Treasurer

Dear Rebecca,

This has referents to my deputation from February 25, 2014 A
I addressed Council requesting the construction of bus shelters at all bus stops throughout the Town.

It is my opinion that grants should have priorities to those projects where every day Georgina residents benefit.

If Council reduce the Chamber of Commerce grant to ---\$71, 600, Georgina Arts Centre to ---\$70,000 and the Splash Festival to---\$20,000 Council has then ---\$60,000 for the bus shelters.

If the bus shelters should be constructed by the Region, well then council should go to the Region and acquire the ----\$60,000 reimbursement. The bus shelters will provide safety and security for the people in Georgina and that should be in my opinion a priority to the Town of Georgina Council.

Sincerely,

Helmut Kido

Sent: Friday, March 21, 2014 1:58 PM
To: Mysti Hamilton; Rebecca Mathewson; Brad Smockum; Robin McDougall; Winanne Grant; Pepperlaw Post
Subject: 2014 Budget

Further to my email message to Town Staff and Brad Smockum dated March 5, 2014, I acknowledge receipt of information from Town staff and thank them for same.

Town staff have provided me with a list of private and community organizations that rent Town facilities, setting out rental amounts, if any, and confirmed specific rental arrangements based on financial and/or land contributions to the Town.

What I would like to address is the grant funding to the Georgina Arts Centre and Gallery and the Georgina Training and Trades Institute (GTTI).

It is my understanding that Town Council is recommending approval of the \$90,000 grant to the Georgina Arts Centre and Gallery. The annual funding to this organization is not limited to the \$90,000. They currently occupy a Town facility RENT FREE. Annual rental income could be \$30,000+ based on other rental arrangements between the Town and other organizations/businesses. I have not seen any financial statements submitted by the Georgina Arts Centre and Gallery in any public documents.

Town Council also recommended approving GTTI's request for an annual grant of \$30,000 which is an additional \$10,000 that was granted in 2013. This organization also occupies a Town facility RENT FREE. As with the Georgina Arts Centre and Gallery, annual rental income could be \$30,000+ and I have not seen any financial statements in any public documents from GTTI.

These organizations are quite comfortable with the financial arrangement and if Town Council continues to hand over annual grant money and offer FREE RENT, why would they be in a hurry to change. Does Town Council even know exactly where this money is being spent?

The actual public funding to the Georgina Arts Centre and Gallery is more accurately reflected at \$120,000+ and to GTTI \$60,000+.

As set out in my correspondence of March 5, 2014, Town Council needs to sharpen their pencils with the annual grant requests. These organizations need to learn to operate more self sufficient and the only way they are going to get 100% off the tax base is for Town Council to deny their funding requests and start charging them rent.

I watched a portion of the March 7th Budget Meeting on Rogers TV, however, the taping stopped just after discussion with the Chamber of Commerce funding request. In the meeting Mayor Grossi indicated that the Town provides annual funding to the Chamber as they take on some of the roles of economic development in the Town. It is my understanding that the Town has an Economic Development Department that is staffed by Town employees. I would like to know specifically what roles and responsibilities the Chamber is undertaking on behalf of the Town that merits \$90,000+ annual public funding.

Please ensure that this correspondence is included in the March 26th Public Agenda for discussion by Council prior to adoption of the 2014 Budget.

I look forward to a response to my question set out above.

Hajnalka Hartwick
20 Deerhurst Lane
Pefferlaw, Ontario