



The Corporation of the City of St. Catharines  
Niagara Compliance Audit Committee Meeting  
Monday, July 10, 2023

**Members Present:** Murray Christie (Chair), Margo Pinder, Heather Salter, Dinesh Parakh,  
Larry Peebles

**Absent:**

**Officials**

**Present:** Kristen Sullivan, City Clerk  
Philip Riley, Assistant City Solicitor  
Donna Delvecchio, Deputy City Clerk  
Evan McGinty, Deputy City Clerk

**1. Call to Order**

The City Clerk called the meeting to order in the Council Chambers at 5:00 p.m.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

The City Clerk read the following Land Acknowledgment:

The land on which Council meets today is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples. Acknowledging this is a reminder that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

All members and staff present introduced themselves.

**3. Selection of Chair**

Murray Christie indicated his interest to Chair this Compliance Audit Review Committee meeting. The committee consented to this appointment

**4. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest**

No disclosures of pecuniary interest were declared.

## **5. Opening Statement of the Chair**

Chair Christie provided opening remarks and advised that the purpose of this Compliance Audit Committee meeting is to determine whether the applications for an audit will be granted or rejected. The Chair noted that the three applications being considered were received in accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act* and the procedures for the Niagara Compliance Audit Committee, and the applications were submitted by eligible electors.

Chair Christie requested that the two applications for Mike Britton be combined and heard at the same time as they are very similar in nature. Mike Britton stated he had no objection.

## **6. Application by Ann-Marie Zammit and Zoe Lachance for Mayor Candidate Mike Britton**

### **Presentation by Ann-Marie Zammit and Zoe Lachance**

Ann-Marie Zammit provided an overview of and supporting documentation for her application for a compliance audit application.

Members of the Compliance Audit Committee were provided an opportunity to ask questions of the presenter. Members asked questions of the presenter for further clarification.

Zoe Lachance provided an overview of and supporting documentation for her application for a compliance audit.

Members of the Compliance Audit Committee were provided an opportunity to ask questions of the presenter.

### **Submission and Presentation by Mike Britton**

Mike Britton summarized his statement of defence and advised that he was present to answer any questions from committee members.

Members of the Compliance Audit Committee were provided an opportunity to ask questions of the presenter. Members asked questions of the presenter for further clarification.

### **Committee Consideration of Applications**

All members of the Compliance Audit Committee, the City Clerk and the Assistant City Solicitor, went into closed session for the members to deliberate the two applications at 5:34 p.m. and rose from closed session at 6:34 p.m.

*Dinesh Parakh temporarily left the meeting at 6:25 p.m. and returned at 6:27 p.m.*

Chair Christie summarized the applicants' and candidate's submissions made to the Compliance Audit Review Committee. The application of Ann-Marie Zammit and Zoe Lachance were both denied with written reasons for decision on the application to follow.

Chair Christie thanked the applicants and candidate for their participation in the meeting and advised that two written decisions and the minutes of the meeting will be posted to the City's website.

*Mike Britton exited the meeting at 6:38 p.m.*

*Zoe Lachance exited the meeting at 6:41 p.m.*

**7. Application for Compliance by Ann-Marie Zammit for St. George's Ward Councillor Jason Benoit**

Chair Christie inquired if Mr. Loucks is the agent for Jason Benoit. Mr. Loucks confirmed he is the agent. Ann-Marie Zammit called a Point of Order and asked whether Mr. Loucks can act as an agent based on the Statutory Powers Procedure Act. The City Clerk advised that our procedures state that the candidate or agent may present.

**Presentation by Ann-Marie Zammit**

Ann-Marie Zammit provided an overview of and supporting documentation for her application for a compliance audit application.

**Submission and Presentation by Jeff Loucks agent for Jason Benoit**

Jeff Loucks inquired if the applicant is an eligible elector as her municipal address is located in Grantham ward and Jason Benoit was a candidate in St. George's ward. The City Clerk advised that a legal opinion was received that indicates that the applicant is eligible to submit an application. Jeff Loucks expressed concern about the personal information in the audit application being redacted. He further stated that Jason Benoit did make an error on his financial statement as the candidate incurred expenses, but that the candidate was not aware that he needed to disclose them on his financial statement as he was under the spending limits.

Members of the Compliance Audit Committee were provided an opportunity to ask questions of the presenter. Members asked questions of the presenter for further clarification.

### **Committee Consideration of Application**

All members of the Compliance Audit Committee and City Clerk met in closed session to deliberate the application at 7:08 p.m. and rose from closed session at 7:25 p.m.

*Jason Benoit and Jeff Loucks exited the meeting at 7:10 p.m. and rejoined at 7:18 p.m.*

Chair Christie noted that the application of Ann-Marie Zammit was granted and an audit be ordered with written reasons for decision on the application to follow.

Chair Christie thanked the applicant and candidate for their participation in the meeting.

### **8. Adjournment**

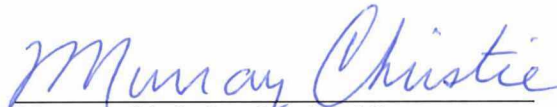
The members adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Confirmed by:



Kristen Sullivan, City Clerk



Murray Christie, Chair, Niagara  
Compliance Audit Committee