



**FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
SPECIAL MEETING  
AGENDA**

Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 9:00 am  
Committee Room

Pages

**1. ROLL CALL**

**2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**3. CORRESPONDENCE**

**3.1 February 4, 2019. Memo from the Chief Administrative Officer.**  
re: Treasury Department Human Resources and Succession Planning

As this matter deals with personal information about identifiable individuals, including municipal or local board employees, it may be discussed in closed session under Section 239 (2)(b)

**4. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**5.1 February 6, 2019. Memo from the CAO**  
re: Review of TV Bingo

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**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**7. ADDENDUM**

**8. CLOSED SESSION**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**



# MEMO

**To:** Council  
**cc.**  
**From:** Daniel Gagnon  
**Date:** February 5, 2019  
**Subject:** TV Bingo Opportunity

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Council has been asked by the Bingo Association (which represents several community non profit service clubs and charities) to provide a start up loan or grant and the use of City Hall Council chambers for a new initiative of TV bingo.

Some research has been done to date and is outlined below, but staff require direction on whether to continue to proceed with the proposed concept. At a meeting in late 2018, Council asked for more financial information from the Association, if possible from the current Bingo Operator Bingo Plus and more research as to the cost and issues related to the issue of City Hall Council chambers.

## Research to date:

- Eastlink has confirmed that the existing equipment may be used on Sunday evenings for TV Bingo broadcasting at no additional cost to the City or the Association.
- The President of the Bingo Association indicates that the Bingo charity members are working very hard to staff bingos that bring in revenues that often are so low that it hardly justifies their effort. Attached financials show a share for the charity that works a bingo in the area of \$150 - \$300 (less the license fee of \$125 / event) meaning the net amount is negligible or even zero.
- The privately owned Bingo Plus is a for-profit private sector business in the community running 3 bingos a week.
- The Bingo Plus owner/operator is supportive of the concept of TV Bingo.
- The Association indicates that they prefer Eastlink cable 10 TV broadcast bingo (as opposed to a web streamed online bingo experience).
- There would be no public access to City Hall during the proposed TV bingo, only a handful of Bingo Association charities volunteers operating the bingo equipment. The Bingo itself would be filmed by the city using the existing equipment in the council chambers.
- The bingo equipment would need to be stored in a vacant office in City Hall and wheeled into the Council chambers for the TV Bingo then relocated following the bingo.

Preliminary areas of concern are outlined below.

**Staff Time Costs:** In order to accommodate the use of City Hall on Sunday evenings, some staff time will need to be incurred to open and close the building and operate the Eastlink equipment. The cost of this may vary greatly depending on issues related to the type of staff time needed (ie. part time staff or CUPE rate with a 3 hr callout). Numbers below provide a simple overview:

- $\$15 / \text{hr} \times 2 \text{ hrs} \times 51 \text{ weeks} = \$1,530 / \text{year}$
- or
- $\$33 / \text{hr} \times 3 \text{ hr min callout} \times 51 \text{ weeks} = \$5,049 / \text{year}$

It is recommended that Council assume the higher CUPE rate (or a safe mid range assumption of approx. \$3k yr). While part time staff is used for broadcasting regular meetings, those are meetings open to the public that occur with multiple city staff already in the building. Part time staff have limited technical troubleshooting ability.

There is a concern that if the TV Bingo is held within City Hall, the public perception will be that is a municipal service. As such, adequate IT support should be on site in the event of any technical issues. Over time, this may be less of a concern but in the first few months it will require dedicated staff from the IT department to oversee the new process. The equipment in the Council chambers is very valuable and essential for accountability and transparency of committee/Council proceedings.

**Loan Request:** The Bingo Association has asked for a loan or grant for start up funds for the TV Bingo in the amount of approx. \$7,000. The \$7k is needed largely for printing specialised TV bingo paper / cards with a long lead time and upfront cost (and some other related start-up expenses). Loans to non-profits are rare but Council can approve it if desired. Previous loans in recent memory to the Wildcats or the Mt Dufour ski Area are not whatsoever comparable to the proposed grant/loan.

If Council wishes to provide the loan/grant it is recommended that more research be done into the Bingo Association's ability to receive loan proceeds / grants. It may be preferable to use a 3<sup>rd</sup> party such as ELNOS or one of the main bingo charities to receive and disburse the funds.

If City Hall is not viable, an investment of approx. \$20,000 would be needed for a fibre optic cable and hardware to equip another location (such as the Bingo Plus Hall) for broadcasting TV Bingo.

### **Facilitating Gambling?**

The Committee may wish to consider how far the municipality should be involved in facilitating gambling via TV bingo. The city is involved as a lottery license regulator since it is mandated to do so by the province. Facilitating gambling and ensuring that service clubs have adequate fundraising options are not traditional municipal areas of responsibility. That said, if Council wishes to make it a priority, staff will work to implement any direction given.

## **Competition with the Private Sector**

The Bingo Association suggests that TV Bingo will bring in additional funds and not take away from the traditional bingo users (anecdotally using Blind River as an example). That may be so, however it is difficult to quantify and will ultimately be a judgement call by committee members/Council.

Respectfully Submitted,

- original signed by -

Daniel Gagnon