

Appointment of Deputy Treasurers

Date: July 17, 2024

To: City Council

From: Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

Wards: All

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to recommend that City Council grant the Controller & Chief Accountant the powers and duties of a Deputy Treasurer, with the new Controller and Chief Accountant, Jason Li, commencing employment with the City of Toronto on August 26, 2024.

The appointment of the Controller & Chief Accountant position is within the City Manager's authority and in turn, this report is solely requesting Council authority to appoint the new Controller & Chief Accountant as a Deputy Treasurer. As is the case with all executive recruitments, the selection process for the position of the Controller & Chief Accountant was thorough, comprehensive, open, fair and objective.

The City of Toronto Act enables City Council to appoint one or more deputy treasurers and to ensure adequate coverage for essential financial sign-off responsibilities; this report also recommends that Council grant the Executive Director, Finance Shared Services the powers and duties of a Deputy Treasurer. This approach will provide added operational flexibility and also ensure financial authorities align with the roles and responsibilities of both the Controller & Chief Accountant and the Executive Director, Finance Shared Services.

David McIsaac, the Executive Director, Finance Shared Services has been employed with the City since 2023 and is also the current Interim Controller until the commencement of Jason Li's employment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer recommends that:

1. City Council appoint the Controller & Chief Accountant, Jason Li to the statutory office of Deputy Treasurer of the City of Toronto, for the purposes of section 138 of the City of Toronto Act, 2006 effective the latter of August 26th, 2024 or such date when the candidate enters into the employment contract for the position of Controller & Chief Accountant.
2. City Council appoint the Executive Director, Finance Shared Services, David McIsaac to the statutory office of Deputy Treasurer of the City of Toronto, for the purposes of section 138 of the City of Toronto Act, 2006.
3. City Council authorize the City Solicitor to introduce the necessary by-laws to give effect to City Council's decision.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of the recommendations in this report beyond what has already been included in the 2024 Council Approved Operating Budget for the Office of the Controller.

The Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the information as presented in the Financial Impact Section.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on March 20 and 21, 2024 City Council appointed David McIsaac as the Interim Controller, and in turn to the statutory office of the Deputy Treasurer of the City of Toronto subject to the appointment of a permanent Controller.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.CC16.2>

COMMENTS

Upon conclusion of a fulsome executive recruitment process including a national search, Jason Li was identified as the new Controller and Chief Accountant, commencing employment with the City on August 26, 2024. This report seeks Council authority to appoint the new Controller & Chief Accountant to the statutory office of Deputy Treasurer of the City of Toronto.

Reporting to the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, the Controller and Chief Accountant provides leadership and promotes excellence in matters such as accounting and financial controls. The Controller and Chief Accountant sets the overall strategic

direction by establishing divisional goals, objectives and priorities that align with strategic directions and Council priorities, are ethical and professional, and are in compliance with high standards of fiscal responsibility, management policies, openness, transparency and integrity.

The Controller and Chief Accountant will focus on broader financial management resulting in strong financial governance and increased operational efficiency within Finance and Treasury and across the organization.

The City Manager has negotiated the terms and conditions of employment and the appointment of Jason Li as Controller & Chief Accountant position will come into effect on August 26, 2024.

Pursuant to subsection 138(2) of the City of Toronto Act, 2006 (COTA), the City may appoint one or more deputy treasurers who shall have all the powers and duties of the treasurer under COTA or under any other Act. Pursuant to section 169-3.3 of the City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 169, Officials, City, the Controller is appointed as the statutory deputy treasurer of the City. The deputy treasurer shall have all the powers and duties of the treasurer under the City of Toronto Act, 2006 or any other Act, such as:

- (a) collecting money payable to the City and issuing receipts for those payments;
- (b) depositing all money received on behalf of the City in a financial institution designated by the City;
- (c) paying all debts of the City and other expenditures authorized by the City;
- (d) maintaining accurate records and accounts of the financial affairs of the City;
- (e) providing the council with such information with respect to the financial affairs of the City as it requires or requests;
- (f) ensuring investments of the City are made in compliance with the regulations made under Part VIII (Finances). 2006, c. 11, Sched. A, s. 138 (1).

As the City is able to appoint one or more deputy treasurers under the City of Toronto Act, this report also recommends that City Council also appoint the Executive Director, Finance Shared Services to the statutory office of Deputy Treasurer of the City of Toronto. Previously, all financial operational divisions directly reported to the City's former Controller, allowing for singular financial oversight and the feasibility of one Deputy Treasurer. However, recent changes to Finance and Treasury's organizational structure have resulted in a change in financial oversight with certain divisions such as the City's Revenue Services Division (RSD) and the Pension, Payroll and Employee Benefits Division (PPEB) directly reporting to the Executive Director, Finance Shared Services, requiring the Executive Director, Finance Shared Services to execute financial sign-off responsibilities specific to these divisions.

Council's approval to appoint two deputy treasurers will enhance Finance and Treasury's operational flexibility by ensuring adequate coverage for financial sign-off responsibilities and also ensure financial authorities align with the roles and responsibilities of both the Controller & Chief Accountant and the Executive Director, Finance Shared Services.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Conforti', written over a horizontal line.

Stephen Conforti
Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer