

Hamilton Mountain News

Integrity commish spot to be filled next month

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The accountability and transparency subcommittee will be considering a candidate to become the city's first full-time integrity commissioner, acknowledges Mayor Fred Eisenberger.

The selection committee is recommending a candidate to the committee, which will consider the motion at its Nov. 27 afternoon meeting.

If approved, the candidate will need politicians' approval at their Dec. 9 council meeting, said Eisenberger.

Eisenberger would not reveal who the preferred candidate for the position is.

In between the committee's consideration of the candidate and council's approval, city staff will make an offer to the candidate.

"There are a lot of issues that have to be sorted out," he said.

Eisenberger said he hopes the candidate will assume the integrity commissioner's duties by the end of the year.

The mayor and city staff has been conducting a search for a suitable candidate for over a year. The mayor initially wanted a retired judge to take the position, but it soon became apparent that few judges wanted the job. The transparency and accountability committee then redefined the position's criteria.

The city had almost 70 applicants, including summer students, looking to fill the position. The candidates were whittled down to 10, where a selection committee composed of the mayor and a number of the accountability and transparency members, conducted interviews.

Toronto lawyer **George Rust D'Eye** assumed the position last year when he considered the code of conduct charges against Stoney Creek Coun. Brad Clark.

It is unknown how much the position will cost. It depends upon whether the position is full or part-time and what type of contract the city and the candidate agrees to.

Councillors were appalled at Rust D'Eye's \$60,000 bill to investigate Clark's complaint against himself. They are fearful an integrity commissioner will mean opening up the money taps for an investigation.

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