

Residents angry over Dewar severance

The special meeting of Vaughan town council held July 13 to deal with the requested resignations of planning director John Dewar and chief administrative officer Lori Staples was officially adjourned, but the action was by no means over.

It wasn't until after the meeting was adjourned that a rather restless audience of 38 spectators and five members of the press heard Councillor Terry Goodwin proclaim no wrongdoing on the part of planning director John Dewar.

"There is no question of any wrongdoing on his part," Councillor Goodwin finally announced after continuous

prodding from four or five members of the audience. And it wasn't until after the meeting was adjourned that Mayor Garnet Williams openly revealed he is having internal problems with some members of his council.

"I welcome the people here tonight," the mayor said. "The only thing I am damned sorry about is that I tried to get three or four spokesmen (from members of the audience) to address council, but I got ruled out in the backroom. I was cut off."

Even before it started the meeting was not destined to be your average run-of-the-mill slow, quiet Vaughan town

council meeting. The session was slated to get underway at 8 p.m. At 8:33 p.m. two members of the audience knocked on the door of the backroom (the room adjoining council chambers where members of council usually hold their private encounters) shouting, "we are waiting." This was acknowledged by a voice in the backroom assuring, "we'll start at 8:30." That incident had more effect than an announcer warming up a television studio audience before a show. The spectators were loosened up; they were ready.

Another impatient onlooker suggested he was going to, "make his own resolution and

dissolve council." Fifty minutes after the scheduled starting time the council meeting got underway, with all members present except Councillor Lorna Jackson, who was away on vacation.

Councillor Jim Cameron read the resolution (on page 2) which would normally have been read by town clerk Ted Jackman. Mayor Williams explained later this was necessary because of the alteration to the original resolution calling for a closed meeting which was changed, according to the mayor, at his insistence during the backroom meeting.

Councillor David Fraser said council members were under the impression they were dealing with these personnel problems in private but it was now obvious it had become a public matter. He also said that it was the "election of council" that the hearing for Ms. Staples be public, but the decision was up to the discretion of her lawyer.

Once the bylaw authorizing the agreement between the Town and Mr. Dewar was read, questions started pouring in from the floor. (At this point, none of the agreement was read aloud and there was no mention made of the \$39,987.50 retirement allowance plus accrued salary and vacation pay offered Mr. Dewar.)

"Are we allowed to speak, Mr. Mayor?" one member of the audience asked. "I think we should say that this agreement was reached with our solicitor," Councillor Fraser said.

"How much are you giving him (Dewar)?" someone wanted to know. "It will become public as soon as we pass it," Mr. Fraser acknowledged.

After a recorded vote on the bylaw authorizing the agreement (all were in favor), Councillor Fraser announced the amount of the retiring allowance Mr. Dewar will get, which was met by shouts of "And why

should he get it? Would you get it if you quit?" There were no replies to these questions. Council then approved the request for yesterday's hearing for Ms. Staples and finally came the resolution to adjourn the meeting. But it was not to be.

"What made Mr. Dewar resign?" asked a member of the audience. "What did he do?" questioned another.

Jean Albert, another member of the audience, brought forth an 80-signature (at that time) petition that will be sent to Provincial Treasurer D'Arcy McKeough, which demands council make full disclosure to clear up fears of Vaughan citizens of wrongdoing on the part of Mr. Dewar and Ms. Staples.

"We do not get involved with this sort of thing because we still have legal things to come," Mayor Williams said. "Are we going to find out what made this man resign?" he was asked.

Councillor Fraser said council will be dealing with Ms. Staples on Tuesday and, "information will be available."

The 25-minute official meeting adjourned and it was back to the spectators.

"We have sat here for quite a length of time," one woman complained, "and we have hardly heard two words all night."

"They mumble," a man from the audience retorted. "They don't want to hear you, they just want your vote."

The hecklers responded quickly to Councillor Terry Goodwin's remark, "we said we would adjourn until 2 p.m. (Tuesday) and we are still sitting here."

"This matter has been given very serious consideration," Councillor Goodwin assured the spectators. "This matter is not complete until the next meeting is completed."

Mr. Goodwin also suggested anyone who wants to speak on the personnel matter either publicly or privately, see their solicitor.

"I don't want to see them fall into a trap," he added. "We have the best interests of the people at hearts." Councillor Goodwin also said that employees were entitled to a private hearing if they wanted one.

"What I am saying is," the woman who had difficulty hearing the proceedings replied, "I didn't ask for information on Mr. Dewar or Ms. Staples. My question is I couldn't hear — is this the way all council meetings are held?"

"I would have thought most of the things we said were heard," Mr. Goodwin answered. "There may be times when we seek advice from our clerk or our solicitor when we should be privileged, but if we can't be heard perhaps we should speak up. I think you've raised a very good point."

"Then why was Dewar fired?" came back from the audience.

Mr. Goodwin said he did not think it is in the best interest of the town or the people concerned. "There is no question of any wrongdoing on his part," the councillor continued. "If personnel are paid on an annual basis and their employment is terminated, there is provision for a settlement. We have consulted legal advice and I cannot fault the advice we have had."

Mayor Williams turned to Councillor Goodwin with, "if these people are your friends, Terry, you should let them know what's going on."

All members of council with the exception of Councillor Dario DiGiannantonio were on their feet ready to leave the council chambers when a new questioner broke forth from the audience.

"Can I just ask one question," he queried. "Councillor Fraser, you handled number four (item four on the agenda) very eloquently. But you have been asked questions you won't answer. Why can we not get more information on Mr. Dewar now, and will we have an opportunity to

speak on behalf of Ms. Staples's defense?" Councillor Fraser said

the Chief Administrative Officer is protected by the Municipal Act and has

availed herself of the Act by requesting a meeting of council.

The agreement

This agreement made the 13th day of July, 1978. Between:

John Dewar, of the Town of Vaughan and Province of Ontario, (hereinafter called "Dewar") of the first part and

The corporation of the Town of Vaughan (hereinafter called "Vaughan") of the second part.

1. Whereas Dewar has decided to retire as of July 13th, 1978;

II. And whereas Vaughan has decided to pay a retiring allowance to Dewar in recognition of his long service with Vaughan.

Now therefore Witnesseth that in consideration of the sum of two (\$2.00) dollars now paid by each party to the other (the receipt whereof is hereby by each acknowledged), and in consideration of the mutual covenants herein

contained and other good and valuable consideration, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Vaughan covenants and agrees to pay to Dewar the sum of thirty-nine thousand nine hundred and eighty-seven dollars and fifty cents (\$39,987.50) forthwith upon the retirement of Dewar as a retiring allowance in recognition of his long service with Vaughan.

2. Vaughan agrees to execute such instruments as are required to effect a direct transfer of the Payment to a Registered Retirement Savings Plan designated by Dewar and to effect a waiver of deductions of tax therefrom pursuant to the provisions of the Income Tax Act (Canada).

3. Dewar hereby remises, releases and

forever discharges Vaughan of and from all actions, causes of action, suits, debts, duties, accounts, bonds, covenants, contracts, claims and demands whatsoever which he as employee of Vaughan or otherwise now has or hereafter can, shall or may have for or by reason of or in any way arising out of his employment with Vaughan up to the present time.

4. The provisions hereof shall enure to the benefit of and be binding upon the parties hereto and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal personal representatives, successors and assigns.

In witness whereof the parties hereto have executed this Agreement the — day of July, 1978.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in the presence of: John Dewar, A. Dimitrijevic, The Corporation of the Town of Vaughan.

5. Dewar hereby remises, releases and

within its rights, jurisdiction and responsibilities;

AND WHEREAS the formal decisions of the Council on these personnel matters will be released in a public statement at the earliest practical moment;

AND ALTHOUGH Section 193 of the Municipal Act (Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1970) permits the holding of a closed special meeting of Council, if in the opinion of the Council that it is in the public interest;

NOW THEREFORE BE AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that this special meeting of the Council of the Town of Vaughan, meet in closed open session to deal with the above personnel matters.

Carried — Garnet A. Williams, Mayor.

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Town of Vaughan has acted reasonably and in the public interest in carrying out its responsibilities in this matter;

AND WHEREAS there has been unsubstantiated and unproven allegations of irregularities or wrongdoing on the part of Staff of the Town of Vaughan and Council is unaware of any such act and those irresponsible allegations have not influenced Council's actions;

AND WHEREAS the Council in dealing with these matters has continued to act based on sound legal advice and

AND WHEREAS it is

AND WHEREAS it is

The resolution

Following is the resolution passed by Vaughan town council at the special meeting held Thursday, July 13:

TOWN OF VAUGHAN RESOLUTION

Moved by J. M. Cameron Seconded by D. K. Fraser

WHEREAS one purpose of this special meeting of the Council of the Town of Vaughan is to deal with personnel matters relating to the employment with the Town of Ms. Lori Staples, Chief Administrative Officer and Mr. John Dewar, Director of Planning;

AND WHEREAS the normal policy of the Council of the Town of Vaughan is to deal with such matters in private;

AND WHEREAS it is



Peter Oly of Baker Avenue, Richmond Hill looks over the 53 silver dollars he won for coming the closest to guessing the delivered price of a 1930 Model "A" Ford on an advertisement by Little Brothers Ford in The Liberal of 1930. His guess of \$890 was within \$2

of the correct price of \$888. Shown with Mr. Oly is Herb Dixon, left, New Car Sales Manager, Don Little Ford, and Lloyd Hardy, sales representative. The contest was part of the Liberal's 100th Anniversary and Little's 53 years of Ford service to the community.

SUPER FOOD BUYS!

\$4.99

Nescafe Instant Coffee 10 oz. Jar

\$24.99

Whitefield New York Sirloin Steaks 10 Lb. Box

29¢

Allan's Orange Crystals 3 3/4 oz. Pkg.

99¢

Palmolive Dishwashing Liquid 32 oz.

23¢

Jello Powders 3 oz. Pkg.

\$3.99

Master Kibble Dog Food 10 KG

3/1.00

+ DEPOSIT Coca Cola 40 oz. Returnable Bottle

39¢

WITH IN STORE COUPON Welch's Jam's Ass. Varieties 9 oz. Jar

\$1.49

Agree Creme Rinses 455 ML

89¢

Soft & Pretty Bathroom Bathroom Tissue 4 Roll Pkg.

\$1.09

Bittners Smoked Picnic Pork Shoulder

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES. PRICES EFFECTIVE WHILE QUANTITIES LAST

DISCOUNT FOOD WAREHOUSE.

WE'RE HERE TO SAVE YOU REAL MONEY ON GROCERIES.

When We're Open

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday

CLOSED
-10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
-10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday
Friday
Saturday

-10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
-10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
-8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Guarantee

We guarantee you'll be fully satisfied with our prices and foods. If not, we'll refund your money. Cheerfully and instantly. When you're satisfied, we know you'll be back.

How to find us.

