

Metroland

Council calls special meeting

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By: By Jennifer Stone

CLARINGTON -- Council is holding a special meeting Thursday evening to deal with an ex-mayor's concerns about a request to audit his campaign finances and to allow staff and politicians to report back on a trip to Europe to look at incinerator sites.

Summer meetings are generally only held at the call of the mayor.

Former mayor John Mutton has asked council and staff to revisit a request from a number of area residents to audit his election finances, on the basis of his allegation that one of the four signatories to the letter is neither an eligible voter nor a Canadian citizen. That contravenes provincial legislation he suggested in an e-mail to councillors and staff.

"While I have no issue with respect to auditing my campaign as I had submitted an audited statement from a real accountant, I believe that council should revisit the legality of an unqualified, non-Canadian citizen being part of a compliance audit request," said Mr. Mutton's e-mail.

It is likely the request would still be upheld, despite the technicality, said Acting Mayor Gord Robinson.

Councillor Robinson has assumed the role while Mayor Jim Abernethy is part of a Regional delegation currently in Europe, looking at Energy From Waste sites.

Delegates include senior staff from the Region of Durham and Clarington as well as Mayor Abernethy, Whitby Mayor Pat Perkins, six Regional councillors and Regional Chairman Roger Anderson. They are to return today (Wednesday). The trip includes stops in Sweden, Germany and Italy.

The special meeting is set for Thursday, July 12, at 7 p.m. in council chambers.

The next scheduled meeting is the General Purpose and Administration Committee, which will be held Monday, July 30. Council is to meet immediately following committee that day.

--- with files by Erin Hatfield