

8:03 [Standby] The host is placing this Live Event into Standby Mode.

8:09 **TorontoStar**: Welcome to our live blog from today's city council meeting. We're expecting to get started just after 9:30 so please join us then.

8:25 **Do you think city councillors should vote in favour of the new contract?**

Yes



No



9:32 [Comment From Sean Westrop]

If the Mayor really want to be responsible, why is he suggesting that the vote should be "in-camera" as opposed to making the vote public?? Obviously judging by the majority of responses to major media outlets, Toronto taxpayers are not supportive of the deal struck by the city, so why has the mayor endorsed it?? Doesnt he have a responsibility to Toronto taxpayers??

9:33 [Comment From Josh]

The strike must continue. The deal is an insult to hard working private sector employees.

9:39 [Comment From Murky]

Could you set out the number of councillors in attendance and what the declared split is before the vote (Miller's group vs. the "Fiscal Conservative" group)?

9:40 **TorontoStar**: NOTE: We'll add our list of where councillors stand to this discussion in the next few minutes.

9:40



freeze62: @[MayorMiller](#) wath do u plan on doing about da Toronto city raley?

9:40



Milan08: @[MayorMiller](#) Mr. Miller, let's hold out for a better deal

9:40 [Comment From Jeff]

Fire Miller!

9:41 [Comment From Mike]

When we were on strike, citizens complained about us being on strike, now we are back to work and they want the councilors to vote no deal? That means we are going to be on strike again. I am eager to find out how citizens of TO want us to end this strike then.

9:41 [Comment From Justin Wells]

79% against?? What is there to debate? if council represents the voters in this city this agreement is toast. Anyone who votes in favour of it has been bought and paid for--please, Star, give us the list so we can throw the scoundrels out.

9:42 [Comment From Jill]

We've endured this strike for its duration. But we are tired! Garbage issues we can cope with, but the lack of recreation programs and pools for our kids is unacceptable. If you are of low income and do not have access to cars you can not get to the "regions pools"! Enough is enough. We are

done. Get them back to work.

9:42 [Comment From Bill]

Will the list of councilors who vote in favor of the contract be published?

9:42 [Comment From T. Haviland]

The Sick Leave benefit has been in the Collective Agreements for decades and was supposed to be funded annually as a Long Term Liability by the City. If they chose not to fund it or draw off of it during past budgets: don't blame the Unions for the City's Fiscal mismanagement.

9:44



MarkMcAllGlobal: <http://twitpic.com/c8xy7> - [@MayorMiller](#) prepares for crucial council meeting on u
#TOStrike

9:46 **jessemclean:** A group of protesters have gathered outside city hall, carrying signs calling on councillors to vote now.

"If the city was going to give in to so many demands, they should have done it in the first few days -- not put us through more than a month of trash piles," said Michael Kerr, standing before a banner that read, "Council say no! This deal stinks."

The council meeting will start in a few minutes.

9:47



weskroesbergen: If only [@MayorMiller](#) had the stones of Maggie Thatcher... #tostrike

9:49



unlimitednrg: [@MayorMiller](#) You're supposed to be the voice of Toronto, that's why! If you can't take it, pot

9:49



1WattAt1Metre: [@MayorMiller](#) - OK, I guess we're having pizza tonight. (I wonder how many slices I c

9:51 [Comment From larry]

How many "no" votes will it take to defeat the deal?

9:52 **TorontoStar:** A majority of councillors would have to vote no.

9:52 [Comment From mark]

How is that josh?

9:53 [Comment From ssepp]

"in camera" means "in public" - all council meetings are recorded and a matter of public record except those not "in camera"

9:53



KatieSimpson24: CP24: [@MayorMiller](#) gets halted during his opening speech! Council meeting is under
#TOstrike

9:53 **TorontoStar:** Actually "in camera" is the reverse: It essentially means in private.

9:54 [Comment From Rob]

Hey, this is great that we can follow this.. so will the star reporter be in the council chamber?

9:54 [Comment From Joe]

If they reject the vote Toronto will be a mess, we need to move on. Do you know the sacrifice non union city staff have made for the last month, doing jobs they did not sign up for and living at the water treatment plants. we need to move on, they can make another stab at the agreement in 3 years

9:54 [Comment From Doog]

The deal is fair to everyone involved just get the mess cleaned up and get back to all the regular services now!

9:54 **jessemclean**: There are rumours flooding council chamber that Mayor David Miller will request the vote to be done in camera, meaning it will be done in private.

If done, Star reporters in the chamber will be asked to leave.

9:54 [Comment From bill]

if this mayor was truly responsible he would be rolling back the recent councillors' pay raises. This is what has contributed to this mess.

9:55 [Comment From VK]

to Josh: Please don't imply that City workers are not hard working. It is insulting and just wrong. (I do not work for the City, BTW.)

9:55 [Comment From Raymond]

Continue the strike. Councillors must vote what their constituents want.

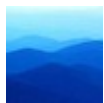
9:56 [Comment From Iain]

Jesse, I am assuming that you are on the outside looking in if the meeting is "in-camera"

9:56 **TorontoStar**: Just a note: The meeting is currently not "in camera", though this may change.

9:56 **jessemclean**: Iain: the meeting is not currently in camera.

9:57



macneilga: RT @KatieSimpson24 CP24: @MayorMiller gets halted during his opening speech! Council #TOstrike

9:57 [Comment From Dave]

I believe that grandfathering the sick days out of future employees is the correct way to handle this. If you had benefits and then were advised they were gone, how would you feel. Grandfathering is the only choice.

9:57 [Comment From Steve]

We all support our city concillors to vote against the deal, and Mr. Miller shall step down for his failure of fulfill his responsibilities to get city's goals done.

9:57 [Comment From CBC]

Josh - I didn't realize private sector employees are better than public sector workers.

9:58 [Comment From Guest]

When is the vote supposed to actually take place?

9:59 **TorontoStar**: This depends on how long debate and points of order go on. That could conceivably go on for hours. Council is currently debating whether or not the agreements of Locals 79 and 416 should be considered separately.

9:59 [Comment From John In TO]

You want the strike to continue, but what about the thousands of Torontonians that need access to vital city services. What do you say to them? I don't think a better compromise than this will be possible.

9:59 [Comment From Jim]

What should we do if the deal does go through? Any suggestions?

10:00 [Comment From Tom]

Does anyone know why Howard Moscoe is allowed to abstain from voting on the agreement? Isn't that his job to represent his constituents by voting?

10:00 [Comment From Bruce]

As much as I don't like the contract Miller has set up the vote so it has to pass.: the union has already ratified it, the staff are back to work and he has had his temper tantrum on TV. It was a cowardly way to do it. Council should have voted on Tuesday or Wednesday before the union.

10:00 **jessemclean**: Council votes to consider the collective agreements of Locals 79 and 416 separately, as requested by some councillors who have a conflict of interest with one of the two locals.

Because it's procedural, it has to pass by 2/3's majority.

10:00 [Comment From VK]

to Sean Westrop: City workers are taxpayers too. How would you feel if your employer forced you out of your job just to save a few bucks? Happens all the time in the private sector, and people complain all the time, then look to the government to bail them out. Public sector employers should be above all that - they are not in place to make a profit, but rather provide a service.

10:01



KRam41: To clarify: [@MayorMiller](#) spoke out of turn according to the speaker's notes. [@TorontoCounc](#)
#TOstrike

10:01 [Comment From David]

Come on now -- the deal reached was within the original parameters set by the city. If councillors are so outraged by this deal they should have cried over this much much earlier

10:01 [Comment From Mike]

What is the latest head count for councillors for/against the deal? what are the chances that it is voted down?

10:02 **jessemclean**: Motion fails 23 to 13.

To answer the Moscoe question: Moscoe has said he is abstaining because his daughter is a city worker, causing a conflict of interest.

10:03 **TorontoStar**: Here is the list so far. Note: This was current as of Wednesday evening. We'll update the list if new information comes to our attention.

Paul Ainslie: No

Brian Ashton: No

Maria Augimeri: Unknown

Sandra Bussin: Declined to say

Shelley Carroll: Yes

Raymond Cho: Yes

Janet Davis: Declined to say

Glenn De Baeremaeker: Unknown
Mike Del Grande: Declined to say
Frank Di Giorgio: Declined to say
Mike Feldman: No
John Fillion: Yes
Paula Fletcher:
Rob Ford: No
Adam Giambrone: Yes
Mark Grimes: Unknown
Suzan Hall: Declined to say
A. A. Heaps: Declined to say
Doug Holyday: Yes
Cliff Jenkins: No
Norm Kelly: Declined to say
Chin Lee: No
Gloria Lindsay Luby:
Giorgio Mammoliti:
Pam McConnell:
Joe Mihevc: Undecided
Peter Milczyn: No
Denzil Minnan-Wong: No
Ron Moeser: Undecided
Howard Moscoe: Declined because of conflict of interest, his daughter is a unionized city employee.
Frances Nunziata: No
Case Ootes: No
Cesar Palacio: No
Joe Pantalone: Yes
John Parker: No
Gord Perks: Yes
Anthony Perruzza:
Kyle Rae:
Bill Saundercook: Undecided
David Shiner: No
Karen Stinz: No
Michael Thompson: No
Adam Vaughan: On vacation
Michael Walker: Out of the city as of yesterday

10:04 [Comment From COOL MOE D]
Vote no and send Miller packing.

10:04 [Comment From Andrew]
Time for taxpayers to strike. We won't pay... we won't pay...

10:04 [Comment From AG]
If this strike isn't over today, the Province will legislate a return to work. If they do, an arbitrator will give the Unions an even BETTER deal!

10:05 [Comment From Marion]
I have a small farm, beautiful location and the taxes for the small row house in Toronto are more than the house in rural St. Catharines.

10:07 [Comment From mark]

Why have the sick days, which have been in place for 40 years, only now become an issue? Case Ottes said nothing when his good buddy Mel Lastman was mayor. Lastman never said anything about sick days. I think Miller's problem is he bit off more than he could chew. BTW teachers get an even sweeter deal than municipal worker - 24 sick days in a truncated 10 month year - why no outcry on them? The right wing has whipped up public hate.

10:07 [Comment From Malcolm]

Council should vote in a way that reflects the will of the voters. It seems obvious that most voters oppose the deal so then Council should oppose the deal. This seems to be simple. I am not sure why more Councillors have not realized that opposing this deal is a sure way to win favour of voters. Its time that Councillors start to vote with their minds and not as a herd of sheep that are voting in blocks along ideological lines to garner favour from the Mayor.

10:07 [Comment From TW]

Yes, that's right, Josh. Private sector employees are all hard-working. The way these lazy public sector workers are fighting for themselves and their families is truly disgraceful. People should be happy making whatever companies choose to pay them. Well, back to my part -time \$9.50/hour job. I have two just to make ends meet! I'm so lucky!

10:08 [Comment From mark]

Boy there is a lot of hate out there.

10:08 [Comment From JohnInTO]

You say you want the strike to continue. What about the thousands of Torontoians facing hardship and needing access to vital city services? What do you say to them?

10:08 [Comment From Petra]

To Mike - I don't think it is as simplistic as that.

10:08 [Comment From Steve]

Continue the strike. Winter is coming

10:09 [Comment From ahavenot]

"A 'new level of anger' if the strike continues"? I think not Miller, if it ends and give them undeserved sick day payouts, you'll see a level of anger like never before from Torontonians at the polls.

10:09 [Comment From Andrew]

@Mike -- there is no "us" -- the union is "for profit"

10:10



bryanstevens: Really hoping @[TorontoCouncil](#) doesn't ratify that contract.

10:10 **jessemclean:** Councillor Minnan-Wong complains that councillors have been left in the dark throughout the strike. To make matters worse, he says, councillors didn't receive today's documents until late last night.

The document is more than 100 pages long, he says.

10:11 [Comment From Linda]

Part of the meeting will have to be in-camera as per the Municipal Act which sets out the criteria for an in-camera meeting. He doesn't have a choice. It is the law.

10:11 [Comment From mark]

Moderator why are you blocking my posts?

10:12 [Comment From DAVE]

I find it amazing that the city councilors did not agree in total prior to the vote by union. Suggests how closed our council is in Toronto.

10:12



alangstaff: I have yet to speak to anyone who thinks [@MayorMiller](#) did badly in negotiation. Huge gap b mood.

10:13 [Comment From czthemmnt]

Residents want them back to work, then what? When your property taxes increase significantly, in order to pay for this deal, will you keep your mouths shut? Because you can't have it both ways

10:13 [Comment From Guest]

The union was getting anxious to end the strike, the issued a stupid threat about not talking anymore, and we give them a deal that they could have had on day 1. What was achieved? A lot of ruined summers. Torontians are getting hosed. Take more time, get it right.

10:14 [Comment From jeff]

Mayor Miller should step down. He has given in to the unions and tried to baffle us with his bs.

10:14 [Comment From Petra]

I don't think any of us want the strike - but we do not like this deal either.

10:14 [Comment From Iain]

Any chance that some of Miller's group will vote against?

10:14 [Comment From ProfSmith]

The simple solution to the sick benefit is to require medical documentation of illness if someone is sick more than three days. No medical documentation, no sick pay.

10:14 [Comment From Steve]

We all support city councillors to vote against the deal, and Bye Bye to Mr. Miller, you must resign for your failure to get City's goals done.

10:15 [Comment From Guest]

1. somebody needs to move for a division of the assembly at council so we know who voted which way.

10:16 [Comment From Malcolm]

Don't reward the Unions for the mismanagement of the City either. Enough is enough. Make the insanity stop.

10:17 [Comment From kam]

The back to work protocol they were working on the last 2 days. I heard the union was trying to get the guy who stole the emergency vehicle off the charges. Anyone know if Miller cave in on this as well ?

10:17 [Comment From JIm]

Jill, what are you going to do when SellOut Miller raise taxes? how are you going to pay for it if you are in low income?

10:17 [Comment From TW]

I always wonder if Councillors and staff know their mics are on before the meeting actually starts. I like hearing Bussin's vacation stories.

10:18 [Comment From Linda]

The vote will be done in public even if the discussion is done in-camera. That is according to the Municipal Act. So anyone wanting to know how the councillors voted will be able to find

out. By the way, if it is a tie vote, it loses.

10:19 [Comment From Sean]

For Mike - Citizens complained that we were being harrassed and held hostage by the strikers...we didn't complain about the strike itself, just the sick bank. Get rid of the sick bank and Ill be happy!!!

10:20 **jessemclean**: Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong asked whether the back-to-work protocol could be voted on by council. Speaker Sandra Bussin ruled that councillors could ask questions about it, but not vote on it.

Minnan-Wong challenged her ruling.

Now voting.

10:20 [Comment From Citizen of Toronto]

I'm upset the strike has gone on so long, but I'm also upset how Miller handled this. I can't believe I want the council to vote NO. I am torn between the physical garbage affecting so many and the politics, but I don't think Miller should get away with this. The whole thing was handled terribly. Never again should strikers be allowed to dump in parks. I am soo mad I want this strike to go on.

10:20



greekcub: [@MayorMiller](#) there needs to be some real reform with Council, if 22 MP's & MPP's can represent councillors?

10:20



heartystew: [@MayorMiller](#) I am really getting tired of them villafying you like some common criminal.

10:21 [Comment From Luis]

How many protesters are there? Would be a great civic statement if Nathan Phillips square was full of protesters - New Years eve like

10:21 [Comment From Logic]

The councillors need to remember that the protesters are a very small minority of folks - those able to take time off work to tell other people to go back to work. Oh the irony.

10:21 [Comment From Bobdog]

Is there any legal way to remove Miller from office?

10:21 **jessemclean**: Minnan-Wong's challenge to the speaker's ruling wins, 30 to 4.

10:21 [Comment From Angered]

I too am sick of the strike however I do not believe that keeping the Sick Leave benefit because "it's been there for decades" is a good reason for it to continue. I work in the private sector and am OUTRAGED that this has been allowed to continue for so long. Fire the whole lot of them, let's abolish Unions and hire the hundreds of unemployed Torontonians who would do anything to have a job. This is the year 2009 people.

10:22 [Comment From alex]

This should be voted on by the people of Toronto - a web site could've been set up in one week.

10:22 [Comment From Guest]

Vote no

10:22 [Comment From Javed]

Voting 'no' will throw this city into chaos. Neither the city nor the union will bargain in good faith anymore. It will undoubtedly result in back-to-work legislation and binding arbitration. In fact, if my councillor votes 'no' today, he will lose my vote in the next election.

10:22 **jessemclean:** "

10:22 [Comment From bit.ly/endstrikenow]

we've pushed to end the strike but we can't end it like this - people have suffered in all wards and this is just a slap in the face to all of us. if voting this down means strike continues until we get a "deal for the people" so be it! we urge the councillors to vote NO

10:23 [Comment From Sumo]

Mike: We expect the unions to have realistic expectations of the taxpayers ability to finance largess and feather bedding. If you want a bonus for coming to work then ask for it. An unused sick leave payout on retirement is obscene to taxpayers. Pools and Rec Centres will not be open until the middle or end of next week. Summer is over. Yeah, not much fun for kids and parents but can you afford the inevitable tax and/or rent increase to finance this retirement "gift". I am prepared to hold on to my garbage, hold my nose and hold onto my pride. We have already paid the price. Any resumption of the strike will have to be accompanied by injunctions allowing the dumps to be cleaned up.

10:23 [Comment From Rosehill Ave]

There is clear opposition from everyone on this deal across the spectrum. If this deal goes through, one has to wonder, exactly WHO are the city councillors representing?

10:24 [Comment From Tsm]

Vote no

10:24 [Comment From J]

I don't want to hear random postings from readers or Twitterers....i want the news. the star is getting worse day by day.

10:24 [Comment From skyessimone]

I am truly amazed that our councillors would consider voting this down,I would like to see their benefits package and determine what we in Toronto believe to be unfair and remove it from their package. I believe that grandfathering it out is the correct solution.

10:24



CharmianLove: [@MayorMiller](#) - your name came up in a meeting today with Nicky Gavron here in Lon C40.

10:24 [Comment From MARIO]

Shame on you Mr. Miller.

10:24 [Comment From Monika]

Watching the council meeting on Rogers 10

10:25 **jessemclean:** Mayor Miller thanks city manager and bargaining staff for their "tremendous efforts, dedication and commitment in negotiating these collective agreements."

He also thanks Torontonians for their patience.

10:25 [Comment From one for the workers]

Council gets to vote on their raise without anyone else approving it, why should they be allowed to vote if the workers get a raise or not. The Mayor and his negotiating team and union agreed to it; it should be a done deal

10:25 [Comment From PH]

I believe a tie is considered a rejection of the contract

10:25 [Comment From JR]

Watch council meeting live here:

10:25 [Comment From JR]

<http://www.rogerstv.com/option.asp?rid=16&lid=12&sid=1030>

10:25 [Comment From Sumo]

How big is the protest outside city hall?

10:26 [Comment From Arthur]

How many councilors are in attendance?

10:27 **jessemclean**: Sumo: As of 9:30 a.m., there were about 10 people demonstrating.

10:27 [Comment From George]

I would like to take my kids to the swimming pool. The park is a cesspool. Let's just put this to bed and Miller et al can deal with the consequences.

10:27



KrisReyes: [@MayorMiller](#) moves motion to express appreciation to city manager and bargaining team #

10:28 [Comment From larry]

simple majority 51%??

10:28 [Comment From jealous]

Wonder if the ones that want the sick bank cancelled would have the same attitude if they were on the other side of the fence?

10:28 [Comment From Kimya]

If council votes no, does that mean city workers will walk immediately?

10:29 [Comment From PH]

Why is Miller who campaigned on transparency suddenly trying to make everything so opaque? What is he trying to hide?

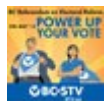
10:29 [Comment From Stormcrest]

Anyone know what the pay per hour of garbage collectors is including benefits?

10:29 [Comment From Sumo]

I agree with Bob...this is an excellent service provided by the star.

10:29



anthonymschein: [@MayorMiller](#) speaking now. Thanks City Mgr and bargaining teams. Several Cllrs decl

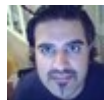
10:29 [Comment From Yo]

:In camera" means "In Chambers". "Camera" here is a Latin word meaning chambers.

10:29 [Comment From Guest]

I hope the agreement is voted in, not least because the strike disproportionately affects the most vulnerable communities in the city.

10:30



shamj: RT [@KrisReyes](#): [@MayorMiller](#) moves motion 2 express appreciation 2 CM & bargaining team
it

10:30 **jessemclean**: Miller: "I'm tired of political game-playing. Our employees are tired of political

game-playing. And most importantly, the citizens of Toronto are tired of game playing"

Councillors will now be questioning Miller on his statement.

10:31



Adam_Giambrone: <http://twitpic.com/c923e> - Mayor Miller explaining why the City has won a victory
i ...

10:31 [Comment From Smith]

18 sick days is ridiculous.

10:31 [Comment From AB]

Miller caved. Vote NO.

10:32 [Comment From sm.taylor1]

Why aren't things like garbage pickup and daycare considered essential services. The issue of time banking in the public sector is a much broader one. For example, what about teachers who are allowed up to 20 sick days per year and can bank them if unused. What about senior management in the provincial government who are allowed to bank unused vacation days and receive a payout at retirement? Mayor Miller has shown an appalling lack of leadership for many years now. But I haven't seen any viable candidates coming forward to run against him - he would not have won in 2007 if there had been a good alternative. So, what can we as voters do? And, why are there no term limits for councillors?

10:33 [Comment From Ray]

I paid the city \$800 for summer programs for my 2 kids. The programs have been cancelled; I still haven't gotten any money back from the city. I also have 3 more property tax installments to pay this year, BTW my property taxes go by hundreds of dollars every year, I have pay user fees, 5 cent per bag..... VOTE NO! Put an end to the spiraling madness of "Just TAX the people more"

10:33 [Comment From Edmond]

It's unfair to the tax payers.

10:33



HiMYSYeD: "...hope that Mommy up at Queen's Park comes to the rescue...like in 2002...easiest thing to
#TOStrike

10:33



wendytgibson: RT @KrisReyes: @MayorMiller says he's tired of game playing, says contract ends sick
increases ...

10:33



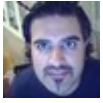
conniecrosby: Watching Toronto City Council debate, @MayorMiller giving a passionate plea for Council
#yyznews

10:33



Adam_Giambrone: Mayor Miller points out that this is the first time in the amalgamated city that we go
it. ...

10:33



shamj: RT [@Adam_Giambrone](#): <http://twitpic.com/e923e> - [@MayorMiller](#) explaining why the City has Mayor!

10:34 [Comment From Brian]

This deal is fair to only two sides the unions and Miller's re-election efforts. It is not fair to the taxpayers of Toronto or the managers at the city

10:34 **jessemclean:** Councillor Michael Thompson, who has vocally opposed the deals, showed a pile of more than 200 emails from constituents who he says have asked council to vote 'no.' He then held a pile of five emails asking for a 'yes' vote.

He asked for them to be put in the public record.

10:36



TJtalks: [@Adam_Giambrone](#) We're also in a once in a lifetime recession with most people make bigger to.

10:37 **TorontoStar:** We've got an MP3 of Mayor Miller's statement before the presentation on the negotiations:

http://www3.thestar.com/static/audio/miller_opening_statement.mp3

10:37 [Comment From DT]

To Council: JUST SAY NO!

10:37 [Comment From peter]

Yes, not rolling back those raises killed his credibility.

10:37 [Comment From J]

God these random people are stupid.

10:37 [Comment From Yo]

VK: Obviously, you haven't been to the City Hall to get something done in a long time.

10:37 [Comment From Kyle]

How long until the vote is actually called? Is there a set structure saying each councillor gets x minutes to speak. Or does the debate go on until Miller says so?

10:39 **TorontoStar:** In theory, this debate could go on for days. Sandra Bussin could cut off debate at some point, though this is unlikely. Our best guess is that the vote will happen around mid-afternoon.

10:39 [Comment From barry]

They maybe hardworking but they are just as spoiled as the politicians on council. The city is a joke.

10:39



garyhilson: [@Adam_Giambrone](#) The sick bank should have been eliminated completely. I want this deal down

10:39



NickMagurk: Someone should be there representing ward 19, smelliest in the city. Adam V where are yo

10:40 [Comment From GD`]

Very bad deal for the city - we should vote no and get the concessions we need. It's been hard

on all of us but we'll pay down the road.

10:40 [Comment From Ray]

Oh goody a secret vote. Let's just cover everything up.

10:43 **TorontoStar**: We don't know whether the vote will happen 'in camera' (i.e. in private). A motion would have to be introduced to this effect, which would require two-thirds of councillors to approve. It's unlikely that this will happen.

10:44 [Comment From Niko]

No way! The Councilors should voice their vote for the whole public to see; it's called accountability.

10:44 [Comment From skyesimone]

Let's get the city back to normal.

10:44 [Comment From The_Nexus]

Come on - This vote should be done publicly - after all we're paying taxes (i.e. salaries) for these bozos.

10:44 [Comment From JR]

You can watch council meeting live now.

10:45 **jessemclean**: As the Star said, if a councillor motions to have it done in camera, it is unlikely to be approved.

10:46 **TorontoStar**: JR: That's right. The link was posted above, but here it is again, for reference:

<http://www.rogerstv.com/option.asp?rid=16&lid=12&sid=1030>

10:46 **TorontoStar**: Also, it's on the Rogers community channel if you have a TV at your disposal.

10:46 [Comment From Mike]

I agree with Raymond...Enough is enough with this mayor

10:46 [Comment From Linda]

In Camera is a latin term meaning in private. Man there are some stupid people blogging on this.

10:47 [Comment From Mike]

What a coward! The vote should be out in the open so everyone can see where the councillors stand: with the taxpayers or with the union

10:47 **TorontoStar**: Again, we're not sure where the information is coming from that suggests the vote will happen in camera. This is unlikely.

10:47 [Comment From Iain]

Thanks Jesse. There seems to be a delay in comments being posted on CoveritLive

10:48 [Comment From Niko]

Can someone explain to me why we have 44 city councillors? Perhaps downsizing the council will help save some money and make our city more efficient.

10:48 [Comment From Tiki]

I do not think there is any question that a good number of city workers earn their pay. There *is* however ample evidence to suggest that city taxpayers simply cannot afford this deal and that, in certain categories, the pay rates are completely and utterly out of line with the current economic reality.

10:48 [Comment From Stormcrest]

Why not let the public vote on the deal?

10:49 [Comment From Doug]

They should vote it down. Everyone else is taking a cut or feeling the pain. They took the job unskilled, Why are we paying as if they are a highly skilled labor force.

10:49 [Comment From Guest]

Just because the clause (e.g., banking sick day benefits) was there for a long time doesn't mean that it should be there in the future.

10:49 [Comment From Brian]

Private sector workers can't hold taxpayers hostage like public sector workers.

10:50 [Comment From Rob]

Why would Miller request the meeting be 'in-camera' except to minimize the political damage he is going to suffer. Closed door politics and the lack of transparency disenfranchises everyone.

10:50



rubbermustard: [@Adam_Giambrone](#) [@MayorMiller](#) Who cares re 1%. You guys and CUPE ruined mo
you.

10:52 [Comment From JohnInTO]

Are all councilors present for this?

10:52 **jessemclean:** In the city's presentation of the two agreements, there is a list of other municipalities that, in the past, phased out sick day banks -- using a similar process as Toronto is now proposing.

These municipalities include the old cities of York and Etobicoke, as well as Hamilton, Edmonton and others.

10:52 **TorontoStar:** We'll post the attendance list shortly.

10:52 [Comment From Malcolm]

I thought the vote was set for 9:30. why the delay?

10:54 **TorontoStar:** The council meeting was scheduled for 9:30, but council typically considers many points of order and presentations before councillors would even be able to vote on the deal. As suggested above, our best guess is that the vote won't happen until mid afternoon. But there's no way to know.

10:54 [Comment From Angered]

Let's not beat on Josh, All is is saying is that private sector employees would get laughed in the face if they asked for these demands. Please everyone grow up and let's not fight each other. This is not the forum for it.

10:54



NickMagurk: Private sector Unions have made concessions in an attempt to save their jobs, public secto
[@TorontoCouncil](#)

10:54 [Comment From Sumo]

Any idea how large is the outside protest group?

10:55 **jessemclean:** For the record: There has not been a request to go in camera. If one is made, we will inform you.

10:55



KRam41: [@astoutley](#) LMAO sincere appreciations to you as well. [@MayorMiller](#)'s motion was moved,
on.

- 10:56 **TorontoStar:** Jesse reported earlier that there were about 10 protestors outside City Hall. We'll check on the status of that protest.
- 10:56 [Comment From peter]
Miller lost his credibility when he refused to roll back the councillors' pay raises.
- 11:00 [Comment From RC]
Is this circus event on tv?
- 11:00 [Comment From Mike]
I wish these lefties councillors had a backbone instead of following a mayor who is on his way out..Show some balls and do the right thing..Fight for the people who vote for you.
- 11:00 [Comment From Moe]
They should vote NO, but have the garbage cleaned by contractors
- 11:00 [Comment From Smith]
Private sector employees do not have bottomless pit of money to fund 18 sick days.
- 11:00 [Comment From Bruce]
If you want to grandfather them out the mayor should have ended the program for existing employees. That would have ensured that this liability does not continue. Currently 100% of City employees still have the benefit. It will take years for the employees to retire and the program to end.
- 11:01 [Comment From Pyeddo]
Lets hope this contract is voted down, the strikers go back on the picket lines, and their greed costs them their mortgage payments, car payments, kids university tuition payments, etc. See how fast they come back to work by mid-September.
- 11:01 [Comment From JR]
If you like seeing you're taxes increase you'll support this vote. Enough is enough people.
- 11:01 [Comment From Pyeddo]
@Jim: take 15 mins of every CUPE members time up telling them why you feel hosed in this situation, just like they took our time when attending dumping sites to tell us their side of things.
- 11:01 [Comment From Andy]
I must also urge the councilors to vote no.
- 11:01 [Comment From AC]
Why can't Miller and the councillors who voted for their own pay raises use that money to pay the workers in lieu of their banked sick days or to fund the benefit plan? Seems like City Council got us into this mess and they ought to pay for getting us out of it.
- 11:01 [Comment From JR]
post this link so people can watch live: <http://www.rogerstv.com/option.asp?rid=16&lid=12&sid=1030>
- 11:01 [Comment From L]
Bankable sick days should not be grandfathered - they did not work as intended (ie. for people who are actually sick... rather than early paid retirement).. just because people were able to exploit this flaw in the system in the past does not mean they are "entitled" to take advantage of it (from grandfathering)
- 11:02 [Comment From Mike]
Jim - If the deal goes through that means we all go back to work - In 2 weeks from now, all this

strike BS will be forgotten.

11:02 [Comment From gary]

How about anybody but Miller in 2010?

11:02 **jessemclean**: For those who want to watch the meeting online:

<http://www.rogerstv.com/option.asp?rid=16&lid=12&sid=1030>

11:02 [Comment From skyesimone]

Jim: I think that we should take this to the polls in the next municipal election. Toronto needs to show up to vote those councilors out of office that do nothing for the public they represent.

11:02



SheetalJaitly: The sound of [@MayorMiller](#) on the radio is so annoying, you got a loser deal

11:02 [Comment From Bill]

I heard it on only needs 50% to pass. The Mayors vote would be the decing vote if tied?

11:02 [Comment From ProfSmith]

Even if it is defeated, they will be legislated back in a week or so....then a mediator will just tweak the deal and ratify it...it just sends a message to the political folks...

11:03 [Comment From CB]

To serve the taxpayer well the banked sick days NEEDS to be eliminated. The current process is an atrocity and an unreasonable expense to the taxpayer. The process is ended for ALL now. There is no more banking for ANY employee. What has been done can be phased out fairly.

11:03 [Comment From Catherine]

The public won't be pleased when the arbitrator gives the union more!!

11:03 [Comment From johnd]

If the five undecided councillors vote no then it will not pass

11:03 [Comment From djemca1]

People scream for privatization but the reality is that it was the irresponsible and reprehensible behavior of the private sector that made unions necessary.

11:03 [Comment From Niko]

To Mike: Yesterday in The Star they had 11 against, 9 for and the rest unsure/non-comitted

11:04 [Comment From Wayne]

We want the city back on the track, but NOT with this deal and NOT with this Mayor.

11:04 [Comment From barry]

If the councillors knew what was best for the city , the WOULD VOTE NO....

11:04 [Comment From Brian]

Moscoe has no back bone

11:04 [Comment From skyesimone]

If Moscoe cannot vote as his daughter works for the city, then maybe he should relinquish his role in public office...

11:04 [Comment From bill]

What other councillor's have a conflict of interest?

11:05 [Comment From Iain]

Moscoe could declare the C of I and then have Council decide on his participation.

11:05 [Comment From Rubenstein]

Show some backbone for G-d's sake!

- 11:05 [Comment From ProfSmith]
Doug Holyday a yes? Wow...
- 11:05 [Comment From Kyle]
Looking at that list I am thinking this is going to fail.
- 11:05 [Comment From David]
Sandra Bussin Declined to say? Is it a councillor's right to secrecy or will we learn how each votes?
- 11:05 **TorontoStar**: We will learn how each votes, assuming the vote is not held in camera, which, again, is unlikely.
- 11:05 [Comment From barry]
Funny all the ones that said YES are all NDP clones like Miller, what a divided council..very mickey mouse
- 11:05 [Comment From JohnInTO]
Agree@AG
- 11:06 [Comment From Daniel]
I doubt the province will legislate back to work so soon.. Just look at Windsor
- 11:06 [Comment From mike]
after this is all over the province should make garbage collection an essential service....no right to strike
- 11:06 [Comment From Justin Wells]
Province will only legislate it back to work if there is a health issue. Hire replacement workers or contractors like Windsor did to pick up the temporary dump site trash. No health issue. No arbitration.
- 11:06 [Comment From skyesimone]
Ron Moeser is my councilor. He is undecided about everything as then people cannot hold him accountable
- 11:06 [Comment From Petra]
This deal is NOT fair to the citizens of this city
- 11:06 [Comment From fed up]
THIS IS (BS). I agree, the council vote should have been held ahead or at the same time as the Union ratification votes. What sense does it make to have a vote that can have such a profound affect AFTER the workers have returned to work. This whole shit has been unorganized, unethical and unfair to constituents and city workers, who have been forced to suffer thru a stink ass City, and no income for the last 40 days
- 11:07 [Comment From Rubenstein]
If the Province legislates the workers back then McGuinty and his bunch of clowns deserves to go. Lets's contract out the services!
- 11:07 [Comment From Bertha]
This City Stinks!! Literally!!!
- 11:07 [Comment From teya]
We do not all support our city councillors to vote against the deal. It was reached through negotiating. Settle it and move on!
- 11:07 [Comment From Bill]
I like Holyday but he just lost my vote come next election if he votes "yes"
- 11:07 [Comment From ProfSmith]

An arbitrator will just teak and give the same deal essentially...the no would really be democracy in action though

11:07 [Comment From shaun]

Toronto should continue to drown in it's own garbage..maybe then the city will learn to deal with what it produces

11:07



hogtown_blues: [@Adam_Giambrone](#) I agree. Phasing out the sick bank is a major victory for the City. I agreed.

11:07 [Comment From Linda]

In-camera is a latin term meaning in private. The vote must be done in public according to the Toronto Act. As well, if a meeting goes in camera it does so according to rules set out by the Municipal Act. So all the conspiracy theorists can back down. Miller is not completely powerful.

11:08 [Comment From Annoyd]

I have a beautiful house for sale in Toronto, 4 bedrooms, 2 bath and a wonderfully landscaped property however NO city services included. Please reply.

11:08 [Comment From andrew]

MARION: toronto residential taxes are LOWER than each surrounding municipality's! Your Toronto taxes are higher only b/c your property's worth more!

11:08 [Comment From cjc]

to Marion - what's your point?

11:08 [Comment From CHARles]

Voting no to this deal will only put Toronto in a bigger hole. Arbitration will not be kind to the city. Cooler heads need to prevail.

11:08 [Comment From AT]

Sigh and we all know it's only a matter of time before they decide to strike again, and again, and again...

11:08 [Comment From cjc]

Teachers get sick days because they are exposed to more sickness b/c of being with kids.

11:08 [Comment From John S]

We didn't endure this strike for an outcome like this! Vote no.

11:08 [Comment From CHARles]

20 days for teachers because of your snotty nose kids.

11:09 [Comment From Guest]

If services are vital, they should not be permitted to strike in the first place.

11:09 [Comment From JDM]

I'm a teacher, and we definitely don't get 24 sick days. If anyone's willing to give them, I'll take them :)

11:09 [Comment From AT]

To JohnInTO, even if the strike is over, This will happen again. We need to stand up against them.

11:09 [Comment From Jay]

A strike in the cold will really test the union strength.

11:09 [Comment From Thiago]

Its all to easy for the union right now. Lets seem em freezing their butts off in Dec., and see how many concessions they're willing to make when everything isn't a sunny day at the transfer station.

11:09 [Comment From HardworkingEngineer]
Shame, Major

11:09 [Comment From Noelle]
So you believe that these strikers are some how "above the law"? What happens at the next strike when they try to push it even further than assault and slashing tires?

11:10 [Comment From Frank]
We need an affordable deal. This doesn't seem affordable. I hope my councillor votes no.

11:10 [Comment From Dave]
I believe that the costs of an extended strike would be greater than the amount that would be saved by forcing a tougher settlement. No other jurisdiction has been successfully able to eliminate sick days for people who already have them - the common solution has been to grandfather in existing benefits, and not give them to new workers (which is what Toronto has done).

11:10 [Comment From Alex]
The issue is not the inordinate amount of sick days, it's the banking of sick days. The entitlement to entitlements is appalling.

11:10 [Comment From Justin Wells]
@Steve -- exactly, continue the strike! If we overpay for city services we will have fewer services, less public transit, fewer streetcars, fewer schools, worse roads. VOTE NO! That is so clearly what voters want.

11:10 [Comment From bill]
Unions are passee. Privatize.

11:10 [Comment From Steve]
Wake up, Mark, the world has changed.....you should leave the city and see if you can find a job in a private company, what makes city workers so special?

11:10 [Comment From jake]
Unions are a business - something that many people fail to recognise

11:10 [Comment From Mike99]
Private Sector? Oh yeah, those are the people/contractors that come over to do work, overcharge you, take their time, then charge you after they leave for extras. 2 months later everything they did falls apart!

11:11 [Comment From The_Nexus]
Why wouldn't the councilors have access to such a large document well before this vote? Have them sign an NDA and hand them the agreement directly after the offer was tabled. That would give ample time to review!!

11:11 [Comment From BM]
It is the intentional lack of communication between the Executive and Council that has created the political mess. I'd say that Miller (who I for the most part support) was too clever by half on this one

11:11 [Comment From Niko]
Toronto has 22 MP's in Ottawa, 22 MPP's in Queen's Park, but 44 City Councillors at City Hall? It's time this city was run more efficiently, and it could start with some downsizing...

11:11 [Comment From Frank]

Why aren't posts showing up?

11:12 **jessemclean**: As of now, the following councillors are not at the meeting:

Giorgio Mammoliti - Ward 7 York West

Gloria Lindsay Luby - Ward 4 Etobicoke Centre

Howard Moscoe - Ward 15 Eglinton-Lawrence

Adam Giambrone - Ward 18 Davenport

Cesar Palacio - Ward 17 Davenport

John Fillion - Ward 23 Willowdale

Pam McConnell - Ward 28 Toronto Centre-Rosedale

Kyle Rae - Ward 27 Toronto Centre-Rosedale

11:12 **TorontoStar**: Please note: We are experiencing high traffic volumes so comments are a little behind. Comments are only rejected if they are inappropriate. We're working to clear the backlog.

11:13 **TorontoStar**: Note also: We do not have immediate access to the sheer numbers on the poll. We're looking into getting them.

11:13 [Comment From Ben]

Mark - Why would you compare teachers to garbage workers? Because they both have unions?

11:13 [Comment From Cedric]

The level of bile coming from our citizenry is appalling. Can we please try to be rational and respectful?

11:13 [Comment From Imran]

OK - next step if this goes through - Miller may propose 100% increase in land transfer tax and increase in property tax to pay for this agreement so at the end residents of Toronto will pay for all this.

11:13 [Comment From Noelle]

I've yet to speak to anyone who thinks Miller did a good job. Guess we hang in different circles.

11:13 [Comment From Logic]

The contract isn't that great for the workers people. 6% over 3 years? What's so amazing about that? For clarification, I have no ties to CUPE 416 or 79 if the right-wing zealots want to attack.

11:13 [Comment From Marlene George]

Minds, if you wish to call them that, are already made up. Vote now! If not decided then fire the whole brainless lot.

11:14 [Comment From Cindy]

Miller did the best he could with this contentious issue. They would have stayed on strike indefinitely.

11:14 [Comment From miller hater]

If council wants to support the contract, they better forgo their expense accounts and give back those pretty raises they gave themselves last year

11:14 **jessemclean**: Correction: Adam Giambrone is present.

11:14 [Comment From Mike]

to alongstaff then your talking to the wrong people if you can sit there and tell me Mayor Miller is great mayor and he did a good job..yo

11:14 [Comment From dan]

I would argue that councillors should have held public meetings with constituents to assess "a

reasonable deal" and what that deal means for taxes; they could have completely avoided this mess with some forethought.

11:14 [Comment From Mike]

If McGuinty does legislate back to work just to give the unions a sweeter deal if this is voted down then he will face the wrath and it will be worse than what miller gets. Not just from Toronto, but from Windsor where the strike lasted 100+ days to get fair settlement and all of Ontario taxpayers because they are the ones who will bailout miller's huge deficit AGAIN. Of course he has till 2011 to be voted out, but the local MPPs won't like it one bit.

11:14 [Comment From JMC]

Miller representing Toronto is a disgrace. He is two-faced in his fight. Let the strike continue indefinitely.

11:15 [Comment From David]

Who is Moderating this?

11:15 **TorontoStar**: This is being moderated by editors at thestar.com

11:15 [Comment From Marlene George]

Where were these right wingers when the cops and all those others paid by taxpayers got 3% and kept their sick bank?

11:15 [Comment From Petra]

To Dave - I think they are blind on both sides - no one wants to let the other side side know anything. This seemed really evident in Ferguson getting his knickers in a twist when Miller gave us some info

11:15 [Comment From Lucygal]

The union knows that they will be forced back to work if this deal isn't agreed upon. They're petrified.

11:16 [Comment From Justin Wells]

The union threat not to talk was bogus. It's illegal under labour law to refuse to bargain it is called bad faith bargaining and there are steep penalties if the union actually tried that. It was all a show put on for the benefit of voters to try and push through a deal we so clearly do not want.

11:16 [Comment From Cindy]

Lastman must be laughing his head off. In four years he accomplished nothing.

11:16 [Comment From Guest]

I think this deal stinks personally. The sick days thing will be phased out but we're talking decades before it is. My main problem is amnesty for those that broke the law. What kind of precedent are we setting here?

11:16 [Comment From Howard]

Other than waiting for over a year in November how else can citizens express their displeasure with this deal?

11:16 [Comment From jake]

This summer is lost anyways. Both parties should negotiate a long term solution, accepted by taxpayers, so that we're not doing this again in 3 years.

11:16 [Comment From Will]

i'm sure that the sick benefit requires documentation, it is not as simple as call in sick

11:16 [Comment From mary jamison]

I hope they vote it in. I changed my plans to visit Toronto because a friend told me about the garbage all over. I hope to be able to visit this summer. I'm from Buffalo. PS - It seems to me that the only way to get people to do jobs no one want to do, you have to give them special

perks - here or in CA.

11:17 [Comment From franc]

I find it interesting that the "yes" vote in this blog is increasing.....probably all the union members trying to sway people's opinion any way they can

11:17 [Comment From LT]

Isn't it time that our Government listened to the tax paying people who pay their salaries? The unions are no longer good for the people. They are greedy, take everything they can get from the employer and in this case forget that the employer is the tax paying people of this city. The tax payers have been taken advantage of for many years and it has to stop. I don't get paid sick days, why should the union guys get 18 days and if they are used they get to bank and then be paid out???????????? How stupid is that????? Oh, how about a \$60 tax now just because we own a car in Toronto. Does the mayor have a plan to have the commuters from out of town who drive to Toronto and park in Toronto pay the \$60 car tax. Let's just stick to the tax payers of Toronto as miller is consistently doing.

11:18 [Comment From Dongler]

The deal will pass by one vote that way a bunch of people can say that they voted against it and the rest can say that they voted for it because it was the responsible thing to do.

11:18 [Comment From VK]

@ProfSmith: I believe that a doctor's note for any sick time of three days or more is already required for all City staff. This is not new.

11:18 [Comment From Rosehill Ave]

No matter what happens today, councillors must vote in a way that represents their constituents. If they don't, they'll join the unemployed ranks in 2010.

11:18 **jessemclean**: Toronto's executive director of HR just confirmed that city working this weekend -- including those cleaning up trash sites -- will be paid overtime if need be.

11:18 [Comment From Guest]

I'm interested in the council proceedings and would find this more useful if Jesse McLean provided more updates. Right now I feel like I'm just reading the comment section which wasn't my desire.

11:18 [Comment From Marlene George]

Recorded vote essential on this issue. Let's stop the talk and vote.

11:18 [Comment From Patrick]

This deal will likely pass but I think we may be reaching a tipping point with public sector unions. I would not want to be the next group who has to negotiate a deal with the City.

11:18 [Comment From Mike]

How many of these folks that have been viciously attacking Miller since the strike started are actually political staff for city councillors? Just askin'

11:19 [Comment From Guest]

to jessemlclean: As for the councillors not receiving the documents until late last night- you don't think it could have something to do with them not having any STAFF to print them out?

11:19 [Comment From pat]

Prof Smith - i'm not sure it's the qty of sick days that is the sticking point, they do have higher exposure to viruses etc ..frankly it's the banking that bothers me. We've basically agreed to pay them for 383 days in a 365 day period...

11:19 [Comment From Noelle]

I know I'll be voting against Mr. Pantelone & Mr. Miller next election. People need to remember

this outrage

- 11:19 [Comment From jaclyn]
you people are all ridiculous - vote yes and get on with it - you have to grandfather this out. Otherwise, the province will legislate an end to the strike and the sick bank will continue and we will have to go through this all over again in 3 years.
- 11:19 [Comment From Ken]
No Deal!
- 11:19 [Comment From Thiago]
I can honestly say that my 2010 vote for both my local councilor and the mayor hinges on this vote today.
- 11:19 [Comment From Bidman]
Where were all you people when John Tory was running?
- 11:19 **jessemclean**: Clarification: Toronto's executive director of HR just confirmed that city employees working this weekend -- including those cleaning up trash sites -- will be paid overtime if need be.
- 11:19 [Comment From Drew]
Voting no is the lesser of two evils. And, if the strike continues the first thing that should happen is an injunction and deal with contract workers to clear the dump sites nightly just like they did in Windsor. See how fast the union changes their tune then.
- 11:20 [Comment From Rob]
Vote the deal in and end this strike
- 11:20 [Comment From Marlene George]
There must be important issues to discuss here, let us get on with it.
- 11:20 [Comment From Guest]
I think we have been handling the strike well to date. Let the strike go on until we get a better deal for everyone - not just the Union.
- 11:20 [Comment From djemca1]
No union has any say in matters pertaining to the Criminal Code.
- 11:20 [Comment From Bidman]
We need to break all public sector unions!
- 11:20 [Comment From Sunny Side Up]
I think we have been handling the strike fairly well to date. Let the strike go on until we get a better deal for everyone - not just the union.
- 11:20 [Comment From SHARAD SHARMA (Ward # 1)]
If Mayor David Miller well acknowledge that he has failed and complied to most of the concessions in favor of both unions and as well as he is responsible initiating this conflict at the very beginning then all councillors should do their part to end this conflict! If David Miller still think that he is just manipulating the facts and trying taking credit to end this conflict then he should be informed through this voting that he is wrong! By saying & voting a big NO
- 11:20 [Comment From JR]
<http://www.rogerstv.com/option.asp?rid=16&lid=12&sid=1030>
- 11:21 [Comment From geevs]
they negotiated that no disciplinary actions would be put on those on the picket lines that were a little rough
- 11:21 [Comment From Tyaa]

wrong. Teachers get 20 sick days, not 24. My retirement gratuity was grandfathered in 79 as a return for long term disability. Vote yes, and get them back to work! Enough already.

11:21



cudawudashuda: RT @nowtoronto: @MayorMiller has nothing to apologize for <http://bit.ly/12oQR2> #TOstrike

11:21



atticusfinch9: #FF, #FollowFriday @TheEconomist, @Richard_Florida, @Todayseconomy, @MayorMi

11:21 [Comment From mayorquimby]

This is really now more of a referendum on the ability of Miller to lead this city. Nobody would have said this is a bad deal if signed on day 1, but after many, many weeks of striking, the city has gained nothing that it couldn't have gotten immediately. Every instinct Miller has seems to be out of sync with the majority of people in this city. His leadership really has to be questioned, and if this is the only means to do it, so be it.

11:21 [Comment From jq]

I think toronto residents deserve a referendum on key issue like this

11:21 [Comment From Daniel]

Miller caved on the part where the union strikers broke the law. He is granting amnesty to them as part of the deal. Ferguson said "What Happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas." Last I checked this was Toronto, not Las Vegas.

11:21 [Comment From Ralph]

Councillors should return their pay first and vote "yes to the ratified contract. After-all.....it-s the city workers who do the work for councillors and make them look good.

11:21 [Comment From Marlene George]

How many others whose income is derived from the taxpayers have a sick bank?

11:21 [Comment From Russ]

Jim, for the taxes we pay we get the most of services in the City of Toronto. I dare you to move to the 905...where not only will you pay more in taxes but your services will be much drastically reduced.

11:22 [Comment From Perrin]

I think that people forget that many civil servants get to bank sick days. This is nothing new. It happens with both the provincial and federal governments. At least in this contract all future works will be barred from receiving this.

11:22



chrismusina: @MayorMiller I got a new car and was unable to transfer my parking permit due to the strike. This?

11:22 [Comment From SHARAD SHARMA (Ward # 1)]

If Mayor David Miller well acknowledge that he has failed and complied to most of the concessions in favor of both unions and as well as he is responsible initiating this conflict at the very beginning then all councillors should do their part to end this conflict! If David Miller still think that he is just manipulating the facts and trying taking credit to end this conflict then he should be informed through this voting that he is wrong! By saying & voting a big NO

11:22 [Comment From Carmine]

All of this talk about @MayorMiller falling on this issue in the next election is for not. This temporary disruption in services will be forgotten by the voters by then and a new "scandal" will have popped up. I do agree that he had shown he is a weak leader throughout this, though.

11:22 [Comment From Mat]

Very interesting the Poll results here on the Star. Comments over the past few days have been very anti-deal but all of a sudden it's 60/40 against? Very odd.

11:22 [Comment From Rich]

While I disagree with the result and hope that council shoots this down, who was at the wheel when the sick days were originally agreed to? It goes to show that these union negotiations should always be made public.

11:23



LeahFiles: .@[MayorMiller](#) Aw, muffin, you've had a rough week! Come to visit me in 'Skoka for some n boathouse?

11:24 **TorontoStar:** Note: We are being overwhelmed by comments. If you have a question about the events, please use the comment tool. But from now on we will only be able to post a small number of comment.

11:24 [Comment From GMH]

I don't really support the deal, and wish the city had done better, but I'm not opposed to it passionately enough to want the strike to continue.

11:24



KrisReyes: windsor mayor gave no overtime after their strike resolved, @[MayorMiller](#) said on ONLINE

11:26 [Comment From CHarles]

Moderator is being unfair in posts allowed.

11:27 **TorontoStar:** Just for the record: Almost 100% of the comments up to about 10:25 were posted. It has now become impossible to keep up with the traffic. From here on in we will focus on the events in council chambers and related questions.

11:29 [Comment From SvE]

"Councillor Karen Stintz, a member of the fiscally conservative group, later said the members weren't attacking staff for the concession, but rather Miller himself." Absurd.

11:29 [Comment From Guest]

So how many councillors are absent?

11:31 **TorontoStar:** Here is our list of absent councillors:

Giorgio Mammoliti (York West)

Gloria Lindsay Luby (Etobicoke Centre)

Howard Moscoe (Eglinton-Lawrence)

Adam Giambrone (Davenport)

Cesar Palacio (Davenport)

John Fillion (Willowdale)

Pam McConnell (Toronto Centre-Rosedale)

Kyle Rae (Toronto Centre-Rosedale)

11:34



prettysweetlife: bc i love this city! #ff @1loveto @blogto @[MayorMiller](#) @nowtoronto @shedoesthicit

@toronto_tourguy

11:34 **jessemclean**: Note. Giambrone and McConnell are now both present.

11:35 **TorontoStar**: Thanks Jesse. Here's the updated list of councillors who are NOT present:

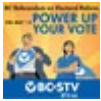
Giorgio Mammoliti (York West)
Gloria Lindsay Luby (Etobicoke Centre)
Howard Moscoe (Eglinton-Lawrence)
Cesar Palacio (Davenport)
John Filion (Willowdale)
Kyle Rae (Toronto Centre-Rosedale)

11:37 **jessemclean**: Who is absent:

Giorgio Mammoliti (York West)
Gloria Lindsay Luby (Etobicoke Centre)
Howard Moscoe (Eglinton-Lawrence)
Cesar Palacio (Davenport)
John Filion (Willowdale)
Kyle Rae (Toronto Centre-Rosedale)

Palacio is one of the 11 fiscally conservative councillors who said Thursday that they will oppose the agreements.

11:37



anthonyschein: [@joemihevc](#) questioning staff right now.

11:40



weskroesbergen: NO overtime for greedy CUPE! I can't believe how weak [@MayorMiller](#) really is. #tostrike

11:40



Liston: [@MayorMiller](#) Sorry sir, but councillors are being "responsible" by vote AGAINST a settlement affordable.

11:43 [Comment From Toronto the shameless]

Can you post that there will in fact be an in camera session as the Speaker has now deferred questions to the in camera session?

11:43 **jessemclean**: Updated list of absent councillors:

Giorgio Mammoliti (York West)
Gloria Lindsay Luby (Etobicoke Centre)
Howard Moscoe (Eglinton-Lawrence)
Cesar Palacio (Davenport)
John Filion (Willowdale)
Kyle Rae (Toronto Centre-Rosedale)

Palacio is one of the 11 fiscally conservative councillors who announced that they will oppose the agreements. When the Star asked the other missing councillors how they intended to vote,

they said it was either with Miller or they were undecided.

11:43



rustamanyana: [@MayorMiller](#) no-way, people that were on the picket line should not get overtime pay. crossed!

11:44



gigamegawatts: Wow, even the [@torontostar](#) has turned on [@MayorMiller](#). "..yesterday exposed the bull <http://trunc.it/1565i>

11:46 **TorontoStar:** It appears they are going to be going 'in camera' at some point. Usually this is only the case when they are dealing with issues of salary negotiations (or lawsuits). If city councillors want to ask staff questions that address this issue, they will have to do so in camera.

11:47

coriferguson: [@Adam_Giambrone](#) there's a 1 in front of the # of sick days union members w/ 10+ yrs S #TOstrike

11:50 [Comment From John]

I'd love an explanation of the sick bank provision. The 10 yr cut off, the ability of new workers to bank etc. Really needs explaining. Even the previous Star articles were misleading. Thx

11:53 **TorontoStar:** John: What we know so far is that the agreement allows existing employees to continue to bank 18 sick days a year, and accumulate up to six months of unused sick time to be paid out when they leave or retire. New hires cannot bank sick days, and will be covered under the short-term disability plan. Other cities have eliminated the bankable sick-day plan the same way, namely by "grandfathering" existing employees and changing the rules for all people hired from now on.

11:53 [Comment From Jim]

So looks like it going to be an in camera vote?

11:54 **TorontoStar:** Again, it appears that there may be some Q&A with city staff that will be in camera, but it's unlikely that the vote itself will be in camera.

11:54 [Comment From mwrn]

comments v. polls - it is much more likely that those who are angry about the deal would comment. People who are in favour of the agreement (but don't have strong feelings about it) or just want things back to normal would likely vote, but not post comments.

11:55 [Comment From Barry]

Funny all the councillors absent are ones that support miller.

11:55 **TorontoStar:** Palacio may be an exception to this.

11:55 [Comment From Guest]

How many will have to vote for the deal for it to pass? 50% or 2/3 majority?

11:55



TorontoCouncil: City Council meeting is underway. <http://torontocitycouncil.blogspot.com> or www.toronto.ca/tocouncil #tocouncil

11:56 **TorontoStar:** A majority is required for the vote on the deal. But a 2/3 vote would be required in order to have the vote 'in camera.'

12:01



SuperV83: @MayorMiller U can't please everyone... but I thought u handled it well & stuck up for your
=)

12:02 **jessemclean:** City workers continued to collect sick day and vacation credits while they were on strike, city officials confirmed.

"That's salt in the wound," said Councillor Brian Ashton, one of the councillors who has said he will be voting against the agreement.

12:03 **TorontoStar:** We're able to get the Rogers online feed:
<http://www.rogerstv.com/option.asp?rid=16&lid=12&sid=1030>

12:08 **jessemclean:** Bruce Anderson, Toronto's executive director of HR, dismissed comments that the current agreement could have been made on Day One of the strike.

12:24 [Comment From Paul]
How long does it take to vote?

12:25 **TorontoStar:** The actual process is nearly instantaneous. But we don't know how long it's going to take to get to that point. Councillors are still asking staff questions about the proposed agreement.

12:27 [Comment From Mario Romano]
Did the Hazel McCallion grandfather /phase out the sick bank system in Mississauga? Seems to be an important tool in negotiations such as these or no?

12:28 **TorontoStar:** Yes, Mississauga negotiated the end to banking sick days in 1982 but allowed existing employees to continue the practice. You can read more about it here:
<http://www.thestar.com/article/674521>

12:29 [Comment From Mike]
why would they want to keep it 'in camera'? what's the benefit of secrecy?

12:29 **TorontoStar:** Again, they only go 'in camera' to discuss certain issues, like salary negotiations or lawsuits.

12:30 **jessemclean:** Costs for paying staff on Family Day will be offset due to the benefits reaped from the change in dental programs, Mayor Miller said.

12:33 [Comment From Sean]
Which councillors were forced to leave the debate and what reason was given for them to be dismissed?

12:35 **jessemclean:** Mayor Miller said his decision to put the he agreement to the public changed the direction of the negotiations for the better. He argues that this agreement will set a precedent in this province for moderate pay increases and an end to bankable sick days.

12:36 **TorontoStar:** Councillors Milczyn and Shiner left in protest. They had declared conflicts because they have family who work for either Local 79 or 416. Mayor Miller tabled a motion that council should vote on the contracts for both locals at once. This means neither Milczyn nor Shiner would be able to easily vote.

12:36 **TorontoStar:** Our newest story has more information about this:
<http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/article/674631>

12:37 **jessemclean:** Council is recessed until 2 p.m.

12:37 [Comment From DH]
I don't understand, if they do not vote because they have left the meeting, that just means that

the Yes voters have a better chance of winning right? why aren't they at the meeting?

12:38 **TorontoStar**: Technically they could stay and vote, but there would be objections and their votes would likely end up being rejected.

12:38 [Comment From SG]

Do councillors have to be present to vote?

12:40 **TorontoStar**: Yes, they have to be present to vote. If they are not, then the result would be based on the number of councillors actually present. So if all 44 are present, 23 votes are required for a majority. If only 40 are present, then obviously only 21 are required.

12:43 [Comment From lola fortune]

If the councillors vote no, does this mean that it will go to arbitration and result in the same collective agreement (with its contentious sick bank) as before?

12:44 **TorontoStar**: If council votes 'no' then the strike continues. Arbitration is not automatic.

12:50 **jessemclean**:

Update list of councillors who are absent:

Giorgio Mammoliti (York West)

Gloria Lindsay Luby (Etobicoke Centre)

Howard Moscoe (Eglinton-Lawrence)

Cesar Palacio (Davenport)

John Fillion (Willowdale)

Kyle Rae (Toronto Centre-Rosedale)

Peter Milczyn (Etobicoke-Lakeshore)*

David Shiner (Willowdale)*

*Peter Milczyn and David Shiner, who both have relatives who are CUPE members, asked if the agreements with the two union locals could be voted on separately. When council voted 23 to 13 against that request, they walked out.

1:01 [Comment From Elberto]

Is it known why the councilors are absent from such an important vote? Being unable to attend because they are sick or have serious personal problems to attend to is one thing. Wanting to get an early start to the cottage is not acceptable.

1:02 **TorontoStar**: Apart from councillors Milczyn and Shiner, who have walked out, the other absent councillors are vacationing. They would have made their vacation plans long before anybody knew that an important meeting would be held today.

1:03 [Comment From K]

So why did they walk out?

1:03 **TorontoStar**: They walked out to protest the motion to vote on both 79 and 416 deals at the same time.

1:05 [Comment From Guest]

Does that mean it's now down to needing only 19 votes?

1:05 **TorontoStar**: It appears this is the case.

1:05 [Comment From cat]

What time is the vote being made?

1:06 **TorontoStar**: Again, we don't know. It depends on how long it takes to finish the Q&A with city staff and debate on other possible motions.

1:11 [Comment From Richard]

When you say it appears only 19 votes are needed, is that 19 votes in favour of the new c/a to be passed or 19 votes against to put the city on strike again?

1:22 [Comment From DM]

why does the city council need to vote on the deal? when a deal is negotiated with the labour relations team and union, and it is agreed...the deal is done. I do not understand why the city council needs to vote on it?

1:25 **UrbanAffairsEditor2**: The Municipal Act requires a vote by council to ratify the city's side of the deal.

1:26 **TorontoStar**: The current numbers issue needs a little clarification. First of all, Milczyn and Shiner could technically return and vote, though their votes would almost certainly be challenged. The speaker, Sandra Bussin, only votes in case of a tie. At the moment, there are 36 councillors present, plus Mayor Miller. That makes 37 possible votes. But Bussin only votes in case of a tie, so for the initial count we're left with 36.

If council is split, 18 votes for and 18 against the deal, then presumably Bussin would break the tie in favour of the deal, and 19 votes would be cast in favour and the deal would be ratified. Also, it's possible that councillors could be present but abstain from the vote.

Anything short of that and the deal would not be ratified and we'd be back to the strike. Technically, the strike is not over until the deal is ratified by all parties, so presumably the unions would stop work immediately and return to the picket line if the deal is voted down at city council.

1:32 [Comment From S. Belford]

Why isn't Mayor Miller chairing the meeting and casting a vote only if needed?

1:33 **UrbanAffairsEditor2**: Toronto's practice is to have a Speaker who chairs council meetings (Sandra Bussin at this time), and who casts a vote only when needed to break a tie.

1:37 [Comment From Contentious]

Why aren't any of my comments being posted - a better question:)

1:38 **UrbanAffairsEditor2**: Sorry, Contentious. We're overwhelmed with comments at the moment and many are similar, so we're choosing a few that are representative. Hopefully your questions and views will be covered along the way.

1:49 [Comment From confused]

oops almost forgot my REAL QUESTION as i can't find any info on it anywhere... if they go back on strike.. WHERE DO I TAKE MY RECYCLING? ... all i see are temporary garbage dumps... it doesn't say anything about RECYCLING.. which takes up the most space in the large bin i constructed to keep the garbage off the streets.

1:50 **jessemclean**:

During the break, Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong said there is a good chance a council member will call for an in camera session.

"I only got five minutes to ask questions -- and I have more questions. So do other councillors," he said.

In order to have another round of questions in public, it would require a 2/3rd's majority vote.

However, a councillor for motion to go in camera at any time.

The vote will be made in public.

- 1:50 **UrbanAffairsEditor2**: Officially, the strike is still on until both sides have ratified the deal, so nothing changes, and you'll have to hang on to those recyclables a while longer.
- 1:51 [Comment From Amnesty???]]
How can Mayor Miller possible offer amnesty to those who committed offenses while picketing?
- 1:52 **UrbanAffairsEditor2**: The city can simply decide not to press charges or move to discipline those workers.
- 1:54 [Comment From Jan]
Is there a law that the city can fire all those city workers?
- 1:54 **UrbanAffairsEditor2**: No.
- 1:55 [Comment From Guest]
about when will we know the strike is officially over?
- 1:56 **UrbanAffairsEditor2**: When the vote is final. They're still on lunch break for a couple more minutes, at which time debate resumes. Under council rules, the debate can continue until 7:30 p.m. After that, it requires a two-thirds vote to extend debate either into the evening and/or into tomorrow.
- 1:56 **jessemclean**:

With all likelihood, sometime this afternoon/evening. Council will continue at 2 p.m., and there will be a vote sometime this afternoon. If the agreement is approved, the strike will be over.

- 2:15 [Comment From Joe]
I don't understand - how can the city determine which charges the police can charge and which ones they can't. It implies that the city controls law enforcement...
- 2:18 **UrbanAffairsEditor2**: Potential charges in this case aren't of the serious criminal type that police would take the lead on - assault, for example. On issues such as trespassing, the city has discretion on whether to ask police to lay charges, just as you would if someone trespassed on your own property.
- 2:18 [Comment From Mr.T]
Does anyone know if there's been a precedent before, where a city Council voted against their Mayor on a matter similar to this? Even if he "wins" enough "yes" votes, it's pretty apparent to me that this Mayor does not "lead" this Council or the City. There is contempt all around - very dissapointing for Torontonians.
- 2:19 **UrbanAffairsEditor2**: Not in recent memory, in Toronto. But Miller nearly lost the vote on the land transfer tax until other councillors brokered a last minute deal.
- 2:20 [Comment From Manon]
Does the mayor have a veto vote?
- 2:20 **UrbanAffairsEditor2**: No.
- 2:21 **jessemclean**:
- Mayor Miller dodged Councillor Karen Stintz questions, essentially saying she did not care what the answer was as she has already announced that she intends to vote 'no.'
- 2:34 **jessemclean**: I have been informed that Speaker Sandra Bussin will have a vote, as she has constituents. She does not just vote if there is a tie.
- 2:40 **jessemclean**:

Mayor Miller urged councillors to consider student workers who have been stranded by the strike when voting. "It would irresponsible not to vote for (the agreement)," he said. "Another four weeks out on strike, there is no summer for them"

2:45 **jessemclean:**

The new agreement will not affect the contracted garbage pick-up in Etobicoke, the mayor said. Concern had been raised by both Councillors Mark Grimes (Etobicoke-Lakeshore) and Suzan Hall (Etobicoke North).

Grimes and Hall are both members of the council's neutral, mushy middle, and are expected to play a key role in deciding whether the agreement is approved.

2:49 **jessemclean:**

A motion to go in camera carries 33 to 1. All media have been asked to leave the council chamber.

3:02 [Comment From bg]

what is the rationale for an in camera meeting?

3:05 **UrbanAffairsEditor2:** There are strict rules for when a meeting can go in camera, under the Municipal Act. Generally speaking, when sensitive legal or personnel issues are involved. During the negotiations, there were issues that the city lawyers are now advising should be discussed in camera. The vote on the contract itself must be held in public, and yes, we will know (and the Star will report) who voted which way.

3:06 **jessemclean:**

You're a quicker typer than me, UrbanAffairsEditor2.

The talk around City Hall is that this session will last about an hour. We will keep you updated.

3:12 [Comment From db]

When is the vote expected?

3:13 **UrbanAffairsEditor2:** No telling at this point. Council rules say debate can continue until 7:30 p.m., and with a two-thirds vote that deadline can be extended into the evening, or tomorrow ...

3:16 [Comment From hmmm]

Is it possible that council could still be in session (say until sunday) and all the garbage would be picked up before a vote is held?

3:18 **UrbanAffairsEditor2:** The garbage strike, officially, is still on. Local 416 has indicated it will begin hauling garbage out of the park depots the minute the deal is ratified, so the trash will stay until there's a vote. However, parks maintenance employees have begun some cleanup of park bins and garbage cans. Home pickup of garbage won't start until Tuesday in any case.

3:42 [Comment From Yu]

In the vote, councillors can abstain, right? In such case, does the deal need 19 "yes" votes to get through, or it get through unless there are 19 "no" votes?

3:43 **UrbanAffairsEditor2:**

If you're in the chamber, you must vote. You can absent yourself from the chamber, but then it counts as a non-vote, neither for or against. A simple majority rules.

3:46 [Comment From Charles]

Why is the Urban Affairs editor so smart?

3:47 **UrbanAffairsEditor2:** Thanks, but it's collective wisdom from our reporters/editors here!

3:47 **jessemclean:**

Yu,

The numbers for the vote can still change.

As was said before, there is a chance Peter Milczyn and David Shiner will return to the chamber. However, if they try to vote, there will likely be a challenge as both have family members who work for the city.

Also, some of the absent councillors can may make an appearance. We'll keep you updated.

3:54 [Comment From Zo]

Do we know why these other councillors were absent from the earlier debate?

3:55 **UrbanAffairsEditor2:** They're on vacation, mostly out of the country.

3:59 [Comment From Fed up]

Why will property owners not be getting a refund on their garbage collection fees? Is there anyway that we an election can be called sooner than planned?

3:59 **UrbanAffairsEditor2:**

A refund hasn't been ruled out; Miller has said it will be considered. But that's not being discussed today.

4:01 [Comment From Fed up]

Can missing councilors dial in / remotely vote?

4:01 **jessemclean:** No. You have to be in the chamber.

4:02 **jessemclean:** Similarly, if you're in the chamber, you have to vote. If a councillor wanted to abstain, she or he would have to leave.

4:02 [Comment From doug]

is there not a existing rule in place in regards to family members and their ability to vote/not-vote on issues that could present a conflict of interest....if not there should be so it is not decided on a case to case basis

4:04 **UrbanAffairsEditor2:**

Yes, in both cases of conflict declared today, the family members are close relatives (spouses and children). Shiner's son is a part-time outside worker, and Milczyn's wife works for the licensing

department. Howard Moscoe, who isn't at the meeting, has a daughter who's a member of the inside workers' local.

4:10 [Comment From mb]

Did these councillors request that the vote be split in order to allow them to vote?

4:13 **jessemclean**: Yes. A motion was put forward and it passed 23 to 13. However, it required two-thirds of majority because it was procedural, and thus, failed.

4:17 [Comment From Guest]

Love to see this voted down. When will be getting info on the vote, Rogers TV has nothing from council on right now?

4:18 **UrbanAffairsEditor2**:

They've been meeting in camera (before closed doors) for some time. When they're out, public debate will resume and you'll see it on cable again.

4:18 **jessemclean**:

Rogers TV is playing looped video because the council is currently in camera, which means they are having private discussions.

4:19 **jessemclean**: As for the vote -- and as terrible as this sounds -- it will happen when it happens. Come 7:30 p.m., council will either have to vote on the agreement or vote to push the meeting later into the evening or to resume tomorrow.

4:20 **jessemclean**: The in camera session has ended. Updates will resume shortly.

4:21 **UrbanAffairsEditor2**: The small protest group that had formed in the morning dissipated around noon.

4:25 [Comment From Andrew K.]

Why have this as an open blog if you are censoring all the comments based on politics? Be honest enough to close the public's comments and just post your reporter's comments.

4:29 **jessemclean**: Hi Andrew,

I don't think our moderators are censoring the public's comments. Earlier in the day, we were overwhelmed by so many readers' questions that we received complaints that people couldn't find the answers we were posting.

Now, we post questions that summarize what other users are asking.

Cheers.

4:30 **jessemclean**: Back in session.

Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong just called Mayor Miller's defence of the agreement "the last bag of garbage thrown in this strike."

4:31 **UrbanAffairsEditor2**:

Full commenting was closed hours ago. I'm simply responding to comments and questions that many people are asking on which our team can provide helpful background.

4:34 [Comment From Advocate]

Do the councillors seem angry, tired, resigned, combative, intransigent after the in camera session?

4:35 **jessemclean**: The strike ended because the mayor gave up and "joined the picket line", argued Councillor Minnan-Wong.

"I actually think the mayor took the easy way out. He caved in. He betrayed Torontonians who were behind him ... Now he says the sky will fall if we don't sign this bad deal," Minnan-Wong said during a brief speech outlining why he will be voting against the agreement.

4:52 **jessemclean**:

As the mayor took more lashings from the right-leaning members of council, Councillor Pam McConnell defended the city's agreement as "affordable" and "reasonable."

McConnell, who was away from the city during most of the strike, said allowing workers to buy out their sick banks eases the long-term liability caused by a grandparented sick bank program.

"This is a very reasonable a fair deal. It's affordable," she said, adding that she will be voting yes.

4:53 **jessemclean**: Clarification:

As the mayor took more lashings from the right-leaning members of council, Councillor Pam McConnell defended the city's agreement as "affordable" and "reasonable."

McConnell, who was away from the city during most of the strike, said allowing workers to have their sick banks bought out eases the long-term liability caused by a grandparented sick bank program.

"This is a very reasonable a fair deal. It's affordable," she said, adding that she will be voting yes.

5:10 **UrbanAffairsEditor2**: For those asking for the Rogers link to the city council meeting:

www.rogerstv.com/option.asp?rid=16&lid=12&sid=1030

(thanks to af for posting it)

5:12 **jessemclean**:

Torontonians are so angry with the strike because they feel city council let them down, said Councillor Karen Stintz.

"They believe we let them down. And if we all stand up today and vote 'yes' because we believe we have no choice, then we have," she said.

5:14 [Comment From K]

Did the union workers realize at the end of their former agreement that their sick bank options were going to be taken away? because if a benefit was suddenly taken away id be angry as well.

5:16 **UrbanAffairsEditor2:** Sick banks have been part of the benefits structure at some other municipalities, and are also provided to some other public employees, such as teachers. Some municipalities have succeeded in doing away with them, such as Mississauga, which phased it out years ago in a way similar to what's now proposed in Toronto.

5:18 [Comment From Jack P.S. Border]
Why are some comments posted and some ignored?

5:19 **UrbanAffairsEditor2:** We're getting thousands of comments and can't post them all, so we are selectively picking representative questions and comments where our team can shed some light, in addition to updates on the council meeting.

5:23 [Comment From grr]
If the majority of the Councillors vote no, how long will it be until a new deal comes out?

5:23 **UrbanAffairsEditor2:** Your guess is as good as any!

5:26 [Comment From grr]
If the province forces the striking workers to go back to work (assuming they vote no), wouldn't the Arbitrator just come up with a deal that is almost the same as this one? If not worse?

5:29 **UrbanAffairsEditor2:**

There's much debate on the question of whether arbitration leads to better or worse deals from the government's point of view. But in the case of the TTC decision recently, the arbitrator leaned more toward the union's side. The long contract precedent in the sick bank issue, for example, might lead to a similar result.

5:30 [Comment From Gabriel]
At what time are they supposed to stop talking & vote?

5:30 **UrbanAffairsEditor2:** Council rules say debate must end by 7:30 p.m., but a two-thirds majority could vote to extend that into the evening, or tomorrow.

5:31 [Comment From Max]
By the way, is there any way for the rest of the city to have contract garbage collection like Etobicoke? Why is Etobicoke different within the city?

5:32 **UrbanAffairsEditor2:** Etobicoke's system dates back to pre-amalgamation days. Some councillors would favour going to contracting out, but Miller and the majority (left-leaning) group at city council have generally favoured staying with unionized civic employees for garbage collection.

5:35 **jessemclean:**

Councillor Suzan Hall, a member of council's neutral middle, will support the agreement, saying that accepting the deal will benefit the city more than turning it down.

"The final agreement is not everything I wanted," she said. However, she said, refusing the deal means the workers would likely see back-to-work legislation and the negotiations would go to arbitration -- where she fears the city would lose whatever gains it has made.

5:37 **jessemclean**: Councillor Case Ootes, who has been openly trading barbs with the mayor, said, "No matter how you slice this, this is a sell-out package."

6:01 **jessemclean**: Still seven speakers on the list. Cut-off time is still 7:30 p.m.

6:08 **jessemclean**: Councillor Frank Di Giorgio (York South-Weston) on why he is supporting the proposal: "I know, in my heart of hearts, that we won't get a better deal."

6:18 [Comment From Gaiter]

Am I wrong or is garbage not being cleaned up around the city already? What if the deal were to be voted down? Would they stop what they are doing and go back on strike?

6:20 **jessemclean**:

The unions have said they won't touch the temporary dump sites until a vote is ratified. If the deal were to be voted down, the workers would likely go back on strike and the trash piles would remain.

Similarly, daycare, splash pads, etc. would remain closed.

6:21 **UrbanAffairsEditor2**:

Maintenance workers and parks department employees started work just after midnight this morning, emptying overflowing trash cans, picking up garbage from the streets and picking up litter in city parks, as well as mowing grass and cleaning beaches. But they're not clearing away depots of dropped off garbage across the city, which will wait until there's a positive vote and sanitation workers are back on the job as well.

6:24 [Comment From BeeDee]

The chairperson said there was a list of speakers a while back. Is there any way to see that list of upcoming speakers?

6:25 **UrbanAffairsEditor2**: It's hard to pin down because it's a rotating list - councillors can ask to be added so the number still listed to speak can fluctuate up and down. But it does appear that things are starting to wind down. Officially, the debate is supposed to end by 7:30, though as said earlier, it could be extended on a two-thirds vote.

6:26 [Comment From Guest]

Since the council has realized that the tax payers are going to be broke in '09 and '10, will they be re-visiting the land transfer tax ?

6:30 **UrbanAffairsEditor2**: Not likely. Remember that that's a tax that's paid by people who are buying houses, not selling them. It hasn't drawn as much revenue as hoped, after stiff opposition brought some softened provisions. Add to that the fact that the real estate market has rebounded somewhat, and that reduces the argument that it's too much of a damper on home sales.

6:30 [Comment From spanky]

why must they stop the debate / vote at 7pm. shouldn't they just stop whenever the vote happens

6:31 **UrbanAffairsEditor2**: Council has long had this rule about Friday night meetings, but with the proviso that a strong majority can extend debate.

6:34 **jessemclean**: Just to clarify. The end time (currently) is 7:30 p.m., not 7.

6:36 **jessemclean**: End of speakers. Vote is expected to take place in coming minutes.

6:39 [Comment From Chris]

This is the first time I've actually watched a council meeting...its truly amazing how nuts these people are...are these really the best we can get to represent our city? How are you guys sitting there and watching this! :)

6:41 **jessemclean:**

Agreement for Local 79 ratified, 21 to 17.

6:41 **jessemclean:** Agreement for Local 416 ratified, 21-17

6:42 **UrbanAffairsEditor2:** It's a circus, all right. But if every voter really paid attention, well... There's the vote, folks.

6:42 **jessemclean:** We will have who voted how as soon as possible. Stay tuned!

6:43 [Comment From Michelle Robidoux]
Woohoo!

6:44 [Comment From Kevin T.O.]
Shame on city council. Shame!

6:44 [Comment From Chris]
didnt think you were going to post that one! Funny. Great job on your coverage of this -really well done. thanks.

6:44 [Comment From techknight]
thanks for covering the process

6:44 [Comment From A]
Thank goodness! Now let's get this place cleaned up and get those kids back at camp!

6:44 [Comment From akumal]
congratulations, taxpayers...

6:45 [Comment From CC]
So close...

6:45 [Comment From Grace]
It's a sad day for Torontonians.

6:45 [Comment From mikael swayze]
finally..council made the right decision!

6:45 [Comment From tom]
get ready for the property tax increase

6:45 [Comment From Concerned Rate Payer]
This is a coming of age VOTE for Toronto...people are now aware of how this joke of council operates.

6:45 [Comment From Guest]
Thank u so much GOD BLESS uuuuuuuuuuu

6:46 [Comment From TW]
This is a great feature! Please do it more often!

6:46 **UrbanAffairsEditor2:** Count on it.

6:46 [Comment From Guest]
Really enjoyed watching, or reading how this unfolded in real time. Liked the limitation of repetitive comments and good info from the Star. Nice work.

6:47 [Comment From AK]
Going to put something very, very stinky in my green bin this week!

6:50 [Comment From af]
Well done, Star. Impressive and timely coverage of a sad, sad day in Toronto municipal politics.

The responsibility parties will be remembered in 2010.

6:53 [Comment From Shawn S.]

You can only blame ourselves for not voting last time. THIS TIME, DO IT

6:53 [Comment From Gaiter]

Well done, and a great feature. However, it should have been in the Entertainment section of the website - our city council is a total joke! How you sat through this farce of a 'debate' and vote, I don't know...

6:54 **UrbanAffairsEditor2**: Thanks for your kind comments. Just making sure we have the who-voted-how list down right. ...

7:14 [Comment From Tom]

Well. We're waiting.

7:15 **UrbanAffairsEditor2**: Miller's press conference got in the way of getting that list, but hang in there, we're working on it.

7:17 [Comment From David]

Great job. Will the list be up tonight, or do we have to wait until tomorrow to see who voted in favour? This is as exciting as Christmas.

7:18 **UrbanAffairsEditor2**: Well, Merry Christmas then. Here you go:

YES Augimeri YES Bussin [Chair] YES Carroll YES Cho YES Davis YES De Baeremaeker
YES Di Giorgio YES Fletcher YES Giambrone YES Grimes YES Hall YES Heaps YES Holyday
YES McConnell YES Mihevc YES Miller YES Pantalone YES Perks YES Perruzza YES
Saundercook YES Vaughan

NO Ainslie NO Ashton NO Del Grande NO Feldman NO Ford NO Jenkins NO Kelly NO Lee
NO Milczyn NO Minnan-Wong NO Moeser NO Nunziata NO Ootes NO Parker NO Stintz NO
Thompson NO Walker

7:18 **jessemclean**:

Here is the list. Both agreements were passed, 21-17.

Paul Ainslie (Scarborough East) - No
Brian Ashton (Scarborough Southwest) – No
Maria Augimeri (York Centre) - Yes
Sandra Bussin (Beaches-East York) - Yes
Shelley Carroll (Don Valley East) – Yes
Raymond Cho (Scarborough-Rouge River) – No
Janet David (Beaches-East York) – Yes
Glenn de Baeremaeker (Scarborough Centre) – Yes
Mike Del Grande (Scarborough-Agincourt) – No
Frank Di Giorgio (York South-Weston) – Yes
Mike Feldman (York Centre) - No
Paula Fletcher (Toronto-Danforth) – Yes
Rob Ford (Etobicoke North) – No
Adam Giambrone (Davenport) – Yes
Mark Grimes (Etobicoke Lakeshore) – Yes
Suzan Hall (Etobicoke North) – Yes
A.A. Heaps (Scarborough Southwest) – Yes
Doug Holyday (Etobicoke Centre) - Yes
Cliff Jenkins (Don Valley West) – No
Norm Kelly (Scarborough-Agincourt) – No

Chin Lee (Scarborough-Rouge River) – No
Giorgio Mammoliti (York West) - Yes
Pam McConnell (Toronto Centre-Rosedale) – Yes
Joe Mihevc (St. Paul's) – Yes
Peter Milczyn (Etobicoke-Lakeshore) – No* (Only pertains to vote on Local 416 agreement)
Denzil Minnan-Wong (Don Valley East) – No
Ron Moeser (Scarborough East) - No
Frances Nunziata (York South-Weston) – No
Case Ootes (Toronto-Danforth) – No
Joe Pantalone (Trinity-Spadina) – Yes
John Parker (Don Valley West) – No
Gord Perks (Parkdale-High Park) – Yes
Anthony Perruzza (York West) – Yes
Bill Saundercook (Parkdale-High Park) – Yes
David Shiner (Willowdale) – No * (Only pertains to vote on Local 79 agreement)
Karen Stintz (Eglinton-Lawrence) – No
Michael Thompson (Scarborough Centre) – No
Adam Vaughan (Trinity-Spadina) – Yes
Michael Walker (St. Paul's) – No

7:21 **UrbanAffairsEditor2**: Thanks, Jesse, for your tidier list. To see a full account of what they voted on, see <http://torontocitycouncil.blogspot.com/>

We'll be signing off shortly, so thanks to all our readers for your participation, comments and questions.

7:32 **jessemclean**:

A better list:

Both agreements passed, 21-17.

Yes

Maria Augimeri (York Centre) - Yes
Sandra Bussin (Beaches-East York) - Yes
Shelley Carroll (Don Valley East) – Yes
Raymond Cho (Scarborough-Rouge River) – Yes
Janet David (Beaches-East York) – Yes
Glenn de Baeremaeker (Scarborough Centre) – Yes
Frank Di Giorgio (York South-Weston) – Yes
Paula Fletcher (Toronto-Danforth) – Yes
Adam Giambone (Davenport) – Yes
Mark Grimes (Etobicoke Lakeshore) – Yes
Suzan Hall (Etobicoke North) – Yes
A.A. Heaps (Scarborough Southwest) – Yes
Doug Holyday (Etobicoke Centre) – Yes
Pam McConnell (Toronto Centre-Rosedale) – Yes
Joe Mihevc (St. Paul's) – Yes
David Miller (Mayor) - Yes
Joe Pantalone (Trinity-Spadina) – Yes
Gord Perks (Parkdale-High Park) – Yes
Anthony Perruzza (York West) – Yes
Bill Saundercook (Parkdale-High Park) – Yes
Adam Vaughan (Trinity-Spadina) – Yes

No

Paul Ainslie (Scarborough East) - No
Brian Ashton (Scarborough Southwest) – No
Mike Del Grande (Scarborough-Agincourt) – No
Mike Feldman (York Centre) - No
Rob Ford (Etobicoke North) – No
Cliff Jenkins (Don Valley West) – No
Norm Kelly (Scarborough-Agincourt) – No
Chin Lee (Scarborough-Rouge River) – No
Peter Milczyn (Etobicoke-Lakeshore) – No* (Only pertains to vote on Local 416 agreement)
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John Parker (Don Valley West) – No
David Shiner (Willowdale) – No * (Only pertains to vote on Local 79 agreement)
Karen Stintz (Eglinton-Lawrence) – No
Michael Thompson (Scarborough Centre) – No Michael Walker (St. Paul's) – No

7:35 **UrbanAffairsEditor2:**

Keep visiting thestar.com and reading tomorrow's Toronto Star for more details on the contract agreement and what it means to you. Signing off!