



## City remains firm after ATU executive pulls away from promises

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The City wants to extend many thanks to its Transit employees and to the public: to transit employees for their continuing efforts and professionalism through this lengthy set of contract negotiations; to the public for its patience and understanding that the City is attempting to settle the contract in a way which is fair for every city employee.

We met Thursday, November 10 with ATU and tabled a comprehensive package of wages and benefits, including a way of dealing with their concerns over this pension language

We believed it would get us a deal as it is a very fair and reasonable offer. We are offering a **10% wage increase** and in the current economic downturn, it's certainly above what many workers would receive elsewhere in the marketplace.

Unfortunately, the ATU Executive retrenched its position on the pension changes and now says it will not accept the pension changes or the future sustainability plan for the pension. The City even met with the union executive on the morning of November 11, only to be presented with the same position.

I'm sure this is as disappointing to you as it is to the City. We have been very practical in bargaining with the ATU Executive over the last four years, but we can now only conclude that they are firmly entrenched in their belief that they deserve a better pension than any of the other city employees. That is just not a fair or reasonable position.

For the sake of all City employees – including transit workers – and for the sake of protecting the public purse, the City simply cannot compromise on the pension changes and the sustainability plan for the pension. It is of key importance to the City to protect the defined benefit plan of its employees in a way that is affordable for taxpayers.

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