



**Report Number:** PFC2020-0210

**Meeting:** Priorities & Finance Committee

**Meeting Date:** 2020 February 11

## NOTICE OF MOTION

**RE: Attendance Tracking for Mayor and Council, PFC2020-0210**

**Sponsoring Councillor(s):** Jeromy Farkas, Peter Demong, Sean Chu, and Joe Magliocca

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### WHEREAS...

1. Under Section 153(c) of the Alberta Municipal Government Act, one of the general duties of municipal councillors is to participate in council meetings and council committee meetings and meetings of other bodies to which they are appointed;
2. Preparation, participation, attendance, and voting at meetings on behalf of their constituents is a fundamental democratic expectation and requirement of City Council members;
3. Adequate attendance at meetings of Council allow for consistent, good quality, collective decision making;
4. Council has experienced several committee meetings which have failed to start due to lack of quorum, a meeting that has been lost due to lack of quorum, and extended periods of bare quorum;
5. Council members are often required to be conducting City business at multiple places at the same time, and such absences should be clearly accounted for;
6. It is good governance to review Council policies and practices from time to time;
7. In the past, citizen and advocacy groups have initiated efforts to track and report on the attendance of elected officials;
8. It is in the public's interest that the attendance record of Council members be disclosed by impartial staff, rather than rely on third party organizations to perform that work;
9. Council has implemented cost effective reporting on matters of public interest, such as disclosure of gifts received and office visitors;
10. The City of St. Albert, operating in the same provincially mandate municipal environment as Calgary, adopted the following motion on December 2, 2013:

*That Council Members' attendance at Council activities mandated by bylaw, procedure or Council initiation and assigned committees be recorded quarterly on the St. Albert website and that this be incorporated into Council's Code of Conduct Policy.*

11. There is an opportunity for Calgary to review the best practices of comparable municipalities in Alberta, and disclose the attendance of Councillors in a cost effective manner that does not "reinvent the wheel";

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. Administration be directed to bring forward a report to Council, through the Priorities and Finance Committee, no later than Q3 2020, with a report on the attendance of Mayor and Council. Such report should include:
  - a. A brief summary of attendance of Mayor and Council according to the official minutes and roll call motion on adjournment. In order to minimize complexity and resources required, such compilation should be limited to Council Meetings (excluding committees) between the dates of October 23, 2017 and January 13, 2020, and provide information such as presence, presence by teleconference, absence, and absence due to official business.
  - b. A proposal for more regular, routine disclosure of Council attendance, considering:
    - I. Utilizing attendance information with data from electronic voting in the event that is implemented by Council;
    - II. Verification by Council members that the attendance information to be presented is accurate, prior to the posting date (similar in spirit to the confirmation that Council members provide for approval of minutes, Gift Registry, and Office Visitors List);
    - III. Minimizing administrative burden and complexity.