



**Report Number:** EC2024-0358

**Meeting:** Executive Committee

**Meeting Date:** 2024 March 12

## NOTICE OF MOTION

**RE: Enhancing Public Discourse at Council and Council Committee Meetings**

**Sponsoring Member(s) of Council:** Councillor Mian

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WHEREAS the Municipal Government Act Section 145 grants Council the ability to pass a bylaw in relation to the procedure of Council and Council Committee meetings

AND WHEREAS the rules and conduct of Council and Council Committee meetings are regulated by Bylaw 35M2017, which is also known as the "Procedure Bylaw"

AND WHEREAS those in favour of an item at a Public Hearing Meeting of Council are permitted to speak first, or when no order is prescribed those in favour tend to sign up to speak first

AND WHEREAS rotating between perspectives allows Council to have a more balanced understanding of public sentiment

AND WHEREAS rotating between perspectives may facilitate a more robust exchange of ideas as a result of hearing different points of view

AND WHEREAS rotating the order is a fairer allocation of speaking time that prevents any single viewpoint from dominating the discussion

AND WHEREAS rotating the order signals to the public that Council values and respects diverse opinions

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct Administration to prepare an amending Bylaw to amend Bylaw 35M2017 as follows:

1. Section 31 Subsection 4 be amended as follows:

Delete "To facilitate the efficiency of Council Committee meetings, the Chair in consultation with the City Clerk may direct that multiple speakers make their submissions in a single panel."

Replace with the following: "To facilitate the efficiency of Council Committee meetings, the Chair in consultation with the City Clerk may direct that multiple speakers make their submissions in a single panel. The panels of speakers will rotate between those registered as "for", "against," and "neither."

2. Section 86 Subsection 5 be amended as follows:

Delete: "To facilitate the efficiency of a public hearing, the Chair, in consultation with the City Clerk, may direct that multiple speakers make their submissions in a single panel. Each speaker in the panel

will be permitted to speak for five minutes, and Council will not ask questions until the entire panel has made their submissions, at which time each Member will have five minutes to ask questions of the entire panel.”

Replace with the following: “To facilitate the efficiency of a public hearing, the Chair, in consultation with the City Clerk, may direct that multiple speakers make their submissions in a single panel. The panels of speakers will rotate between those registered as “for”, “against” and “neither”. Each speaker in the panel will be permitted to speak for five minutes, and Council will not ask questions until the entire panel has made their submissions, at which time each Member will have five minutes to ask questions of the entire panel.”

3. Section 90 Subsection 1 be amended as follows:

Delete: “The flow of each public hearing item must be the same as for Council and Council Committee meetings, except that members of the public will be called upon by the Chair in the following sequence:

- (a) the development proponent or applicant,
- (b) those in favour,
- (c) those against.”

Replace with the following: “The flow of each public hearing item must be the same as for Council and Council Committee meetings, except that members of the public will be called upon by the Chair in the following order:”

- (a) the development proponent or applicant first, and
- (b) rotating the remaining registered speakers between those in favour, against and neither.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Administration return directly to the 2024 April 09 Public Hearing Meeting of Council.

Attachment(s):

1. Notice of Motion Checklist