

Law, Legislative Services & Security Report to  
Public Hearing Meeting of Council  
2024 April 09

ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
C2024-0437

## Enhancing Public Discourse at Council and Council Committee Meetings

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present proposed amendments to Procedure Bylaw 35M2017 which regulates the rules and conduct of Council and Council Committee Meetings. The proposed amendments will impact the order that Council and Council Committees hear from members of the public.

### PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

This report responds to Council's direction set out in Notice of Motion – Enhancing Public Discourse at Council and Council Committee Meetings, EC2024-0358, which was adopted at the 2024 March 19 Regular Meeting of Council (Attachment 1).

### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council amend Procedure Bylaw 35M2017 by giving three readings to Proposed Bylaw 19M2024 (Attachment 2).

### CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

The City Solicitor and General Counsel concurs with this Report.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The *Municipal Government Act* grants Council the ability to pass a bylaw in relation to the procedure of Council and Council Committee meetings.
- Administration was directed by Council to bring forward amendments to Procedure Bylaw 35M2017 to change the order that Council and Council Committees hear from members of the public.
- Rotating the order of public speakers at Council and Council Committee meetings signal to Calgarians that Council values and respects diverse opinions.
- The proposed changes to meeting procedures support Council's guiding principle to strengthen relationships with Calgarians.

### DISCUSSION

The intent of the rotation between perspectives, as set out in the Notice of Motion – Enhancing Public Discourse at Council and Council Committee Meetings (EC2024-0358):

- allows Council and Council Committees to have a more balanced understanding of public sentiment;
- may facilitate a more robust exchange of ideas as a result of hearing different points of view;
- may be a fairer allocation of speaking time that prevents any single viewpoint from dominating the discussion; and
- signals to the public that Council and Council Committees value and respect diverse opinions.

## Enhancing Public Discourse at Council and Council Committee Meetings

The Notice of Motion proposes amendments to Procedure Bylaw 35M2017 which will change the order in which Council and Council Committees hear from members of the public:

- Section 31, subsection 4 of the Procedure Bylaw provides that the Chair of a Council Committee may direct that multiple speakers may be heard in a single panel. The proposed amendments stipulate that panels will rotate between those registered as “for,” “against,” and “neither”.
- Section 86, subsection 5 of the Procedure Bylaw provides that the Chair of a Public Hearing may direct that multiple speakers be heard in a single panel. The proposed amendments stipulate that panels will rotate between those registered as “for,” “against,” and “neither”.
- Section 90, subsection 1 provides 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, and (c) those against. The proposed amendments stipulate that the order will be adjusted to (a) the development proponent or applicant first, and (b) rotating the remaining registered speakers between those in favour, against, and neither.

## EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public engagement was undertaken | <input type="checkbox"/> Dialogue with interested parties was undertaken                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/interested parties were informed     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public communication or engagement was not required |

## IMPLICATIONS

### Social

Not applicable.

### Environmental

Not applicable.

### Economic

Not applicable.

### Service and Financial Implications

No anticipated financial impact.

## RISK

Not applicable.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Previous Council Direction and Background
2. Proposed Bylaw 19M2024
3. Notice of Motion

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Jill Floen (City Solicitor and General Counsel)	Law, Legislative Services, and Security	Approve
Katarzyna Martin (Director/City Clerk)	Law, Legislative Services, and Security	Approve

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