



Report Number: C2018-0692

Meeting: Regular Meeting of Council

Meeting Date: 2018 May 28

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Participation at Council Meetings

Sponsoring Councillor(s): Councillor Farkas

WHEREAS accurate records of actions taken on behalf of Calgarians by their elected officials are core to a well-run city and an open and transparent City Council;

AND WHEREAS the *Alberta Municipal Government Act* (MGA) prescribes the duties for all locally elected councilors to participate in council meetings, council committee meetings and meetings of other bodies to which they are appointed by council;

AND WHEREAS the current practice of recording presence or non-presence at the beginning of a meeting does not reflect the gradually evolved multitude of requirements placed on Calgary's elected municipal elected officials;

AND WHEREAS a request for a roll-call on an adjournment motion as a means to generate a record of attendance at the end of a meeting is not an efficient use of Council's time,

AND WHEREAS perfect attendance at meetings is neither possible nor desirable if it interferes with commitments in serving City interests or legal obligations;

AND WHEREAS despite travel demands and commitments to dozens of agencies, boards, and committees, the meeting attendance of Calgary City Council continues to be excellent (98% for the 2010-2013 term, and 96.8% for the 2013-2017 term);¹

AND WHEREAS continuous improvement in record-keeping and meeting practices is a core means to engage the public in the important work of municipal government;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Administration be directed to explore as part of the existing review of the Procedure Bylaw 35M2017:

1. Record-keeping focused improvements to include:
 - Recording the in-person attendance of each member of Council at the beginning and end of proceedings; and
 - Recording categories for absences consistent with other provincial or municipal practices, including categories such as being excused on Council business or absences for personal reasons etc.
2. Electronic voting as a means to assist in providing the results of votes to the City's Open Data catalogue as a means for independent citizen verification;
3. Participation-focused improvements for meeting attendance, including but not limited to remote participation, or electronic voting etc.

¹ As per publicly available minutes