

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

This report considers direction from several different sources. They are outlined as follows:

1. In response to two separate notices of motion (C2018-0405; C2019-1218), Administration presented Transparency Practices – Reporting and Closed Meetings C2018-1376. On 2018 December 17 Council approved the recommendations in this report, and further directed Administration to do the following:
 - a. To investigate amendments to the Procedure Bylaw 35M2017, as amended, for the closed meeting section as follows:
 - i. To allow a member to challenge the motion to hold the Closed Meeting on an item and allow for debate.
 - ii. A public release process that allows a Council member to challenge during the closed session the requirement of the discussion to be confidential.
 - iii. A process for Council members to invite personal advisors to a closed meeting contingent on Council approval and with prior notification.
 - b. Direct Administration to develop and define Closed Meeting roles and responsibilities of
 - i. Administration and the City Clerk; and
 - ii. The Chair and other participants.
2. On 2018 July 04 Council adopted the recommendations of C2018-0788 – Remote Participation in Council and Committees as follows:
 - a. Adopt the remote participation process outlined in Attachment 2, as amended, for immediate use by Members of Council; and
 - b. Direct Administration to include this process in upcoming amendments to Procedure Bylaw 35M2017 and return to Council with those amendments no later than Q42018.
3. On 2018 May 05 Council considered Notice of Motion C2018-0692 “Participation at Council Meetings”, and directed Administration to investigate the following:
 - a. Electronic voting as a means to assist in providing the results of votes to the City's Open Data catalogue;
 - b. Participation-focused improvements for meeting attendance, including but not limited to remote participation, or electronic voting, etc.
 - c. Record-keeping focused improvements to include:
 - i. 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.

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4. On 2017 July 31 Council Directed Administration, through PFC2017-0433 to amend the Procedure Bylaw, and to bring forward a Procedure Bylaw review on the items listed in "Opportunity for Future Improvements", contained on Page 7 of this report, including investigating methods and strategies to streamline public hearing processes and including a review of how public hearings are conducted in other jurisdictions, and report back to Council through the Priorities and Finance Committee with recommendations no later than Q4 2018.

"Opportunity for Future Improvement"

- Following adoption of a City Charter, and Bill 20 and companion regulation enactment, the Procedure Bylaw should be re-examined for continue compliance with the MGA, particularly with respect to sections 2 and 19 of Bill 20.
- Should a definition of Strategic Council meetings be adopted, inclusion as a defined term in the Procedure Bylaw could be considered at that time.
- Further options for diverting 'For Information Only' reports from Council meetings could be considered.
- Amendments to establish electronic voting methods could be proposed.
- A review of the advantages and disadvantages of setting an earlier time to adjourn meetings at the end of the evening (currently set at 9:30pm) could be considered.