



REQUEST FOR DECISION

MEETING DATE: December 2, 2024

TITLE: C-1366-24 - Council Procedure Bylaw Amendment - Timing of Meetings in an Election Year - All Three Readings

DIVISION: Strategic and Communication Services

SUMMARY:

C-1366-24 - Council Procedure Bylaw Amendment - Timing of Meetings in an Election Year is being presented to Council for consideration of all three readings. The bylaw amends the Council Procedure Bylaw to indicate that no Council or Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) meetings shall be scheduled between Nomination Day and Election Day in an election year.

PROPOSED MOTION:

THAT first reading be given to C-1366-24 - Council Procedure Bylaw Amendment - Timing of Meetings in an Election Year.

THAT second reading be given to C-1366-24 - Council Procedure Bylaw Amendment - Timing of Meetings in an Election Year.

THAT unanimous consent be given for consideration of third reading to C-1366-24 - Council Procedure Bylaw Amendment - Timing of Meetings in an Election Year.

THAT third reading be given to C-1366-24 - Council Procedure Bylaw Amendment - Timing of Meetings in an Election Year.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:

At the October 28, 2024 Organizational Meeting, Council approved the 2024 - 2025 Council and GPC meeting schedule. The approved schedule did not include any Council and GPC meetings between Nomination Day (September 22) and Election Day (October 20) (the "Election Period"). Holding a Council or GPC meeting during the Election Period is not a best practice because:

- It creates the perception of an unfair playing field between candidates who are Councillors and those who are not. Current Councillors, who are candidates, can be seen to be provided a platform from which to advocate for themselves and their campaign agenda through the Council or GPC meeting.
- It can create a conflict of interest between a Councillor's duties and their ambitions as a candidate.

To ensure consistency in practice on an ongoing basis, Council also passed the following motion at the October 28, 2024 Organizational meeting:

THAT the Council Procedure Bylaw be amended to add a section indicating that Council and Governance and Priorities meetings are not held between Nomination Day and Election Day in an election year.

Consequently, the Council Procedure Bylaw has been amended by:

- Adding section 4.3(b)(i), which specifies that "no regularly scheduled Council or Governance and Priorities Committee meetings shall be scheduled between Nomination Day and the Inaugural Meeting in the year a general election is held."
- Adding section 2.20.1, which defines the term "Nomination Day" for clarity.

OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES:

Council may choose to make further amendments to the bylaw.

CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT:

n/a

IMPLEMENTATION / COMMUNICATION:

The amendment will be consolidated into C-1204-22 - Council Procedure Bylaw and the updated bylaw will be posted to the website.

IMPACTS:

Regularly scheduled Council and GPC meetings will not be scheduled between Nomination Day and Election Day on a going forward basis ensuring consistency in practice for future election years.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

n/a