Minute No. 684
Report – Governance Committee of Council – October 15 2015

Item No. 2 Council Policy – Council Summer Prorogue

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Governance Committee of Council and adopted the following:

1. That the Council Motion of July 15, 2015 be received as information.

Report – Governance Committee of Council – October 15, 2015

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Gerbasi,
That the recommendation of the Governance Committee of Council be adopted.

Carried

Councillors Eadie and Wyatt asked to be recorded as having voted in opposition to the item, in accordance with Rule 47.7 of the Procedure By-law.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 21, 2015, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Governance Committee of Council, and submitted the matter to Council.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 15, 2015, the Governance Committee of Council received as information the Council Motion of July 15, 2015 and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 23, 2015, the Executive Policy Committee referred the Council Motion of July 15, 2015 to the Governance Committee of Council, and submitted the matter to Council.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On July 15, 2015, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Eadie,

WHEREAS the Council summer prorogue was originally intended to set aside the month of August to allow for a “summer break” for members of Council, in their regular meetings of Council and Committees;

Report – Governance Committee of Council – October 15, 2015

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS the existing planned summer prorogue for 2015 has already been voted on by City Council, as per its approved 2015 Schedule of Meetings;

AND WHEREAS over the last four years the "summer break" has been growing in length, from its original four week August break, to what is now a seven to eight week break, from the last Council meeting in July to the start of regular meetings in September;

AND WHEREAS a two month prorogue has a negative effect, both on the ability of Council to conduct its business effectively and efficiently, but also negatively impacts members of the public and the private sector;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT in advance and in preparation of the 2016 Council Schedule, that Council Policy be established to ensure that the Council summer prorogue will start from the August long weekend to the end of the September long weekend.