Minute No. 527
Report – Governance Committee of Council – June 27, 2018

Item No. 2 **Proposed Amendment to Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 – Leave of Absence**

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and referred the May 15, 2018 motion to the Governance Review process for consideration, namely:

1. That the Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 be amended to state that:

   A. A Leave of Absence Motion may be moved for a Member of Council only if the Member:
      i is occupied with other official City Business;
      ii. is ill or injured;
      iii. is tending to a private personal or family matter; or
      iv. has encountered an extraordinary circumstance that precludes the Member from attending the meeting.

   B. If a member is absent from a Committee or Council meeting due to official City business or extraordinary circumstances the nature of said City Business or extraordinary circumstances shall be clearly stated in a Leave of Absence Motion for the Member.

   C. The City Clerk shall document in the official minutes of the Committee and Council meetings the reason(s) for a member's absence and in cases where a leave of absence motion has not been granted for a Member, such absences shall be noted in the official minutes as an unauthorized absence.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Gilroy,

That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee, that the May 15, 2018 motion, be referred to the Governance Review process for consideration.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On July 11, 2018, the Executive Policy Committee did not concur in the recommendation of the Governance Committee of Council and recommended to Council that the May 15, 2018 motion of the Executive Policy Committee be referred to the Governance Review Process for consideration.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 27, 2018, the Governance Committee of Council received as information the Executive Policy Committee recommendation and forwarded to the matter Executive Policy Committee and Council.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 15, 2018, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS Members of Winnipeg City Council have been given a tremendous honour and privilege to represent the interests of their citizens at City Hall.

AND WHEREAS a significant part of a Members job is to regularly attend Committee and Council meetings.

AND WHEREAS it is the Public’s right to know the reason(s) that a Member is absent from a Committee and/or Council meeting.

AND WHEREAS the current Procedure By-law is silent on what constitutes an acceptable reason that a Member may be granted a leave of absence from a Committee and/or Council meeting.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

AND WHEREAS the Procedure By law does not currently require the Clerk to formally document the reasons why a Member is absent from a Committee or Council meeting.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Policy Committee recommend to the Governance Committee of Council that the following be submitted to Council for consideration, within 60 days:

1. That the Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 be amended to state that:

   A. A Leave of Absence Motion may be moved for a Member of Council only if the Member:
      i is occupied with other official City Business;
      ii. is ill or injured;
      iii. is tending to a private personal or family matter; or
      iv. has encountered an extraordinary circumstance that precludes the Member from attending the meeting.

   B. If a member is absent from a Committee or Council meeting due to official City business or extraordinary circumstances the nature of said City Business or extraordinary circumstances shall be clearly stated in a Leave of Absence Motion for the Member.

   C. The City Clerk shall document in the official minutes of the Committee and Council meetings the reason(s) for a member's absence and in cases where a leave of absence motion has not been granted for a Member, such absences shall be noted in the official minutes as an unauthorized absence.