Minutes – Council – July 18, 2024

Minute No. 376
Report – Executive Policy Committee – July 9, 2024

Item No. 5 Remote Participation at Council Seminars for Members of Council

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council referred the item and amending motion back to the Executive Policy Committee.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Gillingham,
That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted.

In amendment,
Moved by Councillor Gilroy,
Seconded by Councillor Allard,

BE IT RESOLVED that Item 5 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated July 9, 2024, be amended as follows:

- Delete Recommendation 1 and replace with the following:

  "1. That the Chief Administrative Officer be directed to implement remote participation at Council Seminars for all Members of Council.

  2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing."

The Speaker, Councillor Sharma, called the Deputy Speaker, Councillor Eadie, to the Chair in order to move the following motion:

Moved by Councillor Sharma,
That the item and amending motion be referred back to the Executive Policy Committee.

The motion for adoption of the referral was put.

Councillor Eadie called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:

Yea: His Worship Mayor Gillingham, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Dobson, Lukes, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, Schreyer, Sharma and Wyatt. 12

Nay: Councillors Allard, Duncan, Eadie and Gilroy. 4

and the motion to refer was declared carried.

Councillor Sharma resumed the Chair.

David Grant submitted a communication with respect to the matter.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On July 9, 2024, the Executive Policy Committee recommended to Council:

1. That the Council Motion of June 27, 2024, be received as information.

David Grant submitted a communication with respect to the matter.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On June 27, 2024, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Gilroy,
Seconded by Councillor Allard,

WHEREAS Council Seminars provide important information to Members of Council and allow for questions on important items and issues prior to public debate;

AND WHEREAS it can be hard for the public service to find time slots that work for all Members of Council;

AND WHEREAS many Councillors schedule meetings in their wards or work from their community offices and it can be difficult to find time in their busy schedules for travel time to and from City Hall;

AND WHEREAS seminars allowed for remote participate during COVID;

AND WHEREAS confidentiality is an important aspect of the Council Seminar process and remote participation has been eliminated, in part due to a lack of trust between administration and Councillors surrounding this aspect;

AND WHEREAS in the past Councillors have signed a confidentiality agreement prior to participating in the seminar and this could be an appropriate solution going forward;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chief Administrative Officer be directed to implement remote participation at Council Seminars for all Members of Council.