Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – September 17, 2024

REPORTS

Item No. 14 Remote Participation at Council Seminars for Members of Council

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the Council Motion of June 27, 2024, and recommended to Council:

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.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,

That the Council Motion of June 27, 2024, be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

Councillors Duncan and Lukes asked to be recorded as having voted against the above motion, in accordance with Rule 47(7) of The Procedure By-law No. 50/2007.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On July 18, 2024, Council referred back Item 5 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated July 9, 2024, which recommended as follows:

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

Further, on July 18, 2024, Council referred the following amending motion to the Executive Policy Committee for consideration:

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."

David Grant submitted a communication with respect to the matter.

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.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

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.