

Council Chambers Ergonomics

Status Update

Recommendation

That the February 9, 2021, Office of the City Manager report OCC00175, be received for information.

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the November 3, 2020, Council Services Committee meeting, the following motion was passed:

That Administration conduct an ergonomic assessment of Council Chamber work stations for Council members, and provide a report back in February 2021, and that the residual Council Furniture Common budget for 2020 be committed to replacing the chairs in Council Chamber as soon as possible.

Report

Since the above-noted motion was passed, the following actions have been taken to enhance the ergonomics of Council Members' workstations:

- Chairs in Council Chambers have been replaced at the Council dais.
- Plexiglas shelves have been added to each station to provide more usable space.
- In an effort to create additional workspace, cameras have been attached to the existing monitors to minimize the number of devices needed to participate in a meeting.

Administration has also surveyed Councillors to collect feedback on outstanding concerns and to help identify immediate solutions to further improve the comfort of these workstations. Changes such as individual ergonomic assessments and new keyboards and mice are options to address some of the outstanding workstation issues. Administration will work with Members of Council individually to address any concerns they may have identified in the survey.

To address the more fundamental issues related to workstation adjustability would require construction work. As most Council Members are, for the time being, participating in meetings remotely, there may be merit in delaying a decision on whether to proceed with the construction work needed to provide fully adjustable workstations in Council Chamber until after the 2021 general election.

This report is a status update on the Council Services Committee agenda so that further direction on the scope of the Council Chambers ergonomics may occur.