

BYLAW 19874

To Amend Bylaw 18155, Council Procedures Bylaw - Remote Participation

RECOMMENDATION

That Bylaw 19874 be given the appropriate readings.

Purpose

This bylaw amends Bylaw 18155, Council Procedures Bylaw, to provide procedures for electronic meetings and remote participation and to make housekeeping amendments.

Readings

Bylaw 19874 is ready for three readings.

A majority vote of City Council on all three readings is required for passage.

If Council wishes to give three readings during a single meeting, then prior to moving third reading, Council must unanimously agree “That Bylaw 19874 be considered for third reading.”

Position of Administration

Administration supports this Bylaw.

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the July 5/7, 2021, City Council meeting the following motion passed:

That the following sections of Bylaw 18155 Council Procedures Bylaw, be suspended until amendments to Bylaw 18155 are considered by City Council in the First Quarter of 2022:

- Sections 13 and 36
- Schedule A, sections 2-6

**In accordance with section 4 of Bylaw 18155 - Council Procedures Bylaw, a special resolution is required to suspend sections of the Bylaw.*

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Report Summary

This report recommends amendments to Bylaw 18155, Council Procedures Bylaw, to provide procedures for electronic meetings and remote participation and to make general housekeeping amendments.

REPORT

Bylaw 18155, Council Procedures Bylaw, establishes procedures for the conduct of Council, Standing Committee and Council Committee meetings. The Office of the City Clerk has reviewed the current Council practices and is recommending the following changes.

Electronic Meetings and Remote Participation

This amendment clarifies that live audio and video feeds of all public portions of Council and Standing Committee meetings will be made available, and that Councillors participating by electronic means are deemed to be present and will count towards quorum. This applies to all Council, Standing Committee and Council Committee meetings.

This amendment also introduces the following requirements to support the effective, efficient and transparent management of Council and Committee meetings:

- Councillors must enable their video feed when addressing Council or Standing Committee.
- When meeting in private, Councillors participating electronically must confirm to the Chair that they are in a private location and able to maintain confidentiality.

The detailed requirements to enable speakers to utilize remote participation using communications facilities are deleted and replaced with a general provision allowing approved speakers to participate through remote means. The virtual meeting experience throughout the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that a hybrid system of remote and in-person participation is feasible.

Housekeeping Amendments

- Section 1(2) has been added to clarify that Bylaw 18155 does not apply to the Edmonton Police Commission, Community Standards and Licence Appeal Committee, or any Council Committee that exists as a corporation, such as Business Improvement Areas.
- Section 47(c) has been amended to clarify that voting can be done through the electronic voting system, by show of hands or verbally.

Next Steps

The proposed bylaw amendments, if passed, will come into effect immediately.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Bylaw 19874 - Council Procedures Bylaw Amendment No. 3

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2. Redline Version of Byaw 18155 - Council Procedures Bylaw

OTHERS REVIEWING THIS REPORT

- M. Plouffe, City Solicitor