



2023-2026 COUNCIL BUDGET DELIBERATION PROCESS

RECOMMENDATION

That Option __ in Attachment 1 of the November 14, 2022, Office of the City Clerk report OCC01563, be approved for the 2023-2026 City Council Capital and Operating budget deliberations.

Report Purpose

Council decision is required.

Executive Summary

This report provides information on budget amendment randomization process options, including a list of options for dealing with amendments during the 2023-2026 budget deliberations.

REPORT

Current Process for 2023-2026

At the June 20, 2022, City Council meeting, the following motion was passed:

That the budget deliberation process as outlined in Attachment 1 of the June 20, 2022, Financial and Corporate Services report FCS01287 be approved as a guideline and that Administration return with changes to the Council calendar as required.

The process outlined in Attachment 1 is at a high-level and includes the critical path for each of utility, capital and operating budgets.

Previous Council Direction on Randomizing Amendments

At the November 28, 2018, City Council budget meeting, the following motion was passed:

That the City Clerk survey Councillors and Administration regarding the Council budget process and bring a report to Council Services outlining the results of this feedback and suggestions for future processes (both multi year and supplemental).

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As a result of this motion, feedback was gathered from City Council and Administration on the budget processes used in 2018 for the 2019-2022 capital and operating budget deliberations.

At the January 20, 2020, City Council meeting, the following motion was passed:

That Administration develop procedures for piloting Option 4, as set out in Attachment 1 of the January 20, 2020, Office of the City Manager report CR_6775, for the Fall 2020 Supplemental Budget Adjustments.

Option 4, "Hybrid - Randomized/Draw," was described as:

- Amendments are moved at any point during the meeting, with voting postponed until all amendments are on the floor.
- Once all amendments are on the floor, they are randomized.
- Using a draw, each City Council member then has the opportunity to bring forward one amendment to be voted on. This process could be repeated any number of times, as determined by City Council.
- The remainder of amendments would be voted on in randomized order.

For the 2019-2022 capital and operating budget deliberations, amendments were randomized before voting, and amendments that decreased the budget were dealt with first. This differed from the past practice of dealing with amendments in the order in which they were made.

Options for Dealing with Amendments (2023-2026 Budget Deliberations)

Attachment 1 of the November 14, 2022, Office of the City Clerk report OCC01563, provides detailed descriptions, advantages and disadvantages for the five options for dealing with amendments during the 2023-2026 budget deliberation process as summarized below.

Note: For all options, the first step is for all amendments to be made; voting on amendments is postponed until all amendments are made. Further, for all options, capital amendments are dealt with first, operating amendments are dealt with second.

Option 1: Out and Back - this approach involves City Council members making all their amendments. Then there is a draw to determine the order in which City Council members make amendments, numbered 1 through 13. Each City Council member puts one amendment on the floor at a time based on draw order. The order reverses for the second round, reverses for the third round and so on. Council would deal with the amendments for capital first and then operating. The draw order stays the same for capital and operating.

Option 2: Aggregate Dot List - this approach involves City Council members making all their amendments, which are compiled into two aggregate lists, one capital, one operating, and assigned numbers/names, such as amendment A, B, C to Z. Then, each City Council member places a specific number of dots on amendments (one set of dots for capital, one set of dots for operating) to prioritize them for discussion. The amendments are dealt with in the prioritized order, Council would deal with the amendments for capital first and then operating.

Option 3: Randomized - this approach involves City Council members making all their amendments. Once all amendments are made, they are separated based on whether they increase or decrease the budget, and then randomized electronically to produce the order in

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which they are voted on. Council would deal with the amendments for capital first and then operating.

Administration does not recommend this option, as some amendments may include decreases and increases and it would be procedurally challenging to manage this.

Option 4: First Moved, First Voted - this approach involves amendments being moved at any point during the meeting. The amendments are voted on in the order in which they were made. Council would deal with the amendments for capital first and then operating.

Administration does not recommend this option.

Option 5: Hybrid - Randomized Draw - this approach involves amendments being made at any point during the meeting. Then, they are randomized and a draw is used to select a City Council member who will in turn bring forward one amendment based on draw order and randomized order. This process is repeated until all amendments are dealt with. Council would deal with the amendments for capital first and then operating. The draw order stays the same for capital and operating.

Recommended waiver of sections of Bylaw 18155 Council Procedures Bylaw

Additionally, it is recommended that Council pass a motion to waive certain requirements of Bylaw 18155 Council Procedures for the 2023-2026 City Council budget meeting. Waiving these requirements smooth the pace of deliberations, provide City Council with the ability to amend their own motions (intended to only apply to the main budget motion) and provide City Council the opportunity to ask more than one round of questions on budget items without requiring a motion to do so.

To waive certain requirements, it is recommended that City Council pass the following motion at the first City Council budget meeting on November 30, 2022, before budget deliberations begin:

That City Council waive the following sections of *Bylaw 18155 Council Procedures Bylaw* for the 2023-2026 Budget Deliberations:

- 28(1) A Councillor may not amend their own motion.
- 28(5) During debate on an amendment to a motion, Councillors may only debate the amendment.
- 38(4) During a Council meeting, Councillors may only ask questions once in relation to a single item for up to 5 minutes unless Council, by motion, permits Councillors to ask questions for up to an additional 5 minutes.

ATTACHMENT

1. Options for Dealing with Amendments