

Council and Committee Calendar Changes

Recommendation

1. That the revised Council and Committee meeting schedule for the months of June and July 2020, as set out in Attachment 1 of the May 25, 2020, Office of the City Manager report CR_8288, be approved.
2. That the Standing Committee Appointment rotation date approved at the October 24, 2017, inaugural City Council meeting be amended from July 1, 2020, to June 26, 2020.
3. That the operation of the following sections of Council Procedures Bylaw 18155 be suspended until midnight on July 31, 2020:

14(3) Councillors participating in a Standing Committee meeting using communication facilities will only be counted towards quorum if another Councillor is present at the meeting location to act as an alternate if the communication facility fails.

Schedule A, section 2:

A Councillor may only participate in a Council, Standing Committee, or Council Committee meeting using a communication facility if:

- a. the Councillor is in a location outside of Edmonton for any reason; or
- b. the Councillor is located in Edmonton, but is unable to attend a meeting for medical reasons of the Councillor or their immediate family; and

the City Manager is present at the location specified in the meeting notice to ensure that Councillors participating by communication facility can be heard by all those present at the meeting.

Executive Summary

This report recommends changes to the 2020 Council and Committee Meetings Calendar for the months of June and July and proposes a revised date for the Standing Committee member rotation. It also recommends the suspension of certain procedural rules to ensure compliance with Bylaw 18155, Council Procedures Bylaw.

Report

Revised Council and Committee Meetings Calendar

As the circumstances around the COVID-19 situation are changing rapidly, it is recommended that Council approve only incremental changes to the 2020 Council and Committee meetings calendar at this time. Attachment 1 sets out a revised Council and Committee meetings calendar for the months of June and July for Council's consideration.

Non-Statutory Public Hearing for the Ward Boundary Review

It is recommended a City Council meeting be held on June 16, 2020, for a Non-statutory Public Hearing on the proposed Ward Boundary Review, pending direction from Council on May 25, 2020. It is recommended that this report be dealt with after the Ward Boundary report.

Emergency Advisory Committee Meetings

At the March 26, 2020, Special Emergency Advisory Committee meeting, the following motion was passed:

2. That regular meetings of the Emergency Advisory Committee be held weekly on Thursdays from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in Council Chamber until the state of local emergency is terminated or cancelled.

It is unknown if the State of Local Emergency will continue throughout the months of June and July. Weekly meetings appear in the proposed calendar, should these meetings be necessary.

Standing Committee Rotation

The Standing Committee rotation is currently scheduled for July 1, 2020. General feedback from Councillors indicates that this is not ideal, as this change occurs mid-week. To address the concerns raised, Administration recommends changing the rotation date from July 1 to June 26. This will allow Committees to elect new Chairs and/or Vice-Chairs before the Summer Recess.

Administration recommends that the Committee meetings scheduled on June 29, June 30 and July 2, be used for the purpose of electing Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs

only. Consequently, it is recommended that the Orders of the Day for these meetings be amended to adjourn at 10:30 a.m. instead of 5:30 p.m.

Council Procedures

At the March 20, 2020, City Council meeting, the following Council procedures, as set out in Bylaw 18155, Council Procedures Bylaw, were suspended until May 31, 2020:

14(3) Councillors participating in a Standing Committee meeting using communication facilities will only be counted towards quorum if another Councillor is present at the meeting location to act as an alternate if the communication facility fails.

Schedule A, section 2:

A Councillor may only participate in a Council, Standing Committee, or Council Committee meeting using a communication facility if:

a. the Councillor is in a location outside of Edmonton for any reason; or

b. the Councillor is located in Edmonton, but is unable to attend a meeting for medical reasons of the Councillor or their immediate family; and

the City Manager is present at the location specified in the meeting notice to ensure that Councillors participating by communication facility can be heard by all those present at the meeting.

Also at the same meeting, the operation of sections 4 (Waiver of Rules), 11(1) Meeting Changes and 22(2) Adding Items to an Agenda of the Council Procedures Bylaw was modified to replace "special resolution" with "majority vote" for Council and Standing Committee meetings. This is in effect until May 31, 2020.

Administration recommends the continued suspension of Section 14(3) and Schedule A, Section 2 of the Council Procedures Bylaw 18155, to ensure continued compliance with the Bylaw.

Administration does not recommend continued modification to the operation of Sections 4, 11(1) and 22(2) of the Council Procedures Bylaw. Administration first recommended this modification to ensure that Council could continue to conduct business if the pandemic led to reduced attendance by Councillors at meetings. As this has proven not to be the case, Administration feels that this modification to the Council Procedures Bylaw is no longer needed.

Attachments

1. Proposed Council and Committee Meetings Calendar for the Months of June and July, 2020