

Appointments for 2020 and 2021 are attached as Appendix “A” and Appendix “B”, respectively.

Staff supports this amendment as a means to further develop all Council Members’ leadership skills and familiarity with chairing meetings in order to help Members fulfill their Acting Mayor responsibilities under section 130 of the *Community Charter*.

Staff would like to further note that this change is only being proposed in relation to COTW meetings, as to expand this ability to all meetings of Council would likely be in breach of the *Community Charter*. Section 116 of the *Community Charter* sets out the responsibilities of Mayor; most notably, section 116(2)(c) requires the Mayor to preside at Council meetings when in attendance.

A recent review among other local and lower mainland municipalities indicates that the proposed amendment is consistent with best practices. Staff are confident that allowing this change just for COTW meetings strikes an appropriate balance with our requirements under the *Community Charter*.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Official Community Plan

Goals, Objectives and Policies

Chapter 8 of the OCP (Health, Safety and Well-being) focuses on ensuring Whistler has strong community connections and social fabric – that Whistler is inclusive and affordable, and we enjoy high levels of trust, community engagement and good governance. The following goal, and supporting objective and policy, support the recommendation to allow the Acting Mayor to chair COTW meetings:

- **Goal 8.6.:** Create and embed effective governance mechanisms and partnerships to create trust, responsibility and accountability.
- **Objective 8.6.1.:** Implement leading practices for good governance.
- **Policy 8.6.1.1.:** Implement strategies to be an open and transparent government.

Good governance requires that Council Members are properly trained and comfortable with fulfilling their responsibilities under section 130 of the *Community Charter* to perform the duties of Acting Mayor when the Mayor is absent or unable to act.

Other Relevant Policies

In advance of the 2019 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (“UBCM”) Convention, the City of Pitt Meadows submitted a resolution for consideration titled “Council Meeting Chairing Opportunities for Councillors” (resolution attached as Appendix “C”). This resolution highlighted the responsibility of the Mayor to preside at Council meetings when in attendance as required under section 116(2)(c) of the *Community Charter*, and contrasted that responsibility with the requirements under section 130 of the *Community Charter*, for all Council Members to be able to fulfil the role of Mayor in their absence, including presiding over Council meetings. The resolution put forward a request of the Province to amend section 116 of the *Community Charter* to allow for Council Members to periodically preside at Council meetings, even when the Mayor is present, for the purposes of learning, professional development, and as a practice of good government. This motion was not endorsed at the UBCM convention.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

There are no budget considerations beyond the cost of the public notice requirements, which are already taken into account in annual operating budgets.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

As required by the *Community Charter* section 124 [*Procedure bylaws*], public notice of this amendment will be published in the local newspaper for two consecutive weeks and posted in the public notice posting places in accordance with section 94 [*public notice*] prior to adoption.

SUMMARY

This Report seeks Council's consideration of an amendment to "Council Procedure Bylaw No. 2207, 2018" to allow for the Acting Mayor to chair Committee of the Whole Meetings even if the Mayor is present.

Respectfully submitted,

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MUNICIPAL CLERK

for
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GENERAL MANAGER OF CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES