

WHISTLER

REPORT ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENTED:	November 3, 2020	REPORT:	20-112
FROM:	Corporate and Community Services	FILE:	2300
SUBJECT:	COUNCIL PROCEDURE AMENDMENT BY	LAW (COTW	CHAIR) BYLAW NO. 2300,
	2020		

COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

That the recommendation of the General Manager of Corporate and Community Services be endorsed.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council consider giving first, second and third readings to "Council Procedure Amendment Bylaw (COTW Chair) No. 2300, 2020".

REFERENCES

"Council Procedure Amendment Bylaw (COTW Chair) No. 2300, 2020" (Not attached)

- Appendix "A" 2020 Acting Mayor Appointments
- Appendix "B" 2021 Acting Mayor Appointments
- Appendix "C" City of Pitt Meadows Certified Resolution Council Meeting Chairing Opportunities for Councillors (March 5, 2019)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this Report is to request 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 ("COTW") meetings even if the Mayor is present.

DISCUSSION

Background

Part 6 of the current "Council Procedure Bylaw No. 2207, 2018" sets out the provisions for COTW. Section 6.3. of this part provides that the Mayor must preside in a COTW meeting as the Chair.

The proposed amendment would allow the Mayor to appoint the Acting Mayor to preside in a COTW meeting even in the Mayor's presence. This section would also continue to require the Acting Mayor to preside in the meeting as the Chair if the Mayor is absent, unless another Council Member is appointed to chair the meeting.

In accordance with Part 3 of "Council Procedure Bylaw No. 2207, 2018" and section 130 of the *Community Charter*, Council must designate, on an annual basis, Council Members to serve as the Acting Mayor when the Mayor is absent or otherwise unable to act. For reference, the Acting Mayor

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,

Brooke Browning MUNICIPAL CLERK

for Ted Battiston GENERAL MANAGER OF CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES