

**RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER**

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STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENTED: September 21, 2021
FROM: Legislative Services Department
SUBJECT: COUNCIL PROCEDURE AMENDMENT BYLAW (ELECTRONIC MEETINGS) NO. 2334, 2021 REPORT

REPORT: 21-110
FILE: 2300

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council consider giving first, second and third readings to “Council Procedure Amendment Bylaw (Electronic Meetings) No. 2334, 2021.”

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 Council meetings or other Council Committee meetings to be conducted by electronic means when/if required.

☐ Information Report ☒ Administrative Report (Decision or Direction)

DISCUSSION

Background

Following the declaration of a state of emergency throughout the Province of British Columbia on March 18, 2020, a temporary amendment, Ministerial Order No. 192 Local Government Meetings and Bylaw Process (M-192), to the *Community Charter* was implemented. M-192 allowed for local governments and related bodies to conduct their business in accordance with public health advisories and reduce the threat of Covid-19 to staff, Council and members of the public.

The Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) has been relying upon M-192 to conduct Council and Council Committee meetings by electronic means since June 2020. The province ended the state of emergency and, as such, M-192 on July 1, 2021. Local governments were provided with a further transition of 90 days to consider any changes to their council procedure bylaws that may be required once M-192 ceased having effect.

The BC government further passed changes to the *Community Charter* allowing municipal

governments to conduct council and committee meetings through electronic means if they choose to adopt such changes in their local council procedure bylaws. The amendments put forward in “Council Procedure Amendment Bylaw (Electronic Meetings) No. 2334, 2021” will allow for Council and other Council Committee meetings to occur in person or electronically and sets out the rules for such meetings. The amendment is being recommended at this time to ensure that the RMOW has sufficient flexibility to manage both Council and Committee meetings via the most appropriate format for a variety of public health, or health management contexts.

Corporate Plan

The RMOW Corporate Plan is updated annually and articulates strategic direction for the organization. This section identifies how this report links to the plan.

Council Focus Areas

☐ Community Balance

*Effectively **balance resort and community needs** through deliberate planning, partnerships and investment*

☐ Climate Action

*Provide leadership to **accelerate climate action and environmental performance** across the community*

☐ Housing

*Advance strategic and innovative initiatives to enable and **deliver additional employee housing***

☒ Not Applicable

Corporate Goals

☐ Community character and mountain culture is reflected in municipal initiatives

☐ Municipal decision-making supports the effective stewardship of natural assets and ecological function

☐ Corporate policies and operations ensure continuous excellence in infrastructure, facility and program management

☒ A high level of accountability, transparency and community engagement is maintained

☐ Corporate financial health is optimized to ensure long-term community success

☐ A vibrant local economy and safe, resilient resort community is effectively reinforced by organizational activities

☐ Pandemic recovery

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The costs associated with this report and the implementation of electronic meeting procedures are entirely anticipated within the existing Legislative Services departmental budget.

LIL'WAT NATION & SQUAMISH NATION CONSIDERATIONS

The RMOW is committed to working with the Lil'wat People, known in their language as *L'il'wat7úl* and the Squamish People, known in their language as the *Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw* to: create an enduring relationship; establish collaborative processes for Crown land planning; achieve mutual objectives; and enable participation in Whistler's resort economy. This section identifies areas where RMOW activities intersect with these relationships.

The RMOW is working in collaboration with the Lil'wat and Squamish Nations by holding Closed Council Meetings at the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre since August 17, 2021.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Level of community engagement commitment for this project:

☒ Inform ☐ Consult ☐ Involve ☐ Collaborate ☐ Empower

REFERENCES

"Council Procedure Amendment Bylaw (Electronic Meetings) No. 2334, 2021" (Included in Council Package)

SUMMARY

Staff are seeking that Council consider giving first, second and third readings to "Council Procedure Amendment Bylaw (Electronic Meetings) No. 2334, 2021" to allow future meetings to potentially occur in person or electronically.

SIGN-OFFS

Written by:

Pauline Lysaght, Corporate Officer

Reviewed by:

Ted Battiston, General Manager of Corporate and Community Services

Ginny Cullen, Chief Administrative Officer