



Council Report

For the Meeting of November 7, 2019

To: Council

Date: November 5, 2019

From: Chris Coates, City Clerk

Subject: Resignation of Councillor Laurel Collins

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive this report for Information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Attached as Appendix A is correspondence from Councillor Laurel Collins noting her resignation from the office of Councillor for the City effective November 4, 2019.

A by-election must be held as required under section 54 [by-elections] of the *Local Government Act*. The discretionary exceptions to holding a by-election are only applicable in the final year of the four-year Council term.

Council must appoint a Chief Election Officer and advise the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing of the election as soon as practicable after a vacancy occurs. Once a Chief election Officer is appointed, general voting day must occur with 80 days of the appointment.

Typically, pre-planning for an election takes place over several weeks leading up to the appointment of a Chief Election Officer. There are numerous logistical issues and decisions points that need to be considered and approved prior to an appointment of a Chief Election Officer being made by Council. These encompass such issues as receiving an updated voters list; opening and advertising of voter registration, identifying voting opportunities that are appropriate for a by-election and setting out a schedule that is achievable. Given the proximity to the holiday season during which statutory advertising can be problematic from a best practice's perspective, a thorough analysis will occur to arrive at dates that will suit the time of year.

Staff will undertake this review now that the position is officially vacant and will report back to Council on all of these issues in the coming weeks, inclusive of recent Council motions resulting from the Lessons Learned from the 2018 election, as well as Council's direction in connection with accessible voting machines.

Respectfully submitted,



Chris Coates
City Clerk



Susanne Thompson
Deputy City Manager/CFO

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:



Date:

Nov 6, 2019

List of Attachments

Attachment A – Council Member Letter – L. Collins