



Council Member Motion
Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 04, 2021

Date: January 28th, 2021

From: Councillor Andrew

Subject: Electronic Participation at Council and Committee of the Whole Meetings

Background

Section 128 of the Local Government Act provides that a Council Procedures Bylaw may authorize remote participation by members of Council to either hear and/or watch and hear each other.

Council meetings held in person require councillors to be present and in the chamber to participate in debate and voting, and when a councillor leaves the chamber, that absence it is noted in the meeting minutes to accurately record votes and participation.

Respecting current public health protocols, present procedures allow for councillors to participate remotely. To ensure an open and transparent process, the procedural bylaw should be amended to record councillors' participation in a similar manner, noting absence from the meeting, and thus absence from participation and voting.

Recommendation

That Council direct staff to report back on the implications and ability to amend the Council Procedures Bylaw to require remote participation to occur so that Council members are visible to one another, and may always watch each other and hear each other in order to be recorded as present in a meeting, and when called on to vote or comment, provided that the City's meeting management programs are operational to enable the video connection.

Respectfully Submitted,

A blue ink signature of Councillor S. Andrew.

Councillor S. Andrew

A blue ink signature of Councillor C Thornton-Joe.

Councillor C Thornton-Joe

A blue ink signature of Councillor M. Alto.

Councillor M. Alto