



Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 14, 2024

To: Committee of the Whole
From: Mayor Marianne Alto
Subject: Revising Council Calendar

Date: March 7, 2024

Background

In the last few months, several scheduled evening Council meetings have been cancelled, as there have been no land use items, in particular, public hearings, to be considered. This is a foreshadowing of possible adjustments to future Council practices.

Local governments are observing that they are needing to be increasingly nimble as they adjust their protocols and procedures to reflect and respond to provincial government policy changes.

With recent provincial regulations prohibiting public hearings on matters that observe and conform to an Official Community Plan, we will see fewer and fewer land use matters at our evening Council meetings, and thus we may need to consider the frequency, content, and agendas of those evening Council meetings.

With regard to the public hearing aspect of our evening meetings, according to the British Columbia Law Institute, changes introduced by the provincial *Housing Statutes (Residential Development) Amendment Act* now limit the discretion that was previously afforded to local governments regarding public hearings.

Amendments to section 464 of the Local Government Act now state that a local government cannot hold a public hearing in two specified circumstances: first, where a proposed zoning bylaw permits residential development that is consistent with an existing OCP, and second, where a proposed bylaw relates to small-scale multi-family housing developments.

Bylaws that permit the development of mixed-use projects are expressly caught by the first of these exceptions, so long as the residential portion of the development accounts for 50% or more of the total development area.

In light of these, and other provincial government legislative changes, Council will soon be asked to consider some adjustments to our land use procedures to reflect these changes, in an effort to ensure staff and council time and resources are put to their highest and best use while still providing sufficient time for due and careful consideration of such matters.

Before that suite of proposed changes comes forward, a preliminary adjustment could be made to begin to test one way to increase Council and staff efficiency – a change to the evening Council meeting schedule for the balance of 2024.

Council already considers routine (including land use) matters at its regular daytime Council meeting, following its “Committee of the Whole” every Thursday. Matters requiring evening

attention could be considered once, rather than twice, each month. Matters arising due to volume, or other unexpected circumstances, that need Council consideration may be scheduled as occasional special evening meetings, if required.

Resolution

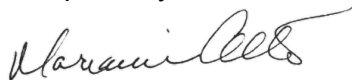
(1) That Council direct staff to adjust the Council meeting schedule, and make the required public advisories, to reflect an evening Council meeting on each of every second Thursday of each month, beginning in May 2024 through to December 2024.

(2) That Council approve a revised Council meeting schedule, below.

	Committee of the Whole (COTW) 9:00 a.m.	Council to Follow COTW Following COTW as required	Closed Council Following COTW as required	Council 6:30 p.m.
January	11 th , 18 th , 25 th	11 th , 18 th , 25 th	11 th , 18 th , 25 th	11 th , 25 th
February	1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd	1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd	1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd	8 th , 22 nd
March	7 th , 14 th	7 th , 14 th	7 th , 14 th	7 th , 14 th
April	4 th , 11 th , 18 th , 25 th	4 th , 11 th , 18 th , 25 th	4 th , 11 th , 18 th , 25 th	11 th , 25 th
May	2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd	2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd	2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd	9 th
June	13 th , 20 th , 27 th	13 th , 20 th , 27 th	13 th , 20 th , 27 th	13 th
July	4 th , 11 th , 18 th , 25 th	4 th , 11 th , 18 th , 25 th	4 th , 11 th , 18 th , 25 th	11 th
August	1 st	1 st	1 st	1 st *
September	5 th , 12 th , 26 th	5 th , 12 th , 26 th	5 th , 12 th , 26 th	12 th
October	3 rd , 10 th , 17 th , 24 th	3 rd , 10 th , 17 th , 24 th	3 rd , 10 th , 17 th , 24 th	10 th
November	7 th , 14 th , 21 st , 28 th	7 th , 14 th , 21 st , 28 th	7 th , 14 th , 21 st , 28 th	14 th
December	5 th , 12 th	5 th , 12 th	5 th , 12 th	12 th

* Remains as August's previously scheduled single meeting.

Respectfully Submitted:



Mayor Marianne Alto