



**Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 5th, 2024**

(time sensitive)

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** August 22nd, 2024
From: Councillor Gardiner
Subject: Standing COTW Agenda item: Q&A of Mayor and General Manager

BACKGROUND

Over the past 22 months, significant changes have been made to the City's administrative and policy processes. These changes have greatly diminished the Council's authority through delegation and through reduction of Council considerations of matters which are of interest to the public.

Councillors, and the general public, often learn of City actions and intentions through statements made to the media by the Mayor or City staff.

Council Member Motions do not provide a timely or satisfactory process for public discussions on current affairs, or an efficient system of disclosure or accountability. The public may, or often do, conclude that statements made by the Mayor or City Communications staff represent the position of Council or of individual Councillors. An open and timely Question and Answer opportunity at each Committee of the Whole meeting could provide the public with more transparency related to City actions and Council member positions on matters of importance.

While there may be enhanced opportunity for members of the public to appear at evening Council meetings and speak for 3 minutes, neither staff nor Council members are permitted to address questions raised by the public. The opportunity for Councillors to query the Mayor and/or the general Manager on topical matters would also provide Councillors the opportunity to ask questions on behalf of residents.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That Council direct staff to include an agenda item, namely **Q&A Mayor and General Manager**, to be placed on each Committee of the Whole Agenda before Council Member Motions.
- 2) That this motion be forwarded to the September 5th, 2024, daytime Council meeting for consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "C. Gardiner", written over a horizontal line.

Councillor Gardiner