

UB1. Making it Easier for the Public to Speak at Council Meetings

At the Council meeting on January 21, 2020, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on January 22, 2020, in order to hear from speakers.

At the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on January 22 and 28, 2020, the Committee heard from speakers and referred debate and decision of the following item to the Council meeting on February 11, 2020, as unfinished business.

Moved by Councillor Swanson

Seconded by Councillor Fry

WHEREAS

1. It is difficult to predict the timing of when speakers will present to Council at Council and Standing Committee meetings as there are many variables which impact the meeting length;
2. Some speakers scheduled to speak during Council and Standing Committee meetings miss their turn on the speakers list due to this uncertainty;
3. People who have access to vehicles, internet and phone data, childcare, and other privileges are therefore currently more likely to be able to speak to Council;
4. Some speakers who miss their turn may be able to speak to Council at the conclusion of the speakers list for that particular agenda item;
5. The Procedure By-law does not specify that speakers who missed their turn during Council and Standing Committee meetings should be given the opportunity to be called to speak at the end of the speakers list.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to report back to Council with proposed amendments to the Procedure By-law to specify that those speakers who are registered on the speakers list for Council or Standing Committee meetings, and have missed their turn to speak, should be given an opportunity to speak at the conclusion of all other speakers on the registered list.

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