

Meeting Processes and the Simplified Rules of Procedure

City Clerk's Office

August 29, 2019



Simplified Rules of Procedure

- All advisory bodies are established under Chapter 27 - Council Procedures.
- However, the Council Procedures contain more rules and procedures than an Advisory Body needs to conduct a meeting.
- The Simplified Rules of Procedures maintain the principles of the Council Procedures but omit rules that apply only to City Council and its meetings, or to circumstances that an Advisory Body is unlikely to encounter.

Open Meetings

- All meetings are open to the public – advance notice must be given, all consideration and debate of agenda items takes place at the meeting
- Meetings are held in a public location, during regular business hours
- May close a meeting to the public if the subject of debate falls under one of several exceptions to the open meeting rules.
- Examples:
 - personal matters about an identifiable individual, including a city employee or a local board employee
 - information explicitly supplied in confidence to the City or local board by Canada, a province or territory or a Crown agency of any of them
 - receiving of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege

Rights of All Members

- The majority of members have the right to decide
- The minority of members have the right to be heard
- All members have the right to same information to help make decisions
- Members have a right to an efficient meeting
- All members have the right to be treated with respect and courtesy
- All members have equal rights, privileges and obligations.

Role of the Co-Chairs

- Elected at the first meeting
- Preside at meetings
- Follow the agenda
- Maintain order and decorum in the meeting
- Make procedural rulings
- Determines the order of questioning or speaking
- Rules on whether motions are in order
- Determines that all Members who wish to speak have spoken, that the Members are ready to vote, and ensures Members understand what they are voting on

Responsibilities of All Members

- attending scheduled meetings
- carefully considering and making decisions about meeting business
- voting on motions put to a vote
- speaking respectfully, listening attentively, and not interrupting the proceedings
- refraining from using any offensive, disrespectful or unparliamentary language about any member, City Officials or other City employee, or City Council
- speaking only on the matter under debate or related motions during debate
- respecting the confidentiality of matters discussed in closed meetings and not disclosing the subject or substance of these discussions
- obeying the Co-Chairs' rulings and Council's decisions

Agenda and Items

Items must be within the advisory body's Terms of Reference, and submitted to the Secretary by the agenda closing deadline from any of the following:

- A member of the advisory body;
- City Council;
- a Council Committee;
- a local board of the City;
- a City Official.

The agenda is published online 5 business days before the meeting.

The Clerk's Office and the Indigenous Affairs Office staff are able to assist you wish to bring an item onto the agenda. The submission deadline is 10 business days before the meeting.

How do Council Advisory Bodies give advice?

- Make recommendations to City Officials on matters within their jurisdiction for consideration.
- Make recommendations to a Council Committee for consideration.
- Make recommendations to City Council on a matter on the Council agenda.

Note: A recommendation that requires action by City Officials or City Council must first be considered by the appropriate Council Committee and, when necessary, approved by City Council.

How are Decisions Made

The Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee must make a decision on every agenda Item.

The Committee may decide to:

- Receive the Item for information
- Defer the item to a future meeting
- Provide advice for consideration by City Officials
- Provide a recommendation a Council committee or City Council for consideration

Motions

- Decisions are made by voting on a proposal contained in a motion.
- City Clerk's staff will assist members to prepare their motions, as required.
- Motions are typed and displayed and should be read aloud so that all Members hear and understand the proposal.
- The Chair will rule motions which are not within mandate of the Committee out of order.

Order of Business at a Meeting

- The presiding Co-Chair calls the meeting to order once quorum is present
- Declarations of Interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act
- Confirmation of Minutes
- The Committee considers each Item one at a time
- Once the agenda is complete, the presiding Co-Chair adjourns the meeting – no motion required

On Each Item

- Identify the current Item
- Staff presentation (if there is one)
- Public Speakers – Members may ask public speakers questions
- Members ask questions of Staff
- Members make remarks and make motions
- Members votes on motions

Voting

- All Members present must vote (unless prevented by law)
- Majority vote is required to pass a motion
- Motion **fails** if the vote is tied
- Members may vote by a show of hands or may ask to have the vote recorded in the minutes

Other Meeting Matters

- Quorum
 - Quorum is a majority of the total membership
 - Quorum must be present within 30 minutes of the scheduled start time of the meeting
 - If no quorum present, the meeting cannot take place

Minutes & How to Follow Decisions

- Minutes are prepared without note and comment, they include motions, votes, decisions and attendance
- Minutes are provided to members by email and posted online
- Minutes and all meeting information is posted online
<http://www.toronto.ca/council>
- Subscribe to e-updates to receive notification about any Council, Committee or Board agendas and minutes
<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/e-updates/subscribe.htm>



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