

My Local Government

City of Toronto





Understanding decision making

- How are decisions made at the City of Toronto?
- What is the process?
- How can I get involved and have my say?





About City Council

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Role of the Mayor



Mayor Olivia Chow

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Role of City Councillors





Constituency Role

Legislative Role

Connected to the community



The community plays an important role





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New business generally starts in committee

Before going to City Council, most items are first discussed at a committee or community council meeting. This system:

- Allows for public presentations
- Allows for more detailed scrutiny of items over a longer period of time
- Breaks down the work of City Council into smaller units





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Standing Committees

Standing committees make

recommendations on city-wide issues, such as parks, budget, roads and bridges, garbage and recycling, housing, planning, economic development, licensing and more. Final decisions are made at City Council meetings. There is an executive committee, chaired by the Mayor, as well as four standing committees.





Community Councils

Community councils make recommendations on local issues such as traffic lights, tree removal, parking permits, fence bylaws, appointments to local boards, local planning and development applications and more. They can make some final decisions without going to City Council. There are four community councils and each represents an area of the city.



Jane-Finch Initiative

- A report on the Community Development Plan will go to the Economic and Community Development Committee on February 20th.
- A City Planning report with the Draft Official Plan Amendment, Secondary Plan and Urban Design Guidelines will go to Etobicoke York Community Council on February 26th.
- Both of these reports and their associated plans will meet up under the same agenda item for consideration by all of Council at the March 20-22 meeting of City Council.



Each meeting has an agenda

Etobicoke York Community Council - Meeting 10

January 19, 2024 - 9:30 AM - Scheduled (Preview) Council Chamber, Etobicoke Civic Centre/Video Conference Agenda Published

Meeting Information



► Filter Items

EY10.1 🛛

(9:30 AM) 2 and 10 East Mall Crescent - Zoning By-law Amendment Application -Decision Report - Approval (Ward 3 - Statutory: Planning Act, RSO 1990)

EY10.2 🛛

(9:30 AM) 3350 Weston Road - Zoning By-law Amendment Application - Decision Report - Approval (Ward 7 - Statutory: Planning Act, RSO 1990)

- Reports from staff make up the majority of agenda items
- Agendas might also include a special presentation, letters from Councillors or, in some cases, reports from City boards, agencies, or other committees.
- All agendas are published one week in advance of a meeting at <u>www.toronto.ca/council</u>

my local government it's for me

Reports set the stage for discussion



it's for me

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How a typical meeting begins

- Once Members are present and staff are ready, the Chair calls the meeting to order - <u>link</u>
- The Chair reads a Land Acknowledgement and takes members through various administrative matters including:
 - Reminding participants how they can take part in the meeting
 - Asking Councillors for declarations of interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act
 - Confirming minutes from the previous meeting
 - Reviewing the agenda for the day <u>link</u>



What can a committee do?

- Committee members must decide what to do with each agenda item.
- Depending on the type of report, what is being recommended, and what actions members would like to take, a Councillor can move a **motion** to:
 - adopt what is being recommended
 - amend what is being recommended
 - receive the report and take no action
 - defer consideration of the item to another date
 - refer the item to another committee for their consideration



Some reports are "held", some are not

- Any items "held" by Councillors will be discussed in the meeting.
- If a Councillor wants to ask questions of staff, suggest changes to what is being recommended, or request that other actions be taken, that item must be held.
- Any items that have registered speakers (members of the public who want to comment on a report, known as a "deputation") are also held.



What happens with held items

Staff presentation (optional)

Public presentations

Committee members can ask questions of City staff

Members speak to the agenda item and place motions

Committee members vote on the motions and the item



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Reports move from committee to Council

- Once a committee has completed their work on a report, they send recommendations to City Council. This allows all Members of Council to learn what is being recommended, ask questions of staff, and consider what actions to take.
- City Council meetings are open to the public, but there are no public presentations (deputations) at Council.



Have Your Say

There a number of ways that a member of the public can share their views on a report being considered by Community Council or a committee:

- Register to speak on the item at the meeting when the report will be considered.
- Submit an email as a "communication" on that item.
- Contact your Councillor or other Members of Council directly to share your views.



Speaking on an Agenda Item

- The public can speak on any agenda item at a committee or Community Council meeting. You can speak in person or join remotely.
- Two examples of the public sharing comments at Economic and Community Development Committee, on the Regent Park Swim Pilot and Engagement Efforts Progress Report
 - Participating online
 - Participating in person



Speaking on an Agenda Item

- Your remarks are public and will be available on <u>Council's</u> <u>YouTube channel</u>.
- Members of organizations, community groups, etc. are encouraged to have one member present on their behalf.
- Important details about how to register and participate at: <u>www.toronto.ca/city-government/council/council-</u> <u>committee-meetings/have-your-say/</u>



Writing to Council or Committee

- Your comments should indicate what item you are writing about, the committee, and the meeting date.
- Comments submitted from an individual will be available to all Councillors, but not published online. However, they are still publicly available.
- Comments submitted on behalf of an organization, resident's group, etc., are published online with the agenda.
- Find more information about submitting comments at: <u>www.toronto.ca/city-government/council/council-committee-</u> <u>meetings/have-your-say/</u>



Economic and Community Development Committee



Councillor Alejandra Bravo Ward 9 – Davenport



Councillor Ausma Malik Ward 10 – Spadina-Fort York



Councillor Shelley Carroll Ward 17 – Don Valley North



Councillor Chris Moise Ward 13 – Toronto Centre



Councillor Paula Fletcher Ward 14 – Toronto-Danforth



Councillor Jaye Robinson Ward 15 – Dan Valley West

Getting to City Hall

- 100 Queen St West, between Bay and University (Nathan Phillips Square)
- TTC access via Osgoode or Queen subway stations, 505 Dundas streetcar, or 19 Bay bus (limited transit access on Queen St due to construction)
- Paid parking available underground
- Committee rooms are on the 2nd
 floor of City Hall
- All visitors to City Hall must pass through security screening.



Economic and Community Development Committee

- Members of Council sit around the U-shaped desk.
- The Chair of the committee sits at the front.
- City staff sit behind the Councillors.
- Staff or members of the public who are presenting sit at the desk facing the Chair.
- Public seating runs across the back of the room.



Etobicoke York Community Council



Councillor Vincent Crisanti Ward 1 – Etobicoke North



Councillor Stephen Holyday Ward 2 – Etobicoke Centre



Councillor Amber Morley Ward 3 – Etobicoke-Lakeshore



Councillor Frances Nunziata Ward 5 – York South-Weston



Councillor Anthony Perruzza Ward 7– Humber River-Black Creek

Getting to the Etobicoke Civic Centre

- 399 The West Mall, near Burnhamthorpe and The West Mall.
- Free parking behind the building.
- TTC access via bus routes 50 Burnhamthorpe or 112 West Mall.
- Council Chamber is on the main floor.



Etobicoke York Community Council



Follow Council & Committee Meetings

www.toronto.ca/council

- Meeting agendas available one week in advance
- Read reports and recommendations
- Watch meetings live and see recordings of previous meetings
- Register to speak
- Subscribe to e-updates





How to contact your Councillor

You can call, email or visit your Councillor's website to:

- share your views on issues affecting the city, your neighbourhood, or a specific report posted to a meeting agenda.
- get help accessing City services
- join their mailing list
- invite your Councillor to a community event or meeting



How Decisions are Made



Thank You

Matthew Cowley City Clerk's Office, City of Toronto matthew.cowley@toronto.ca



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