

CITY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN

Notice of Motion – Procedure Bylaw C1-16

Motion:

That Council direct Administration to bring back amendments to Procedure Bylaw C1-16, Section 12.7 to state: During a Council meeting the Chair shall invite members of the public to speak to any matter that is considered relevant to the City of Fort Saskatchewan. The speaker shall be granted a maximum of five minutes to speak to an item, followed by clarifying questions of Council. In the event that all persons who expressed an interest to speak cannot be heard within the allotted thirty minutes at the beginning of the Council meeting they will be invited to attend the next Council meeting. Dialogue that pertains to a public hearing shall only be heard during the public hearing portion of the Council meeting.

Purpose:

To present a notice of motion requesting that appropriate amendments to Procedure Bylaw C1-16 be prepared for Council approval, permitting citizens to speak to any matter at a Council meeting.

Background:

At the May 23, 2017 regular Council meeting, Councillor Sperling presented a notice of motion requesting that Council's Procedure Bylaw C1-16 be amended to allow citizens an opportunity to speak under the Delegations section, on any item they wish for a maximum of 5 minutes.

Currently, Bylaw C1-16 provides opportunities for the public to speak to Council through the following methods:

1. During the Delegations portion of the meeting, the public may address Council for up to 5 minutes, relating to any item included on the Council agenda.
2. Individuals or groups could register to make a presentation to Council. This is done through receipt of a written request to speak to Council. The request must indicate the intent of their presentation, whether they would like to provide Council with information or make a request from Council which requires a decision.
3. A member of Council may make a notice of motion to bring an item forward for Council consideration. This would enable the public to speak to the matter should Council support the request and the item be placed on a future agenda.

Benefits of the proposed Bylaw amendment.

- Speakers would no longer have to register in advance, which streamlines the process for those who wish to address Council.
- Reduces staff time required for the preparation of a meeting agenda.

Benefits of the current process requiring registered presentations:

- Presentation material would be included on a Council agenda. Agendas are prepared and made public on the Thursday prior to the Council meeting. This allows for Council, Administration, media, and citizens to be aware of any items being presented at the meeting, and allows time for preparation.
- Including information on the agenda which is made public prior to the meeting, provides an awareness for residents who may also wish to attend the meeting to speak to the matter.

In August 2012, a procedural change was made to eliminate the Public Question Period from the Council meeting agendas. The purpose of the change was for Council agendas to reflect the business of Council, to streamline the meetings, and to focus on items of business which require Council decision. This practice is intended to provide structure, efficiency, predictability, and clarity when the public is making a presentation to Council.

Prepared by:	Brenda Molter, Director, Legislative Services	Date: June 7, 2017
Approved by:	Troy Fleming, Acting City Manager	Date: June 7, 2017
Submitted to:	City Council	Date: June 13, 2017