

Meeting Procedures

The rules of procedure as set out in By-law 18-270, A By-Law To Govern the Proceedings of Council and Committees of Council, shall be observed in all proceedings and apply to all Committees. Rules of procedure are intended to help the group conduct its business fairly and efficiently.

Rules for a meeting are designed to achieve the following basic meeting principles:

1. Every member has rights equal to every other member.
2. The will of the majority must be carried out.
3. Only one topic will be considered at a time.

The Role of the Committee and its members is to provide “advice” to Council through the appropriate Standing Committee on matters that are related to the specific mandate of the Committee (not for purposes of lobbying for special causes on behalf of the City or themselves).

Rules of Procedures at a Glance

1. Sequence of steps in having a motion voted on:

- Moved – a proposal from the floor.
- Seconded – another member feels the proposal is worth discussing.
- Stated – by the Chair or Secretary. Wording is recorded properly and everyone understands the intent of the proposal.
- Discussed – every member who wishes to speak addresses the chair and must speak only to the motion/amendment on the floor.
- Amended – if required, changing the wording of the motion by: adding or deleting words, replacing with different words.
- Called – after sufficient discussion, either a motion to end debate or a vote (if amended, the amendment first and then the main motion as amended) is called at the discretion of the Chair.
- Restated (if necessary) – ensures everyone understands what is being voted on.
- Voted – Chair calls each option: “All in favour”, “opposed”?
- Declared – results of the vote are announced by the Chair “carried” or “defeated”.

2. Amending a motion

- An amendment cannot convert a motion to its direct negative (cannot change the intent of the original motion).