

Request for Agenda Item

Date of Committee of the Whole Council Meeting: November 19, 2024 or next available

(Requests must be submitted to the Municipal Clerk's Office by end of day on the Wednesday before the meeting)

Subject: Changing meeting time of COW and Council

Motion to be Considered:

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that the meeting times of Committee of the Whole and Month Council Meetings be changed from 7pm to 6pm commencing December 2024.

Reason: There are several reasons that a Council or Committee of the Whole meeting might benefit from a shift from a 7 PM to a 6 PM start time:

1. **Increased Community Engagement:** A 6 PM start may be more accessible for community members who would like to participate in or observe council meetings but find a 7 PM start too late, especially if they need to wake up early for work.
2. **Potential for Shorter, More Efficient Meetings:** An earlier start might encourage more efficient use of time, as council members and staff might be more alert and ready to focus, leading to streamlined discussions and decision-making.
3. **Better Energy Levels for Participants:** Moving the meeting to 6 PM could mean that everyone has more energy, which often dips later in the evening. A higher energy level can contribute to more productive dialogue and better overall decision-making.
4. **Accommodates Longer Agendas:** For meetings with long agendas, a 6 PM start allows for a reasonable time buffer, so meetings don't extend too late into the evening, which can be a concern for those who have other responsibilities early the next day.
5. **Improved Staff Morale:** Municipal Staff members who attend and prepare for these meetings may appreciate an earlier start time so they can finish work at a more reasonable hour, benefiting their work-life balance.

6. **Weather and Seasonal Considerations:** In winter months, an earlier start means that people may travel to and from meetings in better conditions, avoiding some of the difficulties of late-night driving in poor weather.

Name: Amy MacKinnon

Date: November 13, 2024