



## **Administrative Report**

### **Office of the Director of Council & Community Services/Clerk**

**To:** Warden McNamara and Members of Essex County Council

**From:** Mary Birch  
Director of Council & Community Services/Clerk

**Date:** Wednesday, March 17, 2021

**Subject:** Council Question Regarding County Council Meeting Time

**Report #:** 2021-0317-CCS-R003-MB

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#### **Purpose**

To provide County Council information regarding a Council question from the March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 meeting, requesting that Administration prepare a report examining the possibility of changing the start time of County Council meetings from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

#### **Background**

Procedures regarding the dates and times of Essex County Council meetings are established in the Procedure By-law #41-2018. Section 2.3 states:

*"Regular Meetings of Council will commence at 7 PM and will adjourn at 11 PM. However, if Council should deem it necessary to meet beyond 11 PM, a resolution to proceed and finalize the business items on the agenda is in order."*

At the March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 meeting of County Council, Mayor Bondy questioned the possibility of changing the start time of County Council meetings to 6:00 PM.

Administration was directed to seek input from members of County Council on this request and to report back to Council with the responses from members of County Council and the procedure required to make the change to the start time of meetings, should County Council wish to make that amendment.

## **Discussion**

Members of County Council were provided with a survey with the following three questions:

- 1) Are you in favour of changing the start time of County Council meetings from 7:00PM to 6:00PM?
- 2) If the start time of Essex County Council meetings was changed from 7:00PM to 6:00PM, would the earlier start time pose a problem for you attending?
- 3) If the start time of the regular meeting were changed to 6:00PM and a Closed meeting had to be scheduled before the regular meeting (i.e. at 5:00PM or 5:30PM), would you be able to attend the Closed meeting?

The responses indicated that two members of County Council were not in favour of altering the start time from 7:00PM to 6:00PM, due to the fact that, the earlier start time would pose a problem for them being able to attend on time and that Closed Meetings starting prior to 6:00PM would also create a problem for their attendance.

Your TV (formerly Cogeco) was contacted to see if a change in the County Council meeting start time would create any programming concerns for them. The Manager, Programming & Community Relations responded that this change would be welcomed by Your TV.

Considering not all members of County Council are in favour of altering the start time, Council may wish to defer making this kind of amendment to the Procedure By-law until the end of the term of this Council and make the change effective for the next term of Council.

If Council does wish to alter the start time now, an amendment to Section 2.3 of Procedure By-law 41-2018 will be required. Should Council provide that direction, by way of a resolution, an amendment to the Procedure By-law will be prepared for Council's adoption at the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of County Council.

## **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications. Senior Management who attend County Council meetings do not receive overtime so altering the start time will not impact staff compensation.

## **Recommendation**

That Report Number 2021-0317-CSS-R002-MB be received for Council's consideration.

Respectfully Submitted

*Mary Birch*

Mary Birch Director of Council & Community Services/Clerk

Concurred With,

*Mike Galloway*

Mike Galloway, Chief Administrative Officer