
Subject: 2019 Legislative Schedule of Regular Meetings

Report to: Regional Council

Report date: Thursday, December 13, 2018

Recommendations

That one of the three options of the 2019 Legislative Schedule of Regular Meetings (attached as Appendix 1, 2 and 3) **BE APPROVED** by Regional Council.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval of a 2019 Legislative Schedule for regular meetings.
- In November 2017, the Corporate Services Committee referred option 3 (Standing Committees and Council meetings held on three (3) consecutive Thursdays on a monthly basis) as a scheduling option to be considered by the new Council.
- Staff are supportive of moving to a monthly schedule of meetings.

Financial Considerations

Depending on the option selected by Council, there may be a small amount of savings realized due to the reduction of the number of meetings being held.

Analysis

At the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on November 8, 2017, Committee referred consideration of changing the legislative schedule to hold Standing Committees and Council meetings to three (3) consecutive Thursdays on a monthly basis to the next term of Council. Given the request to have this option considered by the new term of Council, staff are presenting three options of legislative calendars. In the proposed options staff have included meetings in the month of August.

Option 1 proposes a legislative schedule that Council has followed for many years with a total of 30 days of Standing Committee meetings and 15 Regional Council meetings (Standing Committees would be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during regular working hours and Council meetings on Thursday evenings on a three (3) week rotation).

Option 2 proposes a similar schedule as Option 1; however, Committee and Council meetings would be scheduled on a monthly basis rather than a three (3) week rotation.

This results in having 24 days of Standing Committee meetings and 12 Regional Council meetings.

Option 3 proposes a change in the traditional meeting schedule such that Standing Committees and Council meetings would be held on three (3) consecutive Thursdays. It also proposes monthly meetings rather than the traditional three (3) week rotation. As in Option 2 this results in having 24 days of Standing Committee meeting and 12 Regional Council meetings.

If Council were to choose option 3, given the number of Budget Review Committee of the Whole meetings scheduled during January and February, this option would not be able to be implemented until March. In addition due to the proximity to Christmas, the month of December does not allow for meetings to follow this format.

Staff have reviewed other upper-tier municipal legislative schedules (York, Waterloo, Durham and Halton) and have identified that while there is no preference on any one meeting schedule, what is consistent is that they meet on a monthly basis.

Staff have discussed the three legislative meeting schedule options presented in this report for consideration and generally agree that Option 2 would allow staff the ability to provide Council Members with improved service delivery by having additional time between meetings to prepare the necessary reports and documents for consideration. The additional time should also assist with the requirement to add addendum agendas to agendas.

Alternatives Reviewed

Staff have reviewed the three options and have provided alternatives for Council's consideration.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

The three options demonstrate Council's strategic priorities of advancing organizational excellence and doing business different.

Other Pertinent Reports

CSD 74-2017 2018 Legislative Schedule of Regular Meetings

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Appendices

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| Appendix 1 | 2019 Draft Legislative Meeting Schedule – Option 1 |
| Appendix 2 | 2019 Draft Legislative Meeting Schedule – Option 2 |
| Appendix 3 | 2019 Draft Legislative Meeting Schedule – Option 3 |
| Appendix 4 | Report CSD 74-2017 |