

Procedural By-law Review  
Comparison Chart - Local Area Municipalities

Item	Niagara Region (2010)	Fort Erie (2016)	Grimsby (2007)	Lincoln (2015)	Niagara Falls (2019)	Niagara-on-the-Lake (2019)	Pelham (2013)	Port Colborne (2015)	St. Catharines (2015)	Thorold (2017)	Wainfleet (2016)	Welland (2017)	West Lincoln (2013)
<b>Curfew</b>	10:30 p.m. with extension to 11:00 p.m. with vote of majority of members	10:00 p.m., unless extended by a majority vote of the Members of Council present.	11:00 p.m. unless extended by a majority vote of the Members of Council present. (Sec 2.5) The Mayor shall declare a Council meeting adjourned at 11 00 pm if the meeting is in session at that hour unless otherwise determined by a unanimous vote of the Members present (Sec. 5.22)	11:00 pm, and if required to complete all agenda items, the meeting shall be reconvened at 7:00 p.m., the following day or at such other time as may be agreed upon.	11:00 p.m. unless affirmative recorded vote	10:30 p.m. unless 2/3 affirmative vote to extend	10:00 p.m. with 30 minute extension requires 2/3 vote	11:00 p.m. unless majority vote to extend	10:30 p.m. unless 2/3 vote to extend 30 minutes, must be unanimous for further extensions	10:00 p.m., requires 2/3 to go beyond. Not allowed beyond 11:00	11:00 p.m. unless approved by majority of members present	11:00 p.m. with one half hour extension allowed if Council agrees by 2/3 majority vote	11:00 p.m. unless extended by consenting vote of not less than 2/3 of the Members of Council. Can only extend to midnight
<b>Quorum - lost or regained</b>	30 minutes to start meeting, 15 to regain	30 minutes to start meeting, silent on time to regain	15 minutes to start meeting, silent on time to regain	30 minutes to start, silent on time to regain	30 minutes to start, 15 min to regain	15 minutes to start, silent to regain	30 minutes to start meeting, 15 to regain	15 minutes to start meeting, silent to regain	20 minutes to start, silent to regain	15 minutes to start, silent to regain	10 minutes to start	silent	30 minutes to start
<b>Chair Ex-Officio</b>	Yes	Yes	silent	silent	Yes	silent	silent	silent	silent	silent	silent	Yes	silent
<b>Speaking Length/Number of Times</b>	10 minutes, can only speak once to a matter at Council unless 2/3 vote, Committee - no limit on number of speaking times or amount of time	COTW - unlimited number of times to speak. In Council, can only speak a second time if everyone who wants to speak has spoken, can't speak more than twice, 5 minute limit unless Council consent	no limit to number of speaking times in Committee, 15 minute time limit at Council, can't speak for second time unless all wanting to speak have spoken and leave is granted	silent	15 minute time limit unless leave of Council	Cannot speak more than once, without leave of Presiding Officer. Limit of 10 minutes.	COTW - no limit to number of times or length of time, Council 5 minute limit and can only speak once unless leave of Council	10 minute limit to speak, speak only once until every member who wants to speak has spoken	speak only once and 5 minute limit unless permitted by Mayor	5 minutes to speak, and will be given the option of an additional 5 after every Councillor has been allowed to speak, and after a 2/3 vote of Council	10 minute limit unless leave of Council	shall not speak more than twice without leave, 5 minute limit	can only speak a second time if all others have spoken; 10 minute limit unless leave of Chair; unlimited time in Committee unless Chair feels no new points of view are being brought up
<b>Delegations / Presentations</b>	10 minute limit, unless otherwise determined by the Chair. A delegation of not more than five (5) persons, representing a group or organization, shall be limited to two (2) speakers, permitted to speak not more than 10 minutes in total. Only new information is to be presented by successive speakers of such delegation.	Delegations 10 minute limit, unless extended by majority vote. Requests in to Clerk by 3:00 p.m. on Thurs before meeting. Council can refuse to hear delegation if matter is beyond jurisdiction of Council. If matter is operational or administrative, directed to CAO or director first to discuss issue.	not speak longer than ten minutes unless permitted to speak beyond that limit by the Chair, if more than 5 people only 2 can speak for total 10 minutes	Delegations 5 minutes, presentations 10 exclusive of the time required to answer questions from Council or Committee, to address Council or Committee. Only at Council if matter on Council agenda, not enough time to get on Committee agenda, local organization or community group not asking for anything and the presentation would enhance the Council meeting	Delegation or Appointments - 5 minutes unless permitted to speak, unless by majority vote; maximum of 5 appointments permitted; may appear before council by majority vote	10 minute limit, allowed at Council and COTW. Requests given to Clerk no later than 12 pm on Thurs prior to COTW or Council. Only new information permitted if spoken at previous COTW or Council.	only at Council for matters on the agenda, if beyond jurisdiction directed by Clerk to most appropriate authority, 10 minute limit unless Chair allows longer, must provide new information if have presented before, Clerk in consultation with Mayor/CAO has authority to refuse request if outside jurisdiction, contrary to town policies or public interest	2 types identified - individuals appearing to receive a reward or recognition or consultants, external partners, or City staff asked by the CAO to give a verbal report to provide clarification. Time limit and number same as delegations shall appear before Committee instead of Council, limited to 3 at any one meeting, 10 minute time limit, if previously appeared can only give new information, can be refused if outside jurisdiction of municipality	Presentations before council shall be held at special ceremony held at 6:16 pm, not limited to Council presentations for sports awards and community recognition, staff presentations allowed but by request of the CAO to provide clarification for a report that is on the agenda  Delegation - shall pertain to a matter within the Council's statutory jurisdiction, Clerk authorized to refuse delegations not related to matters on the agenda, 5 minute limit, Chair can extend, can hear delegate not on agenda by 2/3 vote	10 minute limit for delegations and presentations, can be extended by majority vote. 5 minutes for public meeting. Request must be given to Clerk by Tuesday at 4:30 one week in advance of the meeting	defined in PBL - no more than 4 separate delegations per meeting, 10 minute limit, if appearing for a second time must present new information	Delegations only allowed at General Committee, unless speaking on a matter on a Council agenda.no more than 5 per meeting, ranked according priority in Schedule A of PBL, 10 minute time limit, with 5 minute limit to answer questions	persons and consultants invited to attend to present findings to a specific item may exceed the 10 minute limit and appear more than once If Clerk and or Mayor feels content falls within authority of Committee, will be directed there. No more than 4 per agenda without approval from Chair, 10 minute limit excluding time to answer questions, may be extended by 10 minutes with majority vote of members present. If already appeared, must present new information

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<b>Chair Voting/Head of Council</b>	to break tie only at Council, Committee Chairs only if recorded vote	yes	Mayor may vote on a motion but shall not have a second or casting vote in the event of an equality of votes on any question. At Committee may determine to vote on any matter, vote shall be signified after the votes of each member voting	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes but shall not have a second or casting vote in the event of an equality of votes on any question	at Mayor's discretion to vote, but must vote when a recorded vote	silent	only noted under recorded vote that Chair shall vote on all questions	Only to break a tie vote or on recorded vote	yes
<b>Reconsiderations</b>	at Council, member has to vote in majority, present Notice of Motion to reconsider the matter, referred to next Council meeting and included on agenda, requires approval of 2/3 of Council present, matter can't be reconsidered more than once, matter to be reconsidered may be next order of business or referred to another meeting	must have voted on the prevailing side, must give notice of motion to reconsider, no matter or motion is reconsidered by Council more than once during a period of 12 months following the date on which the original matter was decided. Must be carried by majority of all members present. (instances where reconsideration not allowed listed in Sec 16.1)	given by a Member who voted with the majority on the particular question, must give notice of such motion to reconsider at the same Council meeting at which the decision on the matter was made, may immediately upon notice been given vote whether or not such notice or reconsideration be entertained, matter can only be reconsidered once	at any Regular Council Meeting within one (1)year after a question has been decided by Council, a Member may present a Notice of Motion to Reconsider such matter. Such Notice of Motion shall be referred to the next available meeting of Council. After one year period elapses, can give notice to reconsider, done at next meeting, only requires majority approval	Must be moved and seconded by members that voted with the majority. Requires 2/3 vote. Cannot reconsider motions of previous Councils. Must be made by Notice of Motion	if made at same meeting, give notice in writing for reconsideration, need affirmative vote of 2/3 of members, can only be reconsidered once. If member was absent, can provide notice at next meeting	any motion can be reconsidered if the minority vote comprised not less than 1/3, must be done at same meeting and give notice for next meeting, may be introduced by notice of motion, can only be reconsidered once	must have voted with prevailing side, give notice to reconsider, reconsideration heard at next meeting, only be reconsidered once	notice of motion from member who voted with prevailing side, needs 2/3, only reconsidered once, Sec D 8.2 lists times a reconsideration motion does not apply	Can only reconsider decisions made within current term of Council. Only done by Councillor present at the meeting and voted in the majority, or who was not present when the decision was made. Done through Notice of Motion. Requires 2/3. Debate on the reconsideration allowed. If passed, reconsideration will become next order of business unless motion included direction to postpone reconsideration to a definitive date. Decisions can only be reconsidered once.	Must be given by a Member who voted with the majority on the particular question and such Motion must be given within 12 months of the original Motion. Requires majority vote. Can only be reconsidered once.	member must have voted in opposition, can't be reconsidered in subsequent 12 months unless after 2 subsequent meetings, 2/3 majority vote of those members present at either meeting	must be made by member who voted in majority, given at same meeting or next meeting that the decision was made at, can be put forward again after 12 months have elapsed from the last date that the matter or question was dealt with.
<b>Code of Conduct attached to PBL</b>	yes	no	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
<b>Definition of Committee</b>	means any Standing, Ad Hoc, Steering or Advisory Committee, Sub-Committee or board and any other similar group composed of individuals appointed by Council, or similar entity established by Council and composed of members	Not defined	Not defined	Established by Council, including any advisory, other committee, subcommittee, or similar entity of which at least 50 % of the members are also members of one or more councils.	Any board, commission or committee established by Council, which has at least one (1) Member appointed from Council. The Member(s) appointed by Council may be Member(s), staff of the City, and/or member(s) of the public	Shall mean a committee appointed by Council	"Committee of Council" means COTW, all Standing Committees, any ad hoc committee where at least 50% of the members of the ad hoc committee are members (of council)or members of a local board	means the Committee of Whole of the City which consists of all members of council	means any advisory or other committee, subcommittee, standing or special committee or similar entity established by Council, of which at least fifty per cent of the members are also members of one or more councils or local boards.	Not defined	means any advisory or other committee, subcommittee or similar entity created by Council.	means any advisory or other committee, subcommittee or similar entity of which at least 50% of the members are also members of one or more councils or local boards	means any advisory or other committee, sub-committee or similar entity, including Standing Committees, of which at least 50% of the members are also members of Council or as specified in approved Terms of Reference.
<b>Mechanisms to limit debate</b>	Call the question - has to be next speaker, requires a majority vote	Call the question – requires 2/3 vote, which if granted immediately puts the motion to a vote.	any Member may request the Mayor to put the question for a vote	that the vote now be taken - no explanation	Call the question - called by any Member, at any time during debate, provided all Members have had a chance to speak once to the Motion on the floor. Requires 2/3 vote.	"previous question" - debate closed and vote taken immediately, not allowed in Committee, needs 2/3	"previous question" - not allowed in COTW, can only be moved in the following words "that the question be now put"	call the question	call the question	silent	Motion that the vote now be taken (close debate)	"previous question"	"previous question" only allowed after all members have had opportunity to make submission

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Recorded votes	allowed in Committee, Council and COTW	a recorded vote is taken when requested by any Member or when required by law, not allowed in Council-in-Committee	allowed in Council and Committee	allowed in Council and Committee	Allowed in Council and Committee	only at Council	allowed at Council, Committee of Council, not allowed at COTW	allowed in Council only, must be requested prior to taking of vote	specific provisions for when recorded votes are required Sec B19	Allowed in Council and Committee	allowed in Council	allowed in Council and Committee	allowed in Council and Committee
Other Business listed as agenda item	yes, not defined	new business/enquiries	yes	no, but has announcements	Yes, not defined	new business, also members announcements	new business, member's reports (which must be included with agenda	no	not noted in PBL	no	yes	no	yes but notes should be kept to a minimum
Cancellation of Meetings	silent	when circumstances warrant the Mayor may cancel a meeting, in consultation with senior staff; notice given to staff and to the public online	silent	silent	silent	if Lord Mayor determines there is insufficient business on the agenda to justify holding of a scheduled meeting, Lord Mayor has authority to cancel	mayor in consultation with CAO and Clerk may cancel any meeting for justifiable reasons	where circumstances warrant, the Mayor may, in consultation with the Clerk and or CAO cancel a meeting	silent	Clerk may cancel if quorum will not be available at a meeting. Clerk to provide notice.	Discretion of the Mayor, and the Clerk shall advise Council.	silent	Subject to required public notice, and where circumstances warrant, the Mayor and/or Chair may cancel a meeting
Notice of Motion	shall be presented at a meeting of Council, but shall not be debated until the next regular meeting OR delivered to the Clerk not less than 7 days prior to the date of the meeting at which the motion is to be introduced, can be introduced without notice if Council dispenses with notice requirement and 2/3 vote	will not entertain any motion to introduce new business unless; notice was given at the last regular Council meeting, or Council dispenses with notice by a majority vote of all the Members of Council present.	is required for motions being raised by any Member who wishes to introduce a motion at Council which affects policies or procedures, shall be in writing, given to Clerk at the close of the meeting at which Notice is given. Not debatable until next regularly scheduled Council meeting	silent	silent	introduced at Council or COTW for consideration at next or subsequent meeting and shall be included in the notice of meeting at which it is to be considered, if no notice given can be introduced as new business unless for appropriation of money, appointment to office unless 2/3 vote	must be given 3 calendar days before meeting (excluding weekend and holidays) shall be printed in full on the agenda, notice may be waived on affirmative vote of 2/3 members present and voting	will not consider any motion regarding new business unless was given at last meeting or a motion to dispense with notice is passed by majority vote. After providing notice, must provide motion in writing to Clerk to be included in the agenda for the meeting that the motion is for	introduced at any meeting and unless otherwise directed by Mayor, be included on agenda for next meeting or given 1 business day prior to the publishing of the agenda to the Clerk, the placing of it on the agenda constitutes notice	Must be made verbally at the meeting and provided to the Clerk in writing one week in advance of the meeting. Failing to do so, will result in a delay to the next meeting. If at the third meeting such Notice of Motion is called from the Chair and not proceeded with, it shall be deemed to have been withdrawn. Notices of Motion can be done without notice with 2/3 vote	A notice of motion can be delivered verbally at one cycle of Council and upon being delivered in writing at the next cycle of Council can be discussed and voted on.	introduced at meeting for consideration at next meeting or given to Clerk in writing no later than noon the Monday the week prior to the meeting, reviewed by Clerk and placed on next agenda	items of business that require immediate attention and direction from Council must be introduced by a motion to introduce a new item of business; passed by a majority vote of the members present. New items must be introduced under the "New Item of Business" section on the agenda.
Points of Order	Can ask leave of Chair to raise a question of privilege or point of order, after recognition, shall state point and it shall be immediately decided by Chair, ruling shall be final subject to immediate appeal by member, member shall state grounds for appeal, appeal must be decided without debate by concurring votes of a majority. When member called to order by Chair, member shall cease speaking until point of order is dealt with, cannot speak again to the matter, without permission of the Chair, unless to appeal	When a Member of Council wants to call attention to a violation of these rules, the member may raise a point of order. Upon recognition by the Chair, the Member states the point of order succinctly and the Chair decides upon the point of order. Unless a Member of Council immediately appeals the Chair's decision to the Council, the decision of the Chair is final.	can raise point of order if feels a deviation or departure from the matter under consideration and the current discussion is not within the scope of the proposed Motion, Mayor shall decide and state the point of order, Member shall only address the Mayor to appeal the Mayor's decision to Council, if no appeals the decision of the Mayor shall be final. If appealed Council majority decision is final.	no specific section, all points of order decided by Chair in accordance with the rules of parliamentary law as contained in Robert's Rules of Order.	When a Member desires to call attention to a deviation or departure from the Rules of Procedure, that Member shall ask leave of the Mayor to raise a Point of Order and after leave is granted, the Member shall state the Point of Order to the Mayor and the Point of Order shall be immediately decided by the Mayor. Decision final unless appealed.	member may bring to attention of Presiding Officer that a rule has been broken, be ruled by Presiding Officer without vote, may be appealed	ask leave of Chair to raise point of order, after leave granted, state point, Chair decides point, can only speak again to appeal decision. If not appealed Chair's decision is final, if appealed Council decides without debate and decision is final	May interrupt the person who has the floor to raise point of order when feels deviation from PBL rules, or deviation from matter under consideration or discussion is not within proposed scope of the motion. Mayor shall decide, can be appealed, member may only address Mayor to appeal decision, if no appeal decision of Mayor is final. If appealed Member states case, Mayor can reply and Council shall decide. Council decision is final	may raise point of order, once recognized Mayor will hear point of order and decide, if no appeal, Mayor ruling final, if appealed Mayor to restate decision, if majority of members signify support for appeal, decision of Mayor overturned and point decided by a motion duly put and passed by majority vote	a concern about the order in which business is being considered, or about a procedure or procedures being used in the course of a meeting.	Except as otherwise specified in this subsection, only the Members may raise points of order and privilege. A Point of Order or privilege may be raised, at any time, by a Member without doing so in the form of a Motion. Upon receiving recognition from the Chair, the Member raising the Point of Order or privilege shall state such and await the ruling of the Chair on the Point of Order or privilege so raised. The Clerk may raise a Point of Order upon receipt of recognition from the Chair.	member shall clearly state point of order, Chair shall state rule or authority applicable, decision final unless successfully challenged without debate by majority of members present	be recognized by Chair, raise Point of Order or Point of Privilege shall state such and Chair to rule. The Clerk of the Council may raise a Point of Order upon receipt of recognition from the Chair. Can be appealed, Member shall state the grounds for the appeal and appeal decided without debate, by the concurring votes of a Majority of the Members of Council present.

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<b>Point of Privilege</b>	can ask leave of Chair to raise a question of privilege or point of order, after recognized by Chair, shall state point and shall be immediately decided by Chair, ruling shall be final subject to immediate appeal by member, member shall state grounds, appeal must be decided without debate by concurring votes of a majority. When member called to order by Chair, member shall cease speaking until point is dealt with, cannot speak again to matter, without permission of the Chair, unless to appeal	Member asks the Chair to raise a question of privilege, the member making the request is not permitted to enter into any argument or introduce any motion related to the question of privilege. A question of privilege suspends debate on the matter under consideration at the time until the question is decided. Unless immediately appealed the Chair's decision to the Council, the decision of the Chair is final.	if Mayor feels privilege has been breached, then can order member to apologize; if does not apologize, order member to leave Chamber. If no appeal, Mayor decision is final, if appealed put to vote by members and decision of majority is final.	silent	When a Member believes that his or her rights, privileges or integrity, or those of the Members collectively have been prejudicially affected, that Member may ask leave of the Mayor to raise a question of privilege and after leave is granted, the Member shall state the Point of Privilege to the Mayor and the Point of Privilege shall be immediately decided by the Mayor. Decision final unless appealed.	member may raise point of privilege, Chair shall rule on it, may be appealed, majority vote required	a matter of privilege shall receive disposition by Council, dealt with immediately and when settled question so interrupted shall be resumed from where it was suspended. Can speak at any time with consent of Chair to point out the matter	member may rise at any time on a point of personal privilege, suspends debate, when Mayor recognizes breach has taken place shall demand apology, if apology is not given member is asked to leave for duration of meeting, member may only address Mayor to appeal decision, if no appeal decision of Mayor is final. If appealed Member may state their case, Mayor has chance to reply and Council shall decide. Council decision is final	same as above	same as above	same as above	shall clearly state point or issue they wish to correct or explain circumstances that adversely affect them, can be raised at anytime but not to interrupt a speaker	same as above
<b>Votes requiring 2/3</b>	waive rules of PBL, amend or repeal PBL, speak more than once at Council, waive notice of motion req., reconsiderations	call the question	suspend rules	suspend rules, reconsiderations	Extend curfew after first 30 min extension, reconsider, suspend rules, amend or repeal PBL, introduce motion without notice	amend PBL, extend curfew, vary from delegation policy, call the question, suspend the rules, limit or extend debate, reconsideration, introduce motion without notice	suspend rules, provide less than 96 hours notice for agenda and material, extend curfew, waive notice	none	suspend rules, reconsideration	Extend curfew, notice of motion without a notice, additional time to speak for Councillor, reconsider, suspend PBL	none	extend curfew, reconsideration, rescind motion or by- law	none
<b>Requirements to Amend PBL</b>	shall not be amended or repealed except by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members present, but no such amendment or repeal may be considered at any meeting of Council unless notice of the proposed amendment or repeal has been given at a previous regular meeting of Council. The requirement to give notice shall not be waived.	Provided notice has been given, rules may be amended or repealed by a majority vote of the Members of Council present at a regular Council meeting.	silent	no amendment or repeal of this By-law or any part thereof shall be considered at any meeting of the Council unless the amendment or repeal has been previously considered and recommended by a Committee of the Council and the waiving of such prior consideration and recommendation is prohibited.	Shall not be amended except by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members present, but no such amendment may be considered at any Meeting of Council unless notice of the proposed amendment has been given at a previous regular Meeting of Council. The requirement to give notice shall not be waived.	2/3 vote, notice must have been given at previous meeting	notice given at previous meeting, majority of all members present at that meeting vote therefor	give notice, majority of members	silent	silent	notice given at previous meeting, requires majority vote of all members present	silent	majority vote of all Members of Council.

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Inaugural	held after LAMs have had first meeting but not later than 31 days after term commences. Morning and afternoon session, called by the Clerk following inaugural meeting of LAMs. Morning session to start at 10, chaired by Clerk, only for declarations of office and election of Chair. Afternoon meeting at 4, call to order, O' Canada, Declarations of oaths, invocation, inaugural address, resolution to receive inaugural address, confirming by-law.	the place, date and time of the Inaugural meeting is determined by the Mayor-Elect; public notice 7 days in advance, content determined by Mayor-Elect and Clerk, first order of business is declaration of office	held first Monday in December after election at 7:00 p.m.	held first Monday in December after election at 7:00 p.m, Mayor Elect, CAO, Clerk responsible for content and format of the agenda and all arrangements	Silent	must be held 5 days after new Council takes power, time and location set by Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor filled by by-law, appointment of Chair and Vice Chair of COTW	first Monday of the term for which Council is elected, 6:30 p.m., Mayor-Elect and Clerk determine location, content and format of agenda and programme	first Monday in December following a regular election at 6:30 p.m. Mayor-Elect and Clerk responsible for content and format of the agenda and all arrangements. Approve Deputy Mayor rotation	7:00 p.m. on first Monday of term in place large enough and accessible to allow the public to attend, appoint Deputy Mayor	after a regular election shall be held on the first Tuesday in December at 6:30 p.m. at a location to be fixed by the Clerk. Mayor-elect, CAO and Clerk responsible for content and format of the agenda and arrangements for proceedings	first Tuesday in December at 7:00 p.m., opening ceremonies shall be as determined by the Clerk	first Monday in December at 7:00 p.m.	shall be held not later than thirty-one (31) days after the term of the newly elected Council commences at a time and at a place as directed by the Mayor of the newly elected Council. Opening ceremonies as determined by the Mayor