

Legislative Framework during COVID-19

Background

- **March 16, 2020** - All city facilities, including city hall, were closed to the public. It was determined that all meetings during a three-week period would be cancelled including the regularly scheduled March City Council meeting.
- **March 19, 2020** - Ontario legislature passed Bill 187, the *Municipal Emergency Act, 2020*, to enable municipalities, during a declared emergency, the ability to allow for virtual participation, and to conduct council meetings electronically with members who participate remotely being counted for the purpose of quorum.
- **March 21, 2020** - Mayor Meed Ward declared an emergency in the City of Burlington under section 4 of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*.
- **March 24, 2020** - Special Council meeting held to enact necessary Procedure By-law amendments to allow remote participation. A meeting guide was posted to the city's website which provides additional information on how virtual meetings will occur.
- **April 6, 2020** - First standing committee meeting with remote participation and first time in closed session. Items for April standing committees were streamlined to ensure only essential or time sensitive items were brought forward. After the review, it was determined there was only enough items for one standing committee meeting for the month of April.
- **April 20, 2020** Legislative Framework Report provided to Council. Potential Amendments to allow for delegations, and to bring back a form of Committee of the Whole to effectively manage city business.

Agenda Management

- Clerks staff will submit a monthly report Council providing an update on monthly report projections.
- Items not brought forward will have an anticipated date of when it will be presented.
- If there are specific COVID-19 reasons why a report cannot be provided, rationale will be provided.

Delegations

- Staff are recommending an amendment to allow for delegations at Standing Committees and Council.
- Delegates must submit a request through the online request form or an email to clerks@Burlington.ca
- Residents can connect to the system via phone or using computer audio.

Delegations

- Intended speaking notes must be submitted in advance, in the event that there are connection issues.
- Staff are working on an internal process for how delegation requests are handled and vetted.
- Staff are working on a process to support Statutory Public Meetings. Once this is determined a by-law amendment will be presented to Council.

Committee of the Whole

- Recommended to allow for flexibility in agenda management planning.
- Creates a body that may deal with items that do not fit under any of the current standing committee mandates.