

February 14, 2026

Subject: Agenda Item 22.2, 07-2026: A By-law to amend By-law 59-2024, As amended to provide for changes to speaking times in Sections 49.12 and 49.3

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I am writing with respect to Agenda Item 22, Motion to Approve By-laws, and in particular Item 22.2, By-law 07-2026, being a by-law to amend By-law 59-2024, as amended, to provide for changes to speaking times in Sections 49.12 and 49.3.

Notwithstanding the definition of “majority” in By-law 59-2024, Section 1.15, which states, “*majority for the purpose of voting means more than half of the total of members present and not prohibited by statute from voting, the proposed amendment raises broader procedural considerations.*”

The term “*two-thirds*” appears at least eleven times throughout the procedural by-law. In some instances, the language refers to “two-thirds of the members present,” while in others it refers to “two-thirds of members of Council,” “two-thirds (5 members),” “consent of,” or “approval of,” sometimes within the context of a defined vote and at other times without explicit reference to the term “vote.”

Examples include, but are not limited to:

Section 14.3 – approval of two-thirds of members of Council

Section 33.4 – two-thirds vote of members present to adopt

Section 36.4 – successful two-thirds vote of members present to waive notice

Section 41.5(c) – overridden by a two-thirds (5 members) vote of Council

Section 49.12 – passing of a two-thirds vote

Section 52.3(c) – affirmative vote of two-thirds of members present

Section 2.5 – appeal of the Chair decided by a two-thirds vote

Section 9.1(c) – motion to suspend the rules requiring a two-thirds majority vote

Given the varying terminology - including distinctions between “members present,” “members of Council,” fixed numerical references (5 members), “consent,” “approval,” and “vote”.

I respectfully request that Council undertake a full discussion to clarify interpretation, consistency, and application of these thresholds before any vote is taken on Agenda item 22., 07-2026.

For greater certainty, procedural clarity in a governing by-law is foundational to fairness, transparency, and the lawful conduct of meetings. Ensuring consistent language and understanding across all references to supermajority requirements would strengthen confidence in Council’s decision-making framework.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I trust this matter will be addressed prior to the vote under Item 22.2.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph A. Gaetan BGS

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