

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

ENSURING THE PUNCTUAL START OF COUNCIL AND COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Recommendation

Councillor Tony Carella recommends that the City Clerk be directed to report by December 1, 2007, on options for ensuring the punctual start of council and council committee meetings, such options to include but not be limited to the implementation of a 'quorum bell'

Economic Impact

Nil

Purpose

To ensure the punctual start of all council and council committee meetings

Communication Plan

As this is a 'housekeeping' matter, a communication plan is not warranted.

Background – Analysis and Options

The achievement of quorum is the *sine qua non* for the carrying on of any business before council or any council committee (e.g., Audit, Budget, Strategic Planning). Yet from time to time the start of such meetings is delayed, because members, while present at the civic centre, are unaware that the start-time of a meeting is at hand. This may necessitate calls to the offices of absent members of council, or to their administrative assistants, in order to achieve quorum before a half hour has lapsed, and the meeting---as per the Procedural By-Law---is cancelled as inquorate. To obviate this situation, other legislative bodies employ quorum bells, to ensure that all members are aware that the time for the start of a meeting has arrived, and that their presence is required immediately. This recommendation will provide for the efficient use of the public's time.

Regional Implications

Nil

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

Punctuality is the politeness of kings (said Louis XIV), and the courtesy of councils.

Attachments

None

Report prepared by:

Councillor Tony Carella

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Carella
Councillor – Ward 2
City of Vaughan