

Subject: Selection Process for Deputy Mayor

Recommendation:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive Report #2022-0269-Clerks Selection Process for Deputy Mayor, for information;

AND THAT Council Direct staff to return to Council on December 5, 2022 to determine an option to proceed with to select a Deputy Mayor for the Town of Pelham.

Background:

On October 3, 2022 Council received a Ward Boundary and Council Composition Update and Selection Process for Deputy Mayor Report and passed the following resolution:

Moved: Councillor Stewart

Seconded: Councillor Hildebrandt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive Report #2022-0224 Ward Boundary and Council Composition Update and Selection Process for Deputy Mayor, for information;

AND THAT Council authorize and direct staff to investigate the cost of a Ward Boundary and Council Composition Report from Watson & Associates for Council's consideration within the 2023 Budget process;

AND THAT Council direct staff to include a report for the new Council's consideration at their inaugural meeting for determination of the process to appointing a Deputy Mayor at the December 5, 2022 Council meeting.

Carried

The resolution directed staff to include a report at the inaugural meeting to determine a method to select a Deputy Mayor for the Town of Pelham. The purpose

of this report is to generate discussion of options amongst elected officials. It is anticipated that Council will either make a change or maintain the status quo, and in either event that a Deputy Mayor will be appointed at the December 5, 2022 Council meeting.

Analysis:

As stated in the October 3, 2022 report, staff reached out to all municipalities within Ontario to determine how other municipalities select a Deputy Mayor. 82 responses were received and it has been determined there are three (3) methods being commonly practiced to select a Deputy Mayor, being:

Method Type	No. of Municipalities Adopting The Method
1. Elected at Large by the Electorate (By position or elected member with the most votes within the election)	42
2. Elected / Appointed by Mayor or Council	21
3. Rotation	19

The Town of Pelham historically appoints each member of Council, in alphabetical order, as Deputy Mayor for an eight (8) month term. This method is consistently being used within the Niagara Region and appears to be the third most common practice among Ontario municipalities. Having said that, the most popular approach within Ontario is having the electorate select the Deputy Mayor, either by position or by appointing whichever elected official receives the most votes (options 1 or 2 above).

Whatever methodology appeals most to Council, this topic and process will be reviewed in an upcoming 2023 report that will be commissioned from Watson and Associates. That report will address both Ward Boundaries and Council Composition. Accordingly, changes, if any, to the manner of choosing the Deputy Mayor are likely to only apply during this term of Council.

The following options are viable approaches for this Council should it be desirable to change the mechanism for selecting the Deputy Mayor:

Option 1

Continue with status quo. Council for the Town of Pelham adopts a Deputy Mayor By-Law at the start of the term. This by-law appoints each member of Council, in alphabetical order, as Deputy Mayor for an eight (8) month term.

Option 2

Council elects the Deputy Mayor at the next meeting of Council being December 5, 2022 as Deputy Mayor for a one (1) year term. This allows for the possibility that a member of Council may be selected and elected multiple times. This option allows for the possibility of up to four (4) Councillors to hold the appointment of Deputy Mayor.

Option 3

Council elect the Deputy Mayor at the next meeting of Council being December 5, 2022, bi-annually, a Deputy Mayor for a two (2) year term. A member of Council may be selected and elected multiple times. This option allows for the possibility of up to two (2) ward Councillors to hold the position of Deputy Mayor.

Option 4

Council elects the Deputy Mayor for the full, four (4) year term at the next meeting of Council being December 5, 2022.

Staff Recommendation

While examples of all four options can be found in Ontario, staff believe that Options 2 or 3 would best serve the Town's present and future governance needs. From a corporate perspective, the Town administration has benefited greatly from increased emphasis upon succession planning. It goes to follow that an equivalent process in the political realm could be equally beneficial.

At present, Pelham's Deputy Mayor has no specific powers, no elevated status, no special or additional compensation and a very limited function. While those topics are not the focus of this report, they are theoretical options. Importantly, the position of Deputy Mayor can be more than merely ceremonial; it can also be a training ground for future heads of council. Any option which allows for multiple persons with leadership aspirations to gain experience in the role strengthens the potential training and talent pool of community leaders, which in the long-term should support continued excellence in municipal leadership for the community.

Financial Considerations:

There are no financial impacts associated with options 1-4 listed above with respect to selecting a Deputy Mayor.

Alternatives Reviewed:

See options 1 and 4 listed above.

Strategic Plan Relationship: Strong Organization

Reviewing the method of selecting a Deputy Mayor leads to a strong organization by ensuring the Town of Pelham has strong leadership while encouraging succession planning.

Consultation:

Various Ontario Municipalities and the Senior Leadership Team.

Other Pertinent Reports/Attachments:

Ward Boundary and Council Composition Update and Selection Process for Deputy Mayor Report

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