

From: ["Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)

Date: 2/22/2022 1:55:13 PM

Subject: Council Memo - Standing to speak at Council meetings - RTS 14804 and 14805

Attachments: Standing at Council - Memo to Mayor Council - 2022.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please find attached a memo from the City Clerk in regards to the member motion passed on November 16, 2021, which directed staff to:

- Prepare an amendment of the Procedure By-law so that rising to speak at Council meetings be optional; and
- Report back by end of Q1 2022 on the history requiring members to rise to speak at Council meetings.

The Procedure By-law amendment will be included in the list of by-laws for Council's consideration at the March 1, 2022 Council meeting.

Please contact Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk, at Katrina.leckovic@vancouver.ca with questions in relation to the memo.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

MEMORANDUM

February 22, 2022

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Maria Pontikis, Chief Communications Officer, CEC
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office
Rosemary Hagiwara, Deputy City Clerk
Tina Penney, Deputy City Clerk

FROM: Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk

SUBJECT: Updating the requirement for members of Council to rise to speak at Council meetings

RTS #: RTS 14804 and 14805

Background

At the Council meeting on November 16, 2021, Council passed the following motion:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to prepare a suitable amendment to the City's *Procedure By-Law* No. 12577 to the effect that rising to speak at regular Council meetings shall be optional and at the discretion and preference of individual members of Council;

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to report back by the end of Q1 of 2022 on the specific history, circumstances, and reasons whereby members of Council have been – and are currently – required to rise in order to speak at regular Council meetings, with the intent being to document this information as a matter of civic historical and cultural interest.

This memo provides an update and response to this motion.

Procedure By-law Amendment

The first paragraph of the motion directs staff to prepare an amendment to the *Procedure By-law* to provide that rising to speak at Council meetings be optional. The by-law amendment will be included in the list of by-laws for Council's consideration at the March 1, 2022, Council meeting. The proposed language strikes section 6.2 which currently reads:

Speaking

6.2 When questioning or speaking, a Council member must:

- (a) rise unless a disability prevents the Council member from doing so;
- (b) wait for recognition from the Chair;
- (c) only address the Chair; and
- (d) only speak to those matters referred to in and permitted by this by-law.

and replaces it with:

Speaking

6.2 When questioning or speaking, a Council member:

- (a) may rise if the Council member chooses to do so;
- (b) must wait for recognition from the Chair;
- (c) must only address the Chair; and
- (d) must only speak to those matters referred to in and permitted by this by-law.

History of rising to speak at Council meetings

This section of the memo is in response to the second paragraph of the motion which directed staff to report back by the end of Q1 of 2022 on the specific history, circumstances, and reasons whereby members of Council have been – and are currently – required to rise in order to speak at Council meetings, with the intent being to document this information as a matter of civic historical and cultural interest.

City of Vancouver Archives staff reviewed a number of Council Procedure By-laws including By-law 32 (1887), By-law 516 (1905), By-law 2439 (1937), By-law 3792 (1959), By-law 7253 (1993), By-law 8554 (2002), By-law 9756 (2008) and By-law 12577 (2019). The first Procedure By-law 32 (1887), states “Every member previous to his speaking to any questions, or motion shall rise from his seat and shall address himself to the Mayor or other Presiding Officer.” Council members have been rising to speak at Council meetings since the very beginning. This direction carries through all subsequent revisions of the Procedure By-laws.

By-law 9756 (2008) is the first Procedure By-law that mentions Council members do not need to rise to speak at a Standing Committee meeting (Section 13.4 of Section 13: Standing, select, and Council Committee procedures). By-law 9756 (2008) was amended by By-law 12577 (2019) and retained the direction that a Councillor does not need to rise to speak at a Committee meeting (Section 5.7 and 5.12). This provision has not been affected by subsequent amendments to By-law # 12577.

Please contact me should you have any questions related to the content of this memo.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Leckovic', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Katrina Leckovic
City Clerk

604.873.7998 | katrina.leckovic@vancouver.ca