

Request for Decision United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria Council

| Type of Decision | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--|----|-----------------|-----------------------|------|--|--------|
| Meeting Date | Friday, January 30, 2015 | | | | Report Date | Monday, January-26-15 | | | |
| Decision Required | X | Yes | | No | Priority | X | High | | Low |
| Direction | X | Information Only | | | Type of Meeting | X | Open | | Closed |

Review of Procedure By-law - Report #30/01/15/1202

Subject:

A review of the municipal Procedure By-Law.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council review the Procedure By-law making suggestions to staff to implement to provide an amended document for approval at a subsequent meeting.

WHEREAS Council and staff have reviewed and provided recommendations for amendment to the Procedure By-law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby direct staff to implement the suggested amendments to be incorporated into a document to be provided at a subsequent meeting for Council final approval.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Review of policies and by-laws of Council should occur at regular intervals and especially with a new Term of Council. The Procedure By-law is one of the legislated policies required by each Council which establishes rules governing the proceedings of Council, the calling of meetings and the conduct of members at those meetings.

General Notice Provisions

Under the Municipal Notice By-law - Procedure By-law there is no statutory requirement for Notice. However, previous Council has decided that Notice of intent to pass the Procedure By-law (or make modifications) is to be posted on the municipality’s website at least 14 days prior to the passing of the by-law. Any recommendations made at today’s meeting will therefore be presented at a subsequent meeting for approval pending appropriate notice being provided.

Moment of Silence

Councillor Foote questioned the moment of silence at the beginning of municipal council meetings. It was explained that originally the Lord's Prayer was said but at the request of a member of Council, previous Council had agreed to remove it and allow a moment of silence so that those who wished to say a prayer, petition, blessing, appeal, entreaty – whatever you call it could do so privately.

Other

A list of other corrections or amendments (housekeeping) will be provided at the meeting for discussion and direction for preparation of a final copy.

Options/Discussion:

1. One item for consideration is the format of the Agenda and whether or not to include a moment of silence as noted above. You can simply Google – prayer, Ontario, municipal council meeting and come up with a number of links... here are a couple.
 - a. <http://www.mississauga.com/opinion-story/5158935-take-prayer-off-the-agenda/>
 - b. http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2012/04/23/town_councils_opt_for_silence_instead_of_lords_prayer_while_gta_sticks_to_tradition.html
 - c. <http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/Canada/2012/07/30/20046571.html>
2. Other corrections have been made which are highlighted in the attached document. Although somewhat difficult to read – tracking the changes shows where changes have been made. Explanation will be provided at the meeting if required.

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact:

Policy Impact:

Others Consulted:

County Municipalities through Mayor Gibson who took a survey of their practices.

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk