

MUNICIPALITY OF CLARINGTON

GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEES MEETING

RESOLUTION #

DATE: February 5, 2024

MOVED BY Mayor Foster

SECONDED BY Councillor

That the Municipal Clerk be directed to prepare a report for possible wording changes to the Procedural By-law, as follows:

1. Require all requests for delegations to be accompanied by a written submission, to be included in the Agenda, outlining their subject, their address, their reason for delegating, their desired action requested of Council, and any supporting documentation.

I would agree with this if every presentation had the same rules and the same timeframes to prepare. But this doesn't appear to be the case, as other presentations don't seem to have the same requirements. So other presenters get weeks to prepare...citizens frequently have a few days...is that fair? Of course not. Is council here to make councils job easier or to hear citizens concerns/opinions? Is this so council can ignore the presentation from citizens (having had it in digested format already)?

2. For matters which are more properly within the responsibility of staff, the Clerk shall notify the proposed delegate that the delegation shall not be listed on the agenda and shall direct the proposed delegate to the appropriate department. The delegation shall not be listed on an agenda until staff has had the opportunity to address the matter.

Seems reasonable. The problem is that by the time the staff review is complete the issue may have already been decided on. Will the decision on the issue be delayed until staff have completed their work?

3. Not allow delegations who are there for the sole purpose of generating publicity for an event. **Who decides this and how? What are the rules.**

4. Not allow candidates, or nominees, for a political party. **Why not? Explanation needed.**

5. Regarding decorum, add the following clause as follows:

a. "No person shall make detrimental comments, or speak ill of, or malign the integrity of staff, the public or Council and Committee."

I can agree with this for staff and the public. But, elected council and committee members, are fair game. Don't run for office if you can't take the heat from public opinion. Frequently these comments, while not voiced politely, are insightful and accurate. And must not be banned.

b. Members of the public shall be respectful of Council, staff, delegations and all attendees at the meeting by refraining from public outbursts, heckling, shouting, making comments, or behaviour intended to disrupt the debate, discussion and/or general

proceedings..... **gee, we wouldn't want to hurt anyone's feelings... has anyone ever sat in parliament? See previous comment above. Are we now going to have armed people in attendance to enforce this? Slippery slope.**

c. Attendees shall not engage in conversations, display placards or props. **What is the reasoning? How does this affect the meeting? Maybe tie people to chairs and gag them...God forbid anyone should speak out of turn....this sounds like a public school!**

6. Change the time limit for delegations from ten minutes to five minutes, with a single extension of two minutes (as the exception only) by majority vote. Should there be more than one individual that registers to speak as a group, the group shall be allotted up to ten minutes to delegate

This council and mayor already have a reputation of being very difficult for the people to communicate with. This is just another attempt to silence the citizens of Clarington from effectively voicing their concerns. Each member of a group should be allowed the fully allotted time to speak....many will have different/expanded views and should be heard. 5 minutes! I wonder if the mayor could get his points across on a complicated topic in 5 minutes? He hasn't shown this skill in the past. Why would anyone expect ordinary citizens to be that skilled as orators? This is heavy handed and petty... I know we are moving away from a democracy in this province, but at least let the people speak ...it is still our democratic right!

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