



Councillor Blog November 2022

Welcome back fellow residents of White City, and those reading from the surrounding area, for the November 2022 edition of the White City Councillor Blog. This month's blog will be focused on the Town of White City's Committee and Council Meeting structure.

The Town of White City conducts its business through a committee structure. There is one main committee of White City Town Council (Council): the Committee of the Whole. The purpose of the Committee of the Whole (the committee) is to be the primary forum for policy debate and public input on items within Council's area of responsibility. Once the committee has considered information from town staff and advisory groups, a recommended course of action is prepared for Council to consider. The recommendation is forwarded to all of Council for an official decision at a regular or special Council meeting.

This structure was adopted in early 2022 by Council. This new structure was established to address some significant issues with the former Services Committee structure. The goal of the former Services Committee structure was to establish an effective committee structure, rather than an ad-hoc structure, to ensure decision-making was transparent, efficient, participatory and responsive. In late 2018 a revised Council committee structure was adopted to begin in 2019.

After utilizing the Services Committee structure for three-years, significant issues were identified, specifically:

- as only a portion of the Council was part of each Service Committee, there was significant redundancy and repetition in the review, discussion and presentation of Council decision items;
- items referred back to committee or administration for revision or further review would not be revisited again for six to eight weeks due to the meeting schedule of committees;
- the scope of committees and ongoing work of the municipality resulted in some committees with a more significant workload than others; and
- information flow was not consistent between committee and Council.

Upcoming Meetings

Committee of the Whole

November 1, 2022 at 4:00PM

November 14, 2022 at 7:00PM

November 28, 2022 at 5:30 PM

December 12, 2022 at 4:00 PM

Regular Council Meeting

November 1, 2022 at 7:00PM

November 28, 2022 at 7:00 PM

December 12, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Meetings are open to public and held at:

White City Council Chambers

14 Ramm Avenue E

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To address these issues and create more governance efficiency, the Committee of the Whole structure was adopted. Under this new structure, the committee is comprised of all members of Council and serves to:

- be the primary forum for all policy debate on items within Council’s area of responsibility;
- provide an opportunity for all members of Council to receive information and participate in discussion and debate that will result in final recommendations to Council;
 - allow for more opportunities for the public and Council to digest information and provide input;
- consider the financial, risk and operational impact of policies, programs and actions, and to recommend to Council the adjustments required to make the best use of the Town’s resources; and
- reduce the number of over all meetings, including reducing day-time meetings from two day-time meetings per month to one day-time meeting per month to allow more participation from the public.

Additionally, the frequency of meetings was changed – with the new wide-scope and flexibility of the Committee of the Whole it was determined that Regular Council Meetings would be held once every four-weeks and committee meetings once every two-weeks. To accommodate this change, Council delegated some routine decision-making powers to the committee to ensure timely management of municipal activities such as approval of accounts for payment, discretionary use permits, special event permits and donation, grant or sponsorship requests.

Committee of the Whole and Regular Council Meetings are open to the public – we encourage you to join us and get involved with your local government! You can attend in person at White City Council Chambers, 14 Ramm Avenue East or tune in virtually through our Zoom Live Streams (<https://whitcity.ca/pages/meeting-recordings-and-live-stream>). Questions or comments about upcoming Council items can be forwarded to our Town Clerk, Voula Colbow at vcolbow@whitcity.ca.

