

City of Mississauga  
**Corporate Report**



<p>Date: March 3, 2022</p> <p>To: Mayor and Members of Council</p>	<p>Originator's files:</p>
<p>From: Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer</p>	<p>Meeting date: March 23, 2022</p>

## Subject

**Hybrid and Virtual Meetings for Council and Committees**

## Recommendation

1. That Council and Standing Committee meetings, except Audit Committee, remain in a hybrid format until December 31, 2022 as outlined in the Corporate Report dated March 3, 2022 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services entitled "Hybrid and Virtual Meetings for Council and Committees".
2. That Advisory Committees, Quasi-Judicial Committees and Audit Committee meetings remain in a virtual format until December 31, 2022.

## Background

On November 10, 2021, Council passed the following Resolution 0200-2021:

"That Council endorse the following recommendations contained in the report from the Commissioner of Planning and Building, dated November 1, 2021 titled "Covid-19 In-Person Public Meetings":

1. That Council and Standing Committee meetings, except Audit Committee, remain in a hybrid format until March 31, 2022.
2. That Advisory and Quasi-Judicial Committee of Council meetings continue to be held in a virtual format until March 31, 2022.
3. That staff or Councillor led community meetings continue to be held in a virtual format until March 31, 2022, unless a Councillor wishes to host a hybrid meeting.
4. That if Council chooses to enact a bylaw that requires members of the public who attend public meetings to show proof of vaccination, such meetings are to be conducted using a hybrid format with an option for members of the public to participate virtually.
5. That staff report back on the options before the March 31, 2022 date on whether to continue."

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Subsequently, Council adopted Resolution 0201-2021 to require the public to provide proof of vaccination to attend Council and Committee meetings in-person in the Council Chamber. On March 2, 2022, Council rescinded the vaccination requirement for the public.

## Comments

Throughout the pandemic, Council and Standing Committees have continued in either a virtual or hybrid version depending on the public health guidelines. Since February 14, 2022, Council and Standing Committee meetings, with the exception of the Audit Committee have resumed in a hybrid format. The hybrid format provides Members of Council, staff and the public with the option to attend and participate in-person or online (includes telephone option). This option provides greater flexibility to participate in meetings where otherwise an individual could not participate in person. It is recommended that Council and Standing Committee meetings continue in the hybrid format until the end of this year. For Audit Committee, it is recommended that it continue to meet virtually until the end of this year. The recommendations would allow time for Council to consider meeting formats for the new term of office.

Advisory and Quasi-Judicial Committees continue to operate in the virtual format. Citizen members of committees are subject to the City's Vaccination Policy for staff and volunteers. Following requests from Clerk's Office staff, the majority of volunteers have not disclosed their vaccination status. Given that this is an election year, with the exception of Heritage Advisory Committee, advisory committee meetings are not scheduled during the summer and fall months, until the new term of Council begins. It is recommended that advisory and quasi-judicial committee meetings continue in a virtual format until the end of this year, unless a Councillor or Committee Chair requests a hybrid meeting for a specific reason.

## Financial Impact

Staffing costs associated with providing technical assistance and support that is required to conduct the hybrid and virtual meetings are higher than the traditional in-person meetings.

## Conclusion

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the City has seamlessly conducted successful hybrid and virtual meetings. Hybrid meetings provide choice to individuals on how they wish to participate in meetings of Council and Standing Committees. To date, most of the public has chosen to participate online.



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Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer  
Prepared by: Sacha Smith, Manager, Legislative Services and Deputy Clerk