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London
CANADA

October 25, 2021

Chair and Members of the Corporate Services Committee
Re: Standing and Council Meeting Procedures

Colleagues –

Throughout the current COVID-19 pandemic, we have had to frequently adjust how even the simplest of tasks are completed. The conduct of our standing committee and Council meetings are no exception to this evolution. We have been able to normalize some processes, and some form of hybrid meeting is likely to be how we conduct committee business for the foreseeable future.

Based on my own experience with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and various boards and commissions, I would respectfully suggest that we formalize a policy with respect to these hybrid meetings. For example, with most other meetings staff enables their camera when they speak. This allows for a potential better “connection” with the presenter, as well as an opportunity to provide for better transparency with the public.

I would request your consideration of the following motion:

That the City Clerk BE DIRECTED to bring forward to a future meeting of the Corporate Services Committee for consideration, a draft policy with respect to the participation in hybrid electronic meetings by Council Members, staff and the public.

Respectfully,

Anna Hopkins
Councillor, Ward 9