

**From:** Marney Pollock  
**Sent:** Sun 12/1/2019 6:58 PM  
**To:** Office-Mayor Richmondhill; Greg Beros; Tom Muench; Castro Liu; Carmine Perrelli; Joe DiPaola; David West; Karen Cilevitz; Godwin Chan; Clerks Richmondhill  
**CC:** Wang, Sheila  
**Subject:** Re Item 11.20 Committee of the Whole Agenda, December 4, 2019

I am extremely disappointed in how this Council is apparently attempting to control and destroy civic engagement.

Since the beginning of this term of Council, we have had multiple pilot projects that have not only changed the times of Council meetings, but also changed the number of meetings of Council (from two to one per month), and COW (proposal to delete them entirely). FOR RESIDENTS who want to be heard inside Council Chambers, the proposed meeting times exclude the majority of the citizens of this city who work and are therefore unable to attend. Evening Council meetings grant us the rightful opportunity to directly participate in the City's civic business.

Now some Members of Council want to delete COW meetings entirely. Should that happen, when and how do you as members of Council have that fulsome discussion on agenda issues with staff and in public which would take place at COW? Who is then included in such fulsome discussions when no time is being allotted at cancelled Committee of the Whole (COW) meetings to do so? You as a Council and staff MUST have time to do that, otherwise decisions are made without everyone's necessary input, without respectful consideration of ALL points of view, including that of the public. This is undemocratic.

COW is also another opportunity for RESIDENTS to speak and present their point of view. Is it not important to get as many points of view as possible, especially that of the public's, when making decisions about serious issues that directly affect the residents?

I spoke at the November 20th meeting and two Councilors walked out while I was presenting, Councillors Perrelli and Beros. They were also absent for most of the four delegations presented on this issue. Apart from the fact that this is unquestionably insulting to us, the public, Councillors Perrelli and Beros give us the impression that they do not want to listen to the residents, yet falsely claim that they do. They also vote as part of the nine who make up our Council, vote on behalf of and for the residents. How can that vote take into account the residents' point of view when they walk out while residents are addressing Council and they have not listened to the words of their constituents? Even if they went to their offices and watched it on live-stream, they gave this resident the impression that they snubbed her, that they avoided her, and that was undeniably rude and disrespectful. I truly hope this arrogant behaviour is never repeated.

When this issue comes before COW on December 4th and again at the Council Meeting on December 18th, 2019, I hope you will LISTEN to our concerns and make a judgment in favour of the best interests of your RESIDENTS. We need our face-to-face contact with ALL of you in Council Chambers, speaking at the public podium. In fact, it is our right that we demand it. We are not weak-minded, and to quote the insulting words of

Councillor Perrelli, we are not shy, and we do NOT have thin skins. I find it hard to believe that Councillors Perrelli and Beres do listen, because nothing in the group of 5 voting patterns of this term indicate that they do.

I will give others an opportunity to speak on this issue at COW and Council Meetings this time. I've already had my say and it is the same message, see attached speech from November 20th.

Thank you.

Pat Pollock

Proud Richmond Hill resident

## **Appendix A**

### **Delegation speech for November 20, 2019 on Motion to change Council Meeting Times**

Mayor, councilors and fellow residents.

My name is Pat Pollock and I am the chairperson of the Mayvern Area Residents Association. I am representing Russell Chang as proxy since he needs to be at work. He is the chairperson of the Bay Mill Residents group. I am speaking on behalf of not only Russel Chang's group but also my own.

There is a small delegation here today because many of our fellow residents also could not attend to speak on this important matter because of work.

This motion does NOT take RESIDENTS into consideration.

- a) Meeting times during the day do not allow RESIDENTS WHO WORK a time to voice their concerns on the issues at regular Council Meetings and Committee of the Whole Meetings.
- b) In the past, Council and Committee of the Whole meetings have been held in the evenings. It is only since the inception of this council that Meeting times have changed. Why has this occurred? What is the rational? If having staff required to come to evening meetings is a concern, then give them time off in lieu of the time spent at meetings.
- c) You as a Council, encourage RESIDENTS to engage, participate in Council Meetings to voice their concerns and even do so through written policy but this motion does not reflect that policy.

**In Richmond Hill's Strategic Plan, it is stated,**

**Engaging the community means seeking out the views of people who might not otherwise participate. It also means listening, so we can work together to bring about the change our community wants to see.**

This can only happen when residents are available to attend meetings, the vast majority of the population of Richmond Hill work during the day and cannot participate in person.

- d) You as a council say residents have other means such as letter or emails to voice their concerns. I have done that but have had very little response nor recognition for voicing my concerns from you. For all of the letters/emails I have sent in, I have had one phone call from Councillor Muench, one meeting with Councillor Perrelli, one email from Mayor Barrow, multiple emails from Councillors West and Cilevitz. No responses from Councillors Beros, Liu, DiPaola, nor Chan. Does that mean you don't read emails? Does that mean you do not care? At the very least, you could acknowledge the receipt of an email from a resident of Richmond Hill. Because the majority of you do not respond to emails, we need to have face-to-face time at council to voice our concerns.

e) To give RESIDENTS the best chance to voice their concerns, meetings need to be held in the evenings. I hope you will consider an amendment to this motion so that residents who wish to participate in Council Meetings can attend in the evenings when they do not work.

Thank You.

## **Appendix B**

### **MEMBER MOTION**

Section 5.4.4(b) of Procedure By-law

Meeting: Committee of the Whole Council X

Meeting Date: November 20, 2019

Subject/Title: Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting Times

Submitted by: Regional and Local Councillor DiPaola

Whereas Council has previously approved pilot projects to test different meeting dates and times; and

Whereas in the Spring 2019, Committee of the Whole and Council meetings were held on alternating Tuesday's beginning at 1:00 p.m.; and

Whereas in the and Fall 2019 Committee of the Whole meetings were held on the 1st Wednesday of each month beginning at 9:30 a.m., and Council meetings were held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month beginning at 9:30 a.m.; and

Whereas having meetings on Wednesday starting at 9:30 a.m. has worked well, but more than one Council meeting is needed in most months; and

Whereas it would be beneficial to establish the regular meeting times for the remainder of the Term of Council.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Procedure By-law #74-12 be amended with the following changes:

1. Committee of Whole meetings will normally be scheduled for the first and third Wednesday of each month beginning at 9:30 a.m.
2. Council meetings will normally be scheduled for the second and fourth Wednesday of each month beginning at 9:30 a.m.
3. The practice of holding only one Committee of the Whole and one Council meeting in January, July and December be continued.
4. That the practice of adjusting the meeting schedule to accommodate March Break and significant religious holidays be continued.
5. That the times for delegation registration and submission of correspondence be changed to 12:00 p.m. on the day prior to a meeting.

Be it further resolved that staff place the necessary amending by-law on a future Council agenda for enactment