| N/ARKHAM | Council Vacancy Policy |  |  |
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|  | Policy Category: Governance |  |  |
|  | Policy No.: |  | Implementing Procedure No.: |
| Council |  | Effective Date: |  |
| Approved or Last Reviewed Date: |  | Next Review Year: |  |
| Area(s) this policy applies to: Markham Council |  | Owner Department: Legislative Services |  |
| Related Policy(ies): |  |  |  |

Note: Questions about this policy should be directed to the Owner Department.

## 1. Purpose Statement (Outline why the organization is issuing the policy and its desired effect or outcome of the policy)

The purpose of this policy is to provide for an accountable and transparent process for filling any Vacancy that occurs on Council.

## 2. Applicability and Scope Statement (Who and what this policy applies to and/or affects)

This policy applies to any Vacancy on Council during the term of Council.

## 3. Background (Indicate any reasons, history, and intent that led to the creation of the policy)

In accordance with the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25, when the seat of a Member of Council becomes Vacant, City Council is required to declare the seat vacant and determine if the seat will be filled by Byelection or Appointment. A Vacancy can occur on Council in several different ways, including the death or resignation of a Member, or when a Member becomes disqualified from holding office.

Council, to ensure an accountable and transparent process for filling any Vacancy, has directed that a policy be adopted to provide a clear understanding of the decision making process when a Vacancy occurs.
4. Definitions (If applicable, define any terminology or interpret meanings of a general term)

In this policy and any associated procedures:
"Act" means the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended.

> "Appointment" means the process of Council appointing a qualified individual to fill a Vacancy for the remainder of the current Council term.
"By-election" means an election held to fill any Vacancy, conducted in accordance with the provisions of Section 65 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended.
"Clerk" means the City Clerk appointed by Council under the Act, or his or her designate.
"Council" means the City of Markham Council.
"Regular Election Year" means the year established for a regular municipal election in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended.
"Vacancy" means when a seat on Council is vacant in accordance with Section 259 of the Act, and "Vacant" has a corresponding meaning.
5. Policy Statements (Detail the specific regulations, requirements, or modifications to organizational behaviour to be addressed by this policy)

## 1. Principles

The City of Markham is committed to an open, accountable and transparent government. Council, when exercising its responsibility under the Act to fill a Vacancy, shall observe the following principles:
1.1 Council will elect to fill a Vacancy by By-election when that By-election can be held prior to December 31 in the year immediately preceding a Regular Election Year; or,
1.2 Council will elect to fill a Vacancy by Appointment, when a By-election to fill a Vacancy cannot be held prior to December 31 in the year immediately preceding a Regular Election Year.
2. The last day on which a Vacancy can occur for the calling of a By-election

A By-election to fill a Vacancy can be held prior to December 31 in the year immediately preceding a Regular Election Year only if the Vacancy occurs:
2.1 In the case of the office of the Mayor or Regional Councillor, on or before March 31 in the year immediately prior to a Regular Election Year; or,
2.2 In the case of the office of a local Ward Councillor, on or before June 30 in the year immediately prior to a Regular Election Year.

## 3. Alternate Appointment to the Regional Council

In accordance with Section 267(2) of the Act, if a Vacancy occurs in the office of the Mayor or Regional Council and that Vacancy will not be filled for a period exceeding one month, Council may appoint one
of the Ward Councillors as an alternate member of the Regional Council until the Vacancy is permanently filled under the provisions of the Act and this policy.

## 4. By-election Process

The following process shall be followed when a Vacancy is to be filled by By-election:

### 4.1 Declaring a Vacancy:

In accordance with Section 262(1) of the Act, Council shall declare a Vacancy:
a) In the case of the death of a Member of Council, at the one of the next two meetings of Council; or,
b) In any other case, at its next meeting.

### 4.2 By-law for calling a By-election

In accordance with Section 263(5) of the Act, Council shall pass a by-law calling for a by-election within 60 days of declaring a Vacancy. To afford the Clerk sufficient time to prepare for a Byelection, a by-law calling for a By-election shall be placed on a Council agenda:
c) No earlier than the $50^{\text {th }}$ day after a Vacancy is declared in the case of a Vacancy in the Office of the Mayor or Regional Councillor; or,
d) No earlier than the $30^{\text {th }}$ day after a Vacancy is declared in the case of a Vacancy in the Office of Ward Councillor.

If a Vacancy occurs during the summer recess of Council, the Clerk may reduce the period of time for the placing of a By-law on a Council Agenda provided that the Clerk is satisfied that the City is adequately prepared to hold the by-election in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.

### 4.3 Nomination Day

In accordance with Section 65(4)(1)(i) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, the Clerk shall fix Nomination day to be a day not more that 60 days after the City passes a By-law calling for a byelection.

### 4.4 Voting Day

In accordance Section 65(4)(3) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, Voting Day for a By-election shall be 45 days after Nomination Day.

## 5. Appointment Process

In accordance with Section 263(5)(1)(i) of the Act, if a Vacancy is to be filled by Appointment the Vacancy shall be filled within 60 days of declaring the Vacancy. Council shall declare by resolution its preferred Appointment process at the meeting where the Vacancy is declared or at its next meeting.

The following process shall be observed when filling a Vacancy by Appointment:

### 5.1 Vacancy in the office of Mayor

If a Vacancy in the office of Mayor is to be filled by Appointment, Council may choose to fill the Vacancy by appointing:
a) a current Member of Council;
b) an unsuccessful candidate for the same office in the most recent regular election; or,
c) any other qualified individual.

### 5.2 Vacancy in the office of Regional Councillor

If a Vacancy in the office of Regional Councillor is to be filled by Appointment, Council may choose to fill the Vacancy by appointing:
a) a current Ward Councillor;
b) an unsuccessful candidate for the same office in the most recent regular election; or,
d) any other qualified individual.

### 5.3 Vacancy in the office of Ward Councillor

If a Vacancy in the office of Ward Councillor is to be filled by Appointment, Council may choose to fill the Vacancy by appointing:
a) an unsuccessful candidate for the same office in the most recent regular election; or,
e) any other qualified individual.

### 5.4 Appointment of current Members of Council to fill a Vacancy

If Council chooses to fill a Vacancy in accordance with either Sections 6.1(a) or 6.2(a) of this Policy, the Appointment process shall generally be in accordance with the "Procedure to Appoint a Member of Council to fill a Vacancy" attached as Appendix "A" to this policy. Council may make amendments to this procedure as required and necessary, or as recommended by the Clerk.

### 5.5 Appointment of a previous candidate to fill a Vacancy

If Council chooses to fill a Vacancy in accordance with either Sections 6.1(b), 6.2(b) or 6.3(a) of this Policy, the Appointment process shall generally be in accordance with the "Procedure to Appoint a Previous Candidate to fill a Vacancy" attached as Appendix "B" to this policy. Council may make amendments to this procedure as required and necessary, or as recommended by the Clerk.

### 5.6 Appointment of any other qualified individual to fill a Vacancy

If Council chooses to fill a Vacancy in accordance with either Sections 6.1(c), 6.2(c) or 6.3(b) of this Policy, the Appointment process shall generally be in accordance with the "Procedure to Appoint an Eligible Voter to fill a Vacancy" attached as Appendix " C " to this policy. Council may make amendments to this procedure as required and necessary, or as recommended by the Clerk.

Council Vacancy Policy
Policy No.:
Implementing Procedure No.:

## 6. Limitations

Nothing in this Policy shall be interpreted as denying Council it's authority to do anything permitted or required under the Act.
6. Roles and Responsibilities (Outline roles and responsibilities of those involved in the implementation of the policy)

Council is responsible for the enactment and enforcement of this policy as well as complying with the policy.
The Clerk is responsible for the administration and interpretation of this policy, including advising Council on its application.

Appendix " A "<br>Procedure to Appoint a Member of Council to fill a Vacancy

The following procedure will be used when appointing a current Member of Council to fill a Vacancy:

## A. Definitions:

In this procedure:
"Chair" means the Member of Council presiding at the Council Appointment Meeting
"Container" means any box prepared by the Clerk to be used in the drawing of the names of individual Nominees as required in these procedures.
"Council Appointment Meeting" means the regular or Special Council Meeting where Council will appoint someone to fill a Vacancy.
"Slate of Nominees" means a list of all the individual candidates, who have been nominated in accordance with this procedure, for Appointment to fill a Vacancy, and "Nominee(s)" shall mean an individual whose name appears on the Slate of Nominees.

## B. General

1. The Appointment of a current Member of Council to fill a Vacancy in any another office on Council shall take place at a regular meeting of Council, or a Special Meeting of Council called for such purposes, within 60 days of declaring a Vacancy.
2. Only a Member of Council elected for the term in which the Appointment is taking place will be considered eligible for appointment.
3. At the Council Appointment Meeting, the Chair will advise that Council has declared a seat vacant in accordance with the Municipal Act, 2001 and resolved to fill the vacancy by Appointment of another Member of Council. He will then provide a general overview of how the Appointment process will be conducted.
C. Nomination Process
4. A Member of Council does not need to be present at a Council Appointment Meeting to be nominated. Any Member of Council that will be absent from a Council Appointment Meeting who wishes to be nominated shall submit to the Clerk, a minimum of two (2) days prior to the Council Appointment Meeting, a signed letter consenting to their nomination. If the letter has not been provided to the Clerk, the Member of Council will not be permitted to be nominated. Members of Council absent from the meeting, but duly nominated, will not be permitted to provide written submissions to the meeting,

Council Vacancy Policy
Policy No.:
Implementing Procedure No.:
appoint a representative to speak on their behalf, withdraw their nomination, or participate remotely by any means. The Clerk will provide a copy of any letter received to the Chair who will read aloud the names.
5. The Chair will request that any Member of Council interested in being nominated to indicate their interest by raising his or her hand.
6. The Chair will call three times for additional expressions of interest. Hearing none, the Chair will request a motion to close the nominations.
7. Once the nominations are closed, the Chair will read aloud all the names of the Members of Council who have indicated their interest. The Chair will request a motion to adopt the names as a Slate of Nominees.
8. Nominee(s) will be offered a maximum of five (5) minutes each, with no extension, to speak prior to the first round of voting. The order of speakers will be drawn by the Clerk from a box containing the names of all the Nominees.

## D. Acclamation Procedure

9. If the Slate of Nominees includes only one (1) Nominee, the Clerk will declare that Nominee elected and a resolution or by-law will be prepared and submitted to Council for enactment.

## E. Voting Procedure

10. If the Slate of Nominees includes more than one (1) Nominee, rounds of voting will be conducted as follows:
a) The Clerk will provide Members of Council a voting card on which to indicate their choice of Nominee in writing.
b) The Clerk will read out the names of all the Nominees alphabetically by surname.
c) Each Member of Council is entitled to vote for one (1) Nominee in each round of voting.
d) Once a voting card has been displayed by a Member of Council no changes shall be permitted.
e) The Clerk will ask Members of Council to vote by displaying their voting card with choice of Nominee clearly written on it. Members of Council will display the card at the same time and in a manner that is clearly visible to the Clerk.
f) The Clerk will record the votes and announce how each Member of Council has voted and the results at the end of each round of voting.
11. If at the end of any round of voting, a Nominee receives the votes of more than one-half of the Members of Council present, the Clerk will declare the Nominee to be elected and a resolution or bylaw will be prepared and submitted to Council for enactment.
12. Rounds of voting shall continue until a Nominee has received more than one-half of the votes of the Members of Council present, or until a tie is broken in accordance with section 13(f)(ii) of this procedure.
13. Where a round of voting does not result in a Nominee receiving more than one-half of the votes of the Members of Council present:
a) The Nominee with the fewest number of votes will be automatically excluded from the Slate of Nominees in the next round of voting.

Example: in a contest with four (4) Nominees and 12 Members of Council present, a Nominee will need a minimum of 7 votes to be Appointed:

Nominee A - 5 votes
Nominee B - 3 votes
Nominee C-3 votes
Nominee D-1 vote
In the above scenario, as no majority vote was achieved, Nominee D is eliminated from further voting, and another round of voting will occur.
b) In any round of voting, one (1) vote shall be considered the lowest number of possible votes. Where Nominees receive zero (0) votes, they will be automatically excluded from the Slate of Nominees in the next round of voting.
c) If a tie exists between two or more Nominees for the fewest number of votes received, the Clerk will draw all but one (1) Nominee's name from a container to continue in the subsequent round of voting. The name of the Nominee not pulled by the Clerk will be excluded from the Slate of Nominees in the next round of voting.
d) The Clerk will ask if any Nominee present in person wishes to withdraw their name from the Slate of Nominees for the next round of voting.
e) The Clerk will conduct another round of voting with a revised Slate of Nominees in accordance with Section 10 of the procedure.

## Equal Votes for all Nominees

f) Where after rounds of voting, the votes cast are equal for all the Nominees the following procedure will be observed:
i. If there are three (3) or more Nominees remaining, the Clerk will draw all but one Nominee's name from the container to continue in the Slate of Nominees. In other words, the nominee not pulled by the Clerk is eliminated from the contest.
ii. If only two (2) Nominees remain, the Clerk will break the tie by pulling the name of the successful Nominee from the container. The Nominee whose name is pulled by the Clerk

Council Vacancy Policy
Policy No.:
Implementing Procedure No.:
will be declared elected and a resolution or by-law will be prepared and submitted to Council for enactment.

## General Voting Rules

g) Each of the pieces of paper used by the Clerk to draw the names of Nominees in accordance with the requirement of Sections $8,13(\mathrm{c})$, or $13(\mathrm{f})$ of this procedure will be created by the Clerk and will be equal in size and type and will contain the name of one Nominee only.
h) Only the Clerk or the Clerk's designates may handle the pieces of paper or Container referenced in this procedure.

Implementing Procedure No.:

## Appendix "B" <br> Procedure to Appoint a Former Candidate to fill a Vacancy

The following procedure will be followed by Council when appointing a former Candidate to fill a Vacancy:
A. Definitions:

In this procedure:
"Candidate" means any person who was nominated in the most recent regular municipal election for election to the office that has been declared Vacant, provided that the nomination was certified by the Clerk in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, and further provided that they are still qualified under the Act or the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, to hold the office.
"Chair" means the Member of Council presiding at the Council Appointment Meeting
"Council Appointment Meeting" means the regular or Special Council Meeting where Council will appoint someone to fill a Vacancy.
B. General

1. Council may decide by resolution to fill a Vacancy by Appointment of a Candidate.
2. To be considered for Appointment, a Candidate must meet all the requirements to hold the Vacant office, and must not otherwise be disqualified from holding that office.
3. It is the Candidate's sole responsibility to meet any deadline or otherwise comply with any requirement established by Council or the Clerk as part of the Appointment process.
C. Method of Selection of Candidate to fill a Vacancy
4. Council may decide by resolution, on or before the Council Appointment Meeting, how the Appointment process shall be conducted. Council may:
a) Choose to appoint the Candidate which received the most number of votes in the previous municipal election; or,
b) Any other selection process that Council decides to enact.
D. Notice Process
5. Notice of Council's decision to appoint a Candidate shall be provided as follows:
c) Notice of the Vacancy shall be posted by the Clerk on the City's website and in local newspaper(s); and,
d) Notice will also be provided to the last known address of a Candidate.
6. The notices will identify Council's intention to appoint an eligible Candidate to fill the Vacancy, and:
a) The eligibility requirements to fill the Vacancy,
b) Any requirement established by the Clerk, including but not limited to:
i. Application forms or written expressions of interest;
ii. Declarations of eligibility; and.
iii. Deadline for submissions, which shall usually be 2 weeks.

## E. Review of Applications

7. The Clerk shall examine all expressions of interest received from Candidates by the deadline to ensure the eligibility of the Candidate. At a minimum, the Clerk shall ensure that the Candidate has:
a) complied with any requirement established by Council or the Clerk;
b) was a certified Candidate for the Vacant office in the previous regular municipal election; and,
c) is eligible under the Act, the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, or any other legislation, to hold the office that has been declared Vacant.
8. The Clerk will certify a list of all Candidates who are eligible for Appointment. Candidates that do not meet the eligibility requirements will be notified in writing, and their names shall be provided to Council for Information Purposes only.
9. The Clerk shall provide Council with the certified list of Candidates eligible for Appointment, prior to the Council Appointment Meeting which shall include the Candidates name and the number of votes received by the Candidates in the previous municipal election.
10. The Clerk shall provide notice to the certified list of Candidates of the date and time for the Council Appointment Meeting. Candidates are solely responsible for attending any Council Appointment Meeting which will not be re-scheduled due to a Candidate's conflict.

## Appendix "C" <br> Procedure to Appoint an Eligible Voter to fill a Vacancy

The following procedure will be followed by Council when appointing an Eligible Voter to fill a Vacancy:

## A. Definitions:

In this procedure:
"Candidate" means an Eligible Voter who has submitted an application for appointment to the Clerk, in accordance with this procedure, and who has been certified as a Candidate by the Clerk.
"Chair" means the Member of Council presiding at the Council Appointment Meeting
"Container" means any box prepared by the Clerk to be used in the drawing of the names of individual Nominees as required in these procedures.
"Council Appointment Meeting" means the regular or Special Council Meeting where Council will appoint someone to fill a Vacancy.
"Eligible Voter" means a person who is a qualified elector in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.
"Slate of Candidates" means a list of all the individual Candidates.
"Slate of Nominees" means a list of all the individual Candidates who have been nominated in accordance with this procedure, and "Nominee(s)" shall mean an individual whose name appears on the Slate of Nominees.

## B. General

1. Council is required to declare a seat vacant in accordance with the Act and resolve to fill the vacancy by appointment of an Eligible Voter. Council will fix the date of a meeting when this decision will be made.
2. To be considered for Appointment, all Eligible Voters must meet all the requirements to hold the Vacant office, and must not otherwise be disqualified from holding that office.
3. It is the Eligible Voters sole responsibility to meet any deadline or otherwise comply with any requirement established by Council or the Clerk as part of the Appointment process.

## C. Notice Process

4. Notice of Council's decision to appoint a Eligible Voter shall be provided as follows:
a) Notice of the Vacancy shall be posted by the Clerk on the City's website and in local newspaper(s); and,
b) Notice will also be provided to all ratepayer and community organizations registered with the Clerk (effective the date Council declares the seat vacant).
5. The notices will identify:
a) The eligibility requirements to fill the Vacancy; and,
b) Any application requirements established by the Clerk, including but not limited to:
iv. Consent of Nominee Form or written expressions of interest;
v. Statement of Qualification Form;
vi. Declarations of eligibility; and.
vii. Deadline for submissions, which shall usually be 2 weeks.
6. An Information Meeting may be organized by the Clerk during the application period.

## D. Application \& Review Process:

7. All interested Eligible Voters must complete the application requirements established by the Clerk.
8. Following the deadline for the submission of an application the Clerk will certify the eligible Candidates.
9. The Clerk shall provide notice to the certified list of Candidates of the date and time for the Council Appointment Meeting. Candidates are solely responsible for attending any Council Appointment Meeting which will not be re-scheduled due to a Candidate's conflict.
10. Any Council agenda documentation related to Candidates will be published in alphabetical order by surname.

## E. Nomination Procedure:

11. At the Council Appointment Meeting, the Chair will outline the following:
a) Council has declared a seat vacant in accordance with the Act and resolved to fill the Vacancy by appointment of an eligible voter; and,
b) A general overview of how the appointment process will be conducted.
12. The Clerk will read out the names of all the individuals certified to be eligible for nomination (alphabetically by surname). These names constitute the official Slate of Candidates eligible for nomination.
13. Each of the Candidates on the Slate of Candidates will be offered five minutes each to speak prior to the first round of voting. The order of speakers will be drawn by the Clerk.
14. The Clerk will call for nominations, subject to the following:
a) Only Members of Council may nominate an individual Candidate from the Slate of Candidates.
b) Each Member of Council may nominate one or more Candidate(s).
c) Nominations must be done via formal resolution (i.e. a mover and seconder is required).
d) Candidates do not need to be present to be nominated, however, Candidates not in attendance in person will not be permitted to provide written submissions, appoint a representative to speak on their behalf, withdraw their nomination or participate remotely by any means.
15. The Clerk will call three times for further nominations, hearing none the Clerk will declare nominations to be closed.
16. The Candidate(s) nominated by Members of Council in accordance with this procedure shall be the Slate of Nominees.

## F. Acclamation Procedure

17. If the Slate of Nominees includes only one (1) Nominee, the Clerk will declare that Nominee elected and a resolution or by-law will be prepared and submitted to Council for enactment.

## G. Voting Procedure:

18. If the Slate of Nominees includes more than one (1) Nominee, rounds of voting will be conducted as follows:
a) In accordance with Section 244 of the Act, no vote shall be taken by ballot or by any other method of secret voting.
b) Pieces of paper with each of the nominees' names will be created by the Clerk and placed in a Container provided by the Clerk. Each of these pieces of paper will be equal in size and type and will contain the name of one nominee only.
c) The Clerk will draw the name of nominees to be voted on by Council.
d) Council will vote on each Nominee drawn by the Clerk at the same time by way of public vote, by show of hands.
e) Each Member of Council may vote for one (1) candidate only in each round.
19. Rounds of voting shall continue until a Nominee has received more than one-half (1/2) of the votes of the Members of Council present, or until a tie is broken in accordance with section 21(e) of this procedure.
20. Where a round of voting does not result in a Nominee receiving more than one-half (1/2) of the votes of the Members of Council present:
a) In any round of voting, one (1) vote shall be considered the lowest number of possible votes. Where Nominees receive zero (0) votes, they will be automatically excluded from the Slate of Nominees in the next round of voting.
b) The Nominees with the fewest number of votes will be automatically excluded from the Slate of Nominees in the next round of voting.

Example: in a contest with four (4) Nominees and 12 Members of Council present, a Nominee will need a minimum of 7 votes to be Appointed:

Nominee A - 5 votes
Nominee B - 3 votes
Nominee C-3 votes
Nominee D-1 vote
In the above scenario, as no majority vote was achieved, Nominee D is eliminated from further voting, and another round of voting will occur.
c) The Clerk will record the votes and announce the results verbally at the end of each round of voting.
d) The Clerk will ask if any Nominees present in person wishes to withdraw their name from the contest after each round of voting.

## Equal Votes for all Nominees

e) Where the votes cast are equal for all the Nominees:
i. If there are three or more Nominees remaining, the Clerk will draw the name of one Nominee to be excluded from the subsequent voting. In other words, the names not pulled by the Clerk continue to be eligible nominees.
ii. If only two (2) Nominees remain, the Clerk will break the tie by pulling the name of the unsuccessful nominee. In other words, the name remaining in the container is the Nominee to be declared elected by the Clerk.

## General Voting Rules

i) Each of the pieces of paper used by the Clerk to draw the names of Nominees in accordance with the requirement of Sections 20(e)of this procedure will be created by the Clerk and will be equal in size and type and will contain the name of one Nominee only.
j) Only the Clerk or the Clerk's designates may handle the pieces of paper or Container referenced in this procedure.

