



COUNCIL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Meeting date: February 22nd

1. In reference to the periodic revisions of the Zoning Bylaw, is there anything in particular that triggers these revisions? In addition to that, is there a difference between how commercial and residential amendments are treated?

The periodic revisions to the Zoning Bylaw come out of regular use of the document. As the bylaw ages, older regulations become stale and are not always applicable to newer forms/practices for development. Also, new regulations often need to be adjusted once they have been tested against several applications. For this reason, the Zoning Bylaw should be considered a 'living document' that is updated and tweaked continuously.

Staff keep a running list of potential issues/edits/clarifications that should be addressed. These items are typically categorized as:

- a. Private amendment – These are a specific change related to a privately owned property. Typically, a property owner submits application. In rare cases, the change makes sense on a global scale and it can be included in periodic amendments or the Zoning Bylaw rewrite that apply across the city.
- b. Minor clerical errors – These changes (numbering issues/spelling) have no consequence on the interpretation of the Bylaw. They are forwarded to the City Clerk to include in the next consolidation.
- c. Periodic amendments – These are specific changes to the bylaw to make change/correct/add/remove regulations. They are typically changes that have a straight forward and aren't related to a broader change in planning principles.
- d. Zoning bylaw rewrite – These are often much larger changes that try to implement new ideas. Regulations for short-term rentals is a good example as it will likely change how housing and hotels are interpreted and categorized within regulations. It requires further research and more extensive public input.

Previously, staff would prepare amendments to the Zoning Bylaw approximately every six months. In recent years, it has been done annually or bi-annually.

2. Also in reference to the periodic revisions of the Zoning Bylaw, do the amendments for walkways and patios impact commercial businesses?

In the existing bylaw, patios are required in numerous zones. The edit that is being contemplated removes the requirement for a property owner to construct a patio (making it optional), but still requires that walkways be included to assist with pedestrian



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movement and circulation. This edit is reducing the burden on commercial business by removing one current requirement.

3. How do we treat electronic petitions?

The *Municipal Act* sets out at section 6 the requirements for a petition, which include at minimum:

- The surname and given name, address, and signature of each person signing and the date of signing;
- A statement that each person signing is, on the date of signing, an elector or eligible to be an elector of the municipality;
- The name and address of the person who represents the persons who sign;
- The purpose of the petition.

The *Municipal Act* goes into considerably more detail when the petition relates to citizens petitioning for a referendum to be held (sections 152 – 159.01).

Ordinarily, an electronic petition does not meet the basic requirements contained in section 6. For that reason, Administration's usual practice would be to bring the petition to the attention of Council, noting the number of signatories, but without undertaking the detailed to analysis to confirm whether they are City residents, of legal age, eligible to be electors, obtaining addresses, etc.