

Meetings on the Official Plan Review

Recently an advertisement was placed in various newspapers regarding a Special Meeting on the Official Plan review. In order to make it clearer how this meeting fits in with the entire process, the following summary is provided. It applies to the review of the Official Plan. The timeline for the Infrastructure Master Plan (IMP) is the same, but the IMP only requires approval of City Council.

The most important provision to note is that to safeguard the ability to appeal all or part of the Official Plan Amendment, a person must make oral or written submission at the time of the Public Meeting in March as specified below.

For the Official Plan review, the proposed timing and purpose of events is as follows:

1. **Special Meeting:** November 24, 2008 (Planning and Environment Committee) and November 27, 2008 (Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee). The purpose is to provide comprehensive information to Councillors and the public on proposed changes to the Official Plan. Emphasis will be placed on rural issues at the second meeting. The council shall have regard to any written submissions about what revisions may be required and shall give any person who attends the special meeting an opportunity to be heard on that subject. However, this is not the “official” public meeting and it is not necessary to make a submission at this time.
2. **Table Official Plan Amendment:** January 27, 2009 at Planning and Environment Committee. The purpose of this meeting is to table the proposed changes to initiate the amendment process.
3. **Open House:** Staff will hold at least one open house between January 27, 2009 and February 27, 2009 for the purpose of giving the public an opportunity to review and ask questions about the information and material made available on January 27, 2009.
4. **Public Meeting:** March 24, 2009 at Planning and Environment Committee for the purpose of giving the public an opportunity to make representations in respect of the proposed official plan amendment. Every person who attends a public meeting shall be given an opportunity to make representations. Planning Committee will make recommendations to Council on the Official Plan Amendment based on what is submitted by staff and what the Committee hears at the public meeting or through written submission.
5. **Adoption of Plan by City Council:** April, 2009. The exact date is not yet determined as it depends on the length of the public meeting. Council will consider the recommendation of Planning and Environment Committee and make a decision on what to accept or change. Once Council has adopted an Official Plan Amendment, it is submitted to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for approval. The Council will also give notice of its decision to each person or public body that filed with the clerk of the City a written request to be notified if the plan is adopted.
6. **Decision of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing:** This will likely be received around the end of 2009. The Minister may approve, modify and approve as modified, or refuse to approve the Official Plan Amendment. The decision of the

Minister will be provided to the municipality and to each person or public body that made a written request to be notified of the decision.

7. **Appeal Period:** Once the Minister issues a decision, parties have 20 days within which they may appeal all or part of that decision. However, appeals are only permitted for those persons who, before the plan was adopted made oral submissions at the public meeting (March 24, 2009) or made written submissions before Council adopted the Plan (April, 2009)