

Clarington passes new procedural bylaw

Tue Dec 18, 2007

By Jennifer Stone

CLARINGTON -- If you want to say it, say it fast and say it once, says Clarington's new procedural bylaw.

The bylaw received final approval from council last week, but not before one councillor questioned how difficult it would be to change it.

While recognizing Clarington had a legislative requirement to be "on side by (the beginning of) 2008," Ward 1 Councillor Adrian Foster asked Municipal Clerk Patti Barrie, "were we to make changes, would that require a motion to rescind or for reconsideration"

Such motions require more than a simple majority of council to agree in order to pass.

But any changes could come forward as an amendment, which would only require a simple majority, said Ms. Barrie.

Under the new rules, the amount of time allotted to members of the public wishing to appear as a delegation will drop from 10 minutes to five. At the same time, the new rules stipulate delegates may only speak to matters included on the agenda. But if the delegate has spoken to the General Purpose and Administration Committee on the matter, they cannot return to council to deliver the same message.

The new rules also provide for a curfew for council: meetings "shall adjourn at 11 p.m., if the meeting is still in session at that time, and will reconvene at such other day as directed by resolution," said the report to Clarington's General Purpose and Administration Committee.