



Memo

TO: Mayor and Council

SUBJECT: Effectiveness of the Current Governance Structure

DATE: December 23, 2021

FROM: Chief Administrative Officer

BACKGROUND

It is indeed timely that a discussion of the effectiveness or usefulness of the current standing committee structure took place at the last the Strategic Planning meeting. A number of municipalities have also grappled with the same issue and have undertaken reviews to restructure their governance models. This is of particular concern where the committee is comprised entirely of council with no public representation.

The committees as currently structured seemed to have served a useful purpose at their inception but now their functions and responsibilities appear misguided, as council seems to want to take on the responsibility of management as is evidenced in recent years by its demand of progress and monthly reports. Just so council members "could be counted on to intelligently guide those who" (Cuff's words not mine) have been hired to do those tasks and to keep tabs on management's activities. Council's ongoing focus on minutia defeats the purpose of its mandate which is to serve the public good and not that of special interests or the loudest complainant.

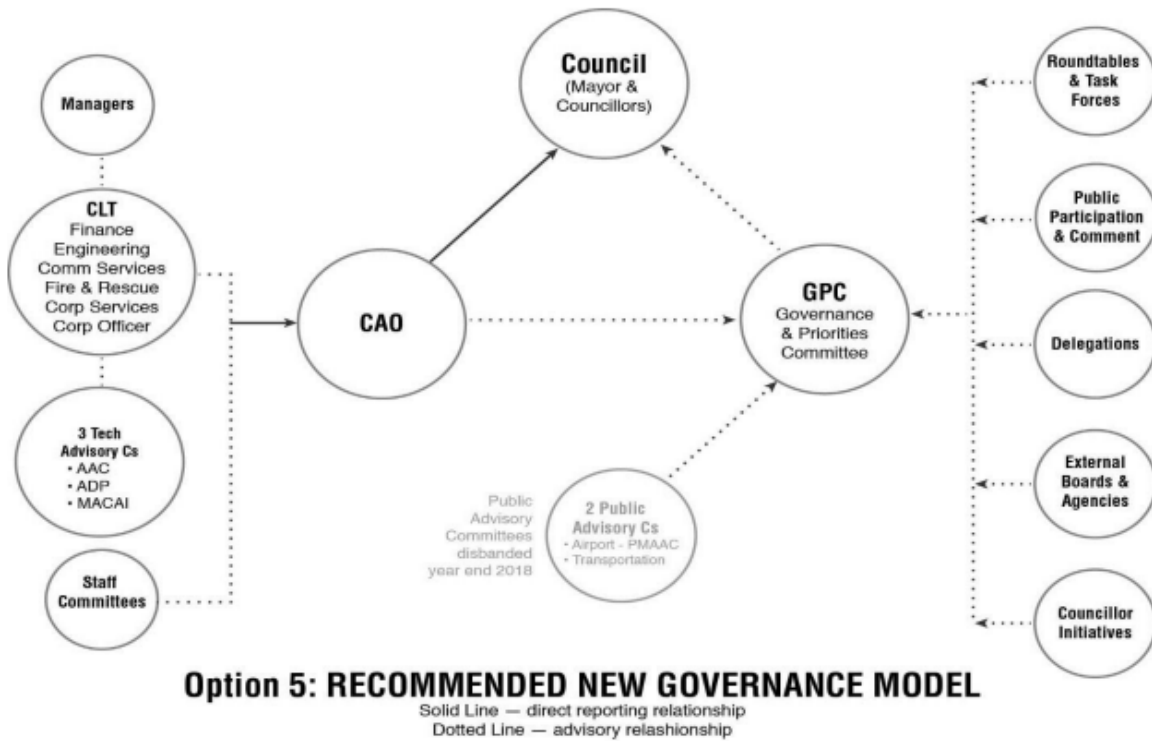
Council's sphere of authority is governance accomplished through bylaws, legislation, financial plans that provide fiduciary leadership, and policies and decisions affecting a wide range of municipal services that are made through resolutions which could include direction to management. Council's governance authority through regular or special meetings is mandated by legislation.

The Community Charter recognizes standing committees and select committees, but it does not envision those committees being comprised entirely of members of council. Nor is their function legislative. Given that all of council and no others serve on the existing committees, council has as a matter of fact been simply rubber-stamping recommendations made by its very own committees.

Do We Really Need Committees as Presently Structured?

The committee structure as currently constituted has become stagnant and mundane and could certainly use a review and revision to a model that may bear some semblance to the

Committee of the Whole format shown in the drawing below that was recommended for the City of Pitt Meadows:



Council may want to implement some hybrid of a governance model that works for it and decide on an appropriate meeting schedule for such committees it may decide to create. Council’s strategic priorities should be part of its agenda process.

Joseph A. Fernandez