

Strong Mayor process

Mayoral decisions and directions

Mayoral decisions

The mayor’s special powers and duties under Part VI.1 of the Municipal Act are generally exercised through mayoral decisions. A mayoral decision can only be issued by the mayor in accordance with the authorities and duties given to the mayor under Part VI.1 of the Municipal Act.

The mayoral power to veto bylaws, veto budget amendments, delegate authority or exercise authority under Part VI.1 of the Municipal Act is codified through mayoral decisions.

In writing and public

All mayoral decisions are required to be issued in writing and made public.

Following the signing of a mayoral decision, the city clerk will, in accordance with the Municipal Act, provide notice and copies of the mayoral decision to city council and the public. Except where otherwise provided in the Municipal Act or other legislation, the city clerk will post and distribute mayoral decisions within one business day.

Mayoral decisions are posted publicly on guelph.ca/mayoral-decisions.

Mayoral directions

Part VI.1 of the Municipal Act gives the mayor the authority to direct municipal employees to undertake research, provide advice and carry out duties related to Part VI.1 of the Act. Mayoral directions are used to codify the mayor’s use of the authority to direct municipal employees.

Any mayoral directions must be related to the duties outlined in Part VI.1 of the Municipal Act.

In writing

All mayoral directions are required to be issued in writing and circulated to the city clerk and chief administrative officer. In Guelph, all mayoral directions are also posted publicly, except where they pertain to subject matter that is confidential under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act or other applicable legislation.

Mayoral directions are posted publicly on guelph.ca/mayoral-decisions.

Mayoral powers connected to provincial priorities

Mayoral power/ authority	Is the use of this power connected to prescribed provincial priorities?	Additional notes
Directions to City staff	No	Mayoral directions to City staff must be related to the powers and duties included in Part VI.1 of the Municipal Act but do not need to be connected to provincial priorities.
Preparation of a proposed budget	No	The power to prepare and propose a budget is not limited to provincial priorities.
Veto of budget amendments	No	The mayoral power to veto City Council amendments to the budget is not limited to provincial priorities.
Veto of bylaws	Yes	A mayoral veto to a bylaw can only be exercised if the mayor is of the opinion that the bylaw could potentially interfere with a provincial priority.
Passing of bylaws with a one-third majority	Yes	The mayor may introduce a bylaw if they are of the opinion that the bylaw could potentially advance a provincial priority. Such by-laws require one-third (five members) of city council voting in favour in order to pass.
Adding other matters to a city council agenda	Yes	The mayor may only add matters to an agenda, and require that city council consider that matter, if they believe it could potentially advance a provincial priority.

Mayoral powers regarding budget

Overview of mayoral powers regarding budget

Under Part VI.1 of the Municipal Act, the Mayor is required to prepare a proposed budget for the municipality and present it to city council for consideration. The mayor may exercise this authority by issuing a mayoral direction to City staff to prepare a budget based on specific criteria.

Following the presentation of the mayor's proposed budget, city council has 30 days in which to pass amendments. Following the amendment period, the mayor has 10 days in which to issue mayoral decisions vetoing city council amendments to the budget. Following the veto period, city council has 15 days in which to override a mayoral veto.

Process outline

1. The mayor proposes a municipal budget and presents it to city council.
2. Within 30 days of the mayor's budget being released publicly, city council may meet to approve amendments to the proposed budget. Budget amendments require a simple majority to pass. The 30-day period may be shortened by a resolution of city council. The mayor may vote on any amendment.
3. Within 10 days of the final day in which city council may approve amendments, the mayor may veto budget amendments passed by city council. Mayoral budget vetoes will be codified and distributed as mayoral decisions. The 10-day period may be shortened by the mayor through a mayoral decision.
4. Within 15 days of the final day in which the mayor may veto amendments, city council may meet to attempt to override mayoral vetoes. A vote to override a mayoral budget veto requires two-thirds of city council (nine members) voting in favour to pass. The mayor may vote in any attempt to override a veto.
5. Following the presentation, amendment, veto and override process, the budget is deemed to have been adopted.

Mayoral powers regarding bylaws and other matters

Power to propose bylaws notwithstanding the Procedure Bylaw

The mayor may introduce a bylaw which they believe could potentially advance a prescribed provincial priority. Such a bylaw can be introduced notwithstanding any rules established in the Procedure Bylaw.

Process outline

1. The mayor may introduce a proposed bylaw at any meeting of city council by providing a copy of the proposed bylaw to the city clerk and city council.
2. City council is required to consider and vote on the proposed bylaw at a meeting.
3. A bylaw introduced by the mayor requires more than one-third of city council (five members) voting in favour to pass.
4. The bylaw is adopted and in force following city council approval with a vote of five (5) or more in favour.

Power to veto bylaws

The mayor may veto any bylaw approved by city council if they believe it could potentially interfere with a prescribed provincial priority. All mayoral bylaw approvals, vetoes or notices of intention to consider vetoing are recorded and issued as mayoral decisions.

Process outline

1. City council approves a bylaw with a simple majority vote.
2. The mayor has 48 hours to approve the bylaw, veto the bylaw or indicate an intention to consider vetoing the bylaw.
3. If a notice of intention to consider vetoing a bylaw is issued, the mayor has up to 14 days after the original date that city council approved the bylaw to issue a veto.
4. If the mayor vetoes a bylaw, the bylaw is immediately deemed to have not been passed by city council.
5. Within 21 days of a mayoral veto, city council may attempt to override the veto. A vote to override a mayoral veto requires two-thirds of city council (nine members) voting in favour to pass. The mayor may vote in any attempted override of a veto.

6. To call a meeting for the purpose of attempting to override a veto, seven (7) members of city council must petition the city clerk in writing with a request for a special city council meeting.
7. If city council overrides a mayoral veto, the bylaw is immediately deemed to have been passed.

Power to propose other matters notwithstanding the Procedure Bylaw

The mayor may introduce matters which they believe could potentially advance a prescribed provincial priority. Such a matter can be introduced notwithstanding any rules established in the Procedure Bylaw.

Process outline

1. The mayor may introduce a matter at any meeting of city council.
2. City council is required to consider the matter at a meeting.
3. A matter introduced by the mayor requires a simple majority of city council (seven members) voting in favour to pass.