



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

OFFICE OF THE CAO

MISSION STATEMENT: Committed to delivering cost-effective and efficient services for the residents of the Town of Amherstburg with a view to improve and enhance their quality of life.

Author's Name: Kevin Fox	Report Date: January 13, 2022
Author's Phone: 519 736 0012 ext. 2272	Date to Council: January 24, 2022
Author's E-mail: kfox@amherstburg.ca	Resolution #:

To: Mayor and Members of Town Council

Subject: Adoption of the Public Petition Policy

1. RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that:

1. The Public Petition Policy **BE ADOPTED** in accordance with the Administrative report of January 13, 2022.

2. BACKGROUND:

Civic engagement and involvement is essential to the operation of the municipal government. Effective municipal governance includes the ability for citizens to make known their interests, opinions and beliefs and to create open lines of communication to affect change at the local level. The Town provides a number of opportunities for citizens to express their will to their elected representatives including through delegation to a Council or Committee meeting, public engagement such as the Town's Talk the Burg platform, through the Town's various feedback processes and communications methods, directly to an elected representative or some combination thereof, or, through the various electoral means such as a question on the ballot or by running for office or electing a person to hold the office.

3. DISCUSSION:

An additional method of civic engagement is through the creation and circulation of a public petition. The Town does not currently have a stipulated process or template for such a petition that is adopted by Council and communicated to those who would wish to make their will known to Council. The adoption of a policy in this regard would strengthen this process by ensuring that there are communicated standards to what

should be in a public petition and how the Town shall deal with those it receives. The Town has received a couple of petitions that were created and circulated during this term for various initiatives and interests within the community, and it could be expected to see greater utilization should the process be made clear and a template provided to assist those seeking to garner support for their cause. Additionally, in at least one instance, it was not clear from the petition received how the Town would be able to act on the petition and who the Town should communicate a response to. Without establishing a template for such purposes, those created by others may lack some elements which could be of assistance in ensuring that the petition created can be actioned.

4. RISK ANALYSIS:

There is a risk that failure to adopt a policy in this regard could continue the current ambiguity that exists in terms of how the Town will receive and process such a request, and, could have petitions submitted which fail to account for elements that will allow them to be actioned appropriately.

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

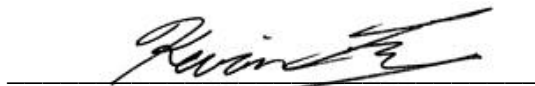
There are no direct financial implications to adopting this policy.

6. CONSULTATIONS:

Tony Haddad, (Interim) Chief Administrative Officer
Senior Management Team

7. CONCLUSION:

Providing more effective means of participation in local governance will strengthen confidence in the ability of the municipality to respond to the needs of its people. It is therefore recommended that the Town adopt a Public Petition Policy to ensure a clear and effective process is provided to allow for increased civic participation in the democratic process.



Kevin Fox
Policy and Committee Coordinator

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Adoption of the Public Petition Policy.docx
Attachments:	- 2021 04 29 - Public Petition Policy.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jan 14, 2022

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Tiffany Hong

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Haddad', with a stylized, cursive script.

Tony Haddad

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Valerie Critchley', with a cursive script.

Valerie Critchley