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## Operational Procedures

Procedure Reference    **OAA Council Meetings – Rules and Procedures**

Issue Date              **November 29, 2023**

Revision Dates

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Meetings of the Council of the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) are conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order which is included in the Councillor Orientation Manual, unless stipulated otherwise with the by-laws or as otherwise approved by OAA Council. The following operational procedures outline the rules and procedures for discussion, debate and motions within Council meetings:

- The maximum time for a Councillor's comments in debate on a motion is two minutes.
- The Chair shall keep a speakers' list of those wishing to speak to a specific item or motion; and
  - a) the speakers' list shall be built in the order that the Chair notes a Councillor's intention to speak by raising their hand; and
  - b) any Councillor having not spoken to an item/motion shall be given preference on the speakers' list over any Councillor who has already spoken.
- An original main motion may only be introduced at a meeting if it has been added under New Business to the agenda approved for that meeting. Otherwise all other motions are to be contained within the individual reports to Council, unless a motion for an item that is "*For Discussion*" has yet to be identified.
- An item *For Information Only* which no Council member indicates will be the subject of a question or an original main motion is considered to be dispensed upon approval of the agenda for that meeting.
- The meeting will move to a period of informal discussion immediately after a new item has been presented and a main motion on the item is introduced and any questions on the item have been put and answered, and
  - a) a period of informal discussion is defined as the opportunity to discuss an item with the motion on the floor; and
  - b) the Chair of the meeting when the item is introduced continues as the Chair during the period of informal discussion unless they choose to relinquish the Chair; and
  - c) in a period of informal discussion the regular rules of debate are suspended; and
  - d) a period of informal discussion ceases when the Chair notes that no additional members wish to speak to the item or when an incidental motion to return to the regular rules of debate passes with a majority; and
  - e) immediately upon leaving a period of informal discussion, Council will be asked to vote on the motion

f) if the presenter of the item moves no motion on the item then the item is considered dispensed unless an indication to introduce additional original main motions on the item is on the agenda, in which case each of these motions is presented in turn and debated as per the rules of formal debate.

