

Staff Report

Report To: City Council
Report From: Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk
Meeting Date: July 27, 2026
Report Code: CR-26-077
Subject: Updates - Integrity Commissioner and 2027 Council and Committee Meeting Calendar

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-26-077 respecting updates on the integrity commissioner and 2027 Council and Committee meeting calendar, City Council receives the report for information purposes.

Highlights:

- Grey County Clerks are undertaking a joint recruitment for a new integrity commissioner with a report coming back to Council in September.
- Updates are being made to the 2027 Council and Committee Meeting Calendar which will be posted to the City's website.
- Election candidates will be notified of the calendar updates.

Vision 2050 - Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: The recommendation contributes to core service delivery or a corporate initiative that enables service delivery for one or more strategic priorities.

Previous Report/Authority:

Municipal Act, 2001

Background:

Integrity Commissioner Update

The *Municipal Act* requires that each municipality appoint an integrity commissioner (IC). The City's current IC is Principles *Integrity*. Notice was provided to the City that Principles *Integrity* will no longer be offering IC services beginning in January 2027.

2027 Council and Committee Meeting Calendar Update

City Council approved the [2027 Council and Committee Meeting Calendar](#) on April 13, 2026. Since approving the calendar, new information has come available and the calendar needs to be updated.

The Procedural By-law provides that in the event a meeting date, time or location changes following the adoption by Council of the schedule of regular meetings, the City will provide notice to members and the public through a post on the City's website, in addition to notice provided in the agenda for the meeting.

Analysis and Options:

Integrity Commissioner Update

After notice of termination was received, Clerks and CAO staff from the member municipalities across Grey County met and expressed interest in continuing the practice of most or all municipalities across Grey County using the same IC. Previously, having a consistent code of conduct was a benefit for Council members serving on their local Council and County Council. With the approval of Bill 9, *Municipal Accountability Act, 2026*, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations prescribing a code of conduct that all municipalities in Ontario will be subject to which means all municipalities in Ontario may be subject to the same code of conduct. Benefits of coordinating with Grey County include a consistent approach to responding to complaints, potential costs savings, and efficiencies with recruitment and training.

Grey County is leading a joint process with participating municipalities for bringing a new IC on board. Similar to what was done in 2017 with the recruitment of the current IC, this process will be treated as a recruitment process rather than a procurement process in order to recognize the importance of retaining an IC who will be the right fit for the municipality, rather than a result of scoring through a procurement process.

One staff member from each participating municipality will be an active participant in the recruitment and recommendation of the next IC. Staff hope to bring a report and by-law to Council in September to have the new IC appointed in time for orientation with the new Council.

2027 Council and Committee Meeting Calendar Update

Municipal Conferences

Since the drafting of the calendar, some municipal conference dates have been released. The revised calendar notes the dates in the legend and they are as follows:

- Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) is June 13-16.
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is August 20-23.
- Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) is April 4-7.
- Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM) is still unknown.
- Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) is still unknown.

Once OSUM and ROMA dates are released, the calendar will be updated accordingly.

Rearranging of Meeting Dates

The revisions to the Council and Committee meeting schedule are intended to accommodate key organizational commitments and scheduling considerations. Adjusting the meeting dates will help balance organizational priorities while ensuring Council can continue to effectively address municipal business.

The revised calendar is attached to the report and the changes are as follows:

- Committee of Adjustment meeting moved from June 15 to June 22.
- Regular Council Meeting on June 14 removed.

- Regular Council Meeting and Meeting with Police Board moved from June 28 to June 21.
- Special Council meeting on November 1 moved to December 3.
- Regular Council Meeting and Meeting with Police Board moved from November 15 to November 8.
- Regular Council Meeting on November 29 moved to November 22.

Removing one Regular Council meeting from the calendar is not expected to impact Council's ability to conduct its business. The remaining Council and Committee meetings, together with special meetings, if required, provide sufficient opportunity to address all governance and operational matters.

2027 Budget Dates

Early in the new Council term, staff will meet with the Mayor to determine whether the Mayor will or will not propose the 2027 budget. Once that has been determined, a report will be presented to Council outlining timelines and any requests for shortening amendment windows.

Either way, staff intend on the budget being reviewed at the February 2, 2027 Resilient Community Advisory Committee meeting, with the final budget being presented at the February 22 Regular Council meeting. The multi-year capital budget will be reviewed at the July 6 Resilient Community Advisory Committee meeting.

The Special Council meetings scheduled throughout 2027 are planned to be used for strategic planning and continuing education.

Resource Alignment:

Financial Resources

There are no financial implications for the recruitment of a new integrity commissioner or for the calendar updates.

Human Resources

The City Clerk will be participating in the recruitment of the new integrity commissioner. It is anticipated that 10 hours will be spent on recruitment and reports to Council.

Time and Scheduling

The intention is to have the new integrity commissioner in place for orientation in the fall.

Technology and Infrastructure

N/A.

Climate and Environmental Impacts:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Communication and Engagement:

The next staff report will provide further information on the proposed new integrity commissioner.

The revised calendar will be posted to the City's website and election candidates will be notified of the change.

Report Developed in Consultation With:

Strategic Leadership Team, Deputy Clerk, and Committee and Executive Support Coordinator

Attachments:

Revised 2027 Council and Committee Meeting Calendar

Reviewed by:

Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk at bbloomfield@owensound.ca or 519-376-1440 ext. 1247.