

Questions from Owen Sound Council Strong Mayor Powers

1. Does the term elected include 'elected by acclamation'?
2. Does the municipality's procedural by-law in any way limit the use of these powers or do they supersede the City's policies and procedures?
3. Does one mayor's delegation of the new powers to council or staff persist beyond the tenure of this council?
4. Can Owen Sound institute any by-laws or procedures to ensure that contracts resulting from decisions made with strong mayor powers will be available for council's information (to prevent a similar situation to Caledon where a member of Council needed to use an FOI to learn more about the financial liabilities resulting from a new CAO's contract)?
5. To which extent – if there is no concrete rubric for assessing a decision's alignment with a 'Provincial Priority' – an Integrity Commissioner might comment on or make findings that a mayor's use of strong mayor powers contravenes the City's code of conduct?
6. What is the government referring to when their press release claims:
These enhanced powers come with increased accountability for heads of council and maintain essential checks and balances through the oversight of councillors
7. Does lame duck impact strong mayor powers?
8. Do there need to be changes to the confirmatory by-law and/or process in light of the mayor's veto power?
9. Is there an opportunity to opt out of strong mayor powers?
10. Do you anticipate changes to employment contracts?
11. Can the mayor overrule a decision of the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) respecting a light at an intersection?
12. Can the mayor approve an amendment to the Official Plan or Zoning By-law without public meetings?
13. Can the mayor override the *Planning Act*?

14. What is the intent behind the timing of strong mayor powers? If attached to housing, development and infrastructure funding potentially becoming opened up after the Federal election then is a message being telegraphed to us? Be ready, be nimble, be adaptable and be open.
15. If the determination has been done and enacted May 1st what is the best pathway to follow to ensure that relationships and performance (Staff/Council) can still result in moving the business of the Corporation forward without staff looking over their shoulder and fearing for job security?
16. What are the bumper guardrails that need to be established (may be unique to each Council) to ensure that abuse of power or leveraging influence of position does not occur?
17. Do we need to change the size of Council so this does not apply to our Council?
18. Do we need two County Councillors now at Grey County since the power rests with the Mayor? Do we need the Deputy Mayor to attend?
19. What is the role of the Integrity Commissioner at this point? Is there a process for complaint specific to the abuse of these powers? Do we need an additional education/information program from the Integrity Commissioner about this?
20. Do we need a standardized code of conduct across all municipalities provided with strong mayor powers?
21. What policy changes are required including the human resource function and performance evaluation tools relating to City staff and CAO's?
22. Does this allow the Mayor to appoint not only specific Councillors to specific Committees but also the members of the public that sit on the Committees? Does this influence potentially the time that a Councillor can be assigned to a Committee and thus require a change in existing Committees Terms of Reference?
23. What does the Healthy Democracy Project have to say about this?
24. Can a charter or letter of understanding or agreement in principle document be used to define clearly what the incumbent and future mayors consider the use of the power in relation to the unique circumstance and framework of their municipality?

25. What checks and balances would you suggest or have other municipalities put in place to both recognize and restrict potential abuse?
26. How can the municipal code of conduct be standardized and reflect the new addition of strong mayor powers?
27. What tools would you suggest or have other municipalities used to ensure an ethical approach to the use of strong mayor powers?
28. What data should be used to validate and verify that the provincial mandate to increase housing using strong mayor powers is supported by data?
29. How can municipal funding be “made whole” should changes occur that reduce development fees and charges collected by municipalities?
30. Recognizing that the provincial priority and intent to add these strong mayor powers to municipalities is to increase housing, will a provincial asset management fund be initiated and augmented to accommodate the increased demand on local infrastructure with additional houses and increased population?