Council Policy No.:	
Council Policy Name:	Municipal Election Recount Policy
Date Approved by Council:	
Date revision approved by Council:	
Related SOP, Management Directive, Council Policy, Form	

Policy Statement and Rationale:

The Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended, allows a Municipal Election Recount Policy be adopted by Council to give direction to the Returning Officer/City Clerk in Section 56(3).

Scope:

The Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended, provides for an automatic recount if the election results in a tie. The Act does not include provisions for a close vote election. The Municipal Election Recount Policy provides a transparent and consistent process for dealing with recounts pertaining to a close vote.

This policy does not apply to candidates for school board trustee positions or for a question on the ballot at the request of another level of government. A request for a recount in these situations would be determined by the applicable school board or the applicable level of government.

Policy:

The Returning Officer/City Clerk shall conduct recounts in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Act, 1996, as amended.

A close vote is defined as being the difference between the number of votes separating a candidate who was not declared elected and a candidate who was declared elected which is <u>less than the greater</u> of,
1) 10 votes; or
2) 0.25 per cent of the total number of votes cast for that office (rounded up or down to the nearest whole number).

If the difference between the number of votes separating a candidate who was not declared elected and a candidate who was declared elected meets the close vote criteria and upon receipt of a written request from the second-place candidate for a close vote recount, the Returning Officer/City Clerk shall automatically conduct a recount as soon as practical.

For any vote differences outside of a close vote it requires a written request to Council. The request will be presented to Council for direction to the Returning Officer/City Clerk.

The Returning Officer/City Clerk shall prescribe in a procedure the process and timeframes to hold a recount required by this policy and shall ensure the procedures comply with all requirements set out in legislation.

Revision History:

Proposed Date of Review:

Revision	Date	Description of changes	Requested By
0.0	[Date]	Initial Release	