



NEWS LOCAL

Referred to the 2018 budget

By Elaine Della-Mattia, Sault Star

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SAULT STE. MARIE - Council won't be casting yay or nay ballots with a click of a button just yet.

A report to council outlining the possibilities of casting electronic votes at council meetings has been shelved until 2018 budget deliberations.

In March, city council passed a resolution asking the city clerk to report on the costs, impact, efficiencies and advantages and disadvantages linked to implementing electronic voting on agenda items at city council meetings.

The motion, penned by Ward 3 Coun. Matthew Shoemaker, came a short time after council decided to stop producing hard copy agendas : a cost-saving measure.

He advocated that electronic voting could also provide greater transparency of council's decisions.

The report to council states that an electronic voting module is available from eScribe, the electronic provider the city uses.

It allows meeting participants to vote on resolutions in real time through a participant web portal.

Vote results can be configured on a meeting-by-meeting or item-by-item basis and works on iPads, already used by city council to see agendas.

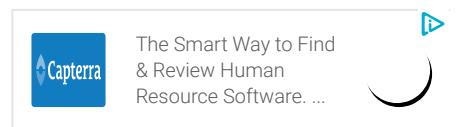
Once votes have been registered within the system, results are automatically calculated and recorded in different formats.

The program would cost about \$8,100 and annual support is expected to cost about \$1,000.

In addition, more money would be required to have information technology staff on hand at the meetings to operate the computer displayin the public facing screen and provide technical support.

The clerk's department agreed the voting would enhance accountability and transparency and improves customer service under the corporate strategic plan.

The report was received as information and will be referred to the 2018 budget.



This Week's Flyers

A screenshot of a digital flyer for Home Depot. The top left features a "SPRING SAVINGS START HERE" banner. Below it, a large "BUY MORE SAVE MORE" section highlights deals like "BEHR OR OIL INTERIOR PAINT OR PRIMER" for \$29.98. To the right, there's a "ADD VARIETY TO YOUR GARDEN" section with various plants and flowers. A "HOVER FOR FLYER" button is at the bottom.

A screenshot of a digital flyer for RONA. It features a "THE SMART CHOICE" section with a "LED FILAMENT" bulb for \$17.99. A large "GET 15% OFF IN STORE AND ONLINE" banner is prominently displayed. A "HOVER FOR FLYER" button is at the bottom.

A screenshot of a digital flyer for London Drugs. It shows a "Cool looks for spring & summer" section featuring outdoor furniture and a fire pit. A "HOVER FOR FLYER" button is at the bottom.

