

Don't judge councillors by attendance: Hargrave

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It's not the number of meetings councillors miss that should concern residents, but the number of items councillors pull, or don't pull for discussion or chime-in on, according to Councillor Rob Hargrave.

The Ward 6 councillor has the worst attendance record for council meetings so far this term, which also included public hearings and special council meetings. Advisory committee meetings were not included.

Mr. Hargrave has missed five of the 18 meetings held so far this term. However, three of those

meetings were held on the same day.

"I couldn't switch my schedule that week," he said.

Mr. Hargrave, along with Richard Bartley, who has missed no meetings so far this term, are the only councillors with other jobs.

"I do this out of my passion for the town. But until the day comes when you can support yourself full-time on a councillor's salary, I have to supplement my income," Mr. Hargrave said.

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Mr. Emmerson is the only other member of council to have perfect attendance so far.

"I make as many as I can. Everybody wants you to be everywhere but you have to say no to some people. Council comes first," he said.

Council meetings are held twice a month on Tuesdays at 3 and 7 p.m. Public hearings, when needed, take place at 7 p.m. following the afternoon council meeting.

Mr. Hargrave, in the past, has voiced his displeasure about holding afternoon meetings, but he said he will no longer fight for a time change.

"They're happy with 7 and 3 p.m. It's never going to be tabled and supported," he said.

Councillors Phil Bannon and Clyde Smith have each missed two of the 18 meetings.

"We all need to be held accountable for our attendance at council meetings, public meetings and the

committees we are assigned to as well and the information should be made public," Mr. Smith said.

Councillors Ken Ferdinands and Susanne Hilton each missed one meeting so far this term.

"I just like to be there because I always like to be in the loop," Ms Hilton said.

During the previous term of council, all councillors were present less than 50 per cent of the time from late 2006 through March 2010. Mr. Hargrave attended 72 of the 103 council meetings during that period.

All members were re-elected last October.

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