



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**Subject: REQUEST FOR TIME EXTENSION – BACKYARD HEN
PILOT PROJECT**

Recommendation:

That the deadline of Quarter 1, 2016 for motion C545-2015 be extended to Quarter 3, 2016.

Council Direction

On November 2, 2015 Councillor Heron moved the following motion:

(C544-2015) Moved by Councillor Heron

That Administration implement a backyard hen pilot project starting in Spring of 2016 with the following guidelines:

1. No more than 3-4 hens per residential property
2. All hens must be 4 months or older
3. The keeping of roosters is prohibited
4. Hens must be in their coops from 9pm-6am
5. Hens must be in an enclosed hen run when not in their coop
6. Hen coops must be maintained in a clean condition, free of obnoxious odors, substances etc and conform to the Community Standards Bylaw
7. Home slaughter of hens is prohibited
8. Keeping of hens will be for non-commercial purposes
9. A limit of 20 participants for the duration of the pilot.

On the same date, Council passed the following motion postponing consideration of Motion C544-2015 to Quarter 1, 2016:

(C545-2015) Moved by Councillor Hughes

That consideration of the motion be postponed to Q1 2016.

On December 3, 2015, Council passed the follow postponed motion during 2016 Budget deliberations:

PM93-2016 Moved by Councillor Brodhead

That \$25,000 be drawn from Stabilization Reserve to complete a statistically representative survey of the opinion of St. Albert tax payers on proposed animal bylaw changes. The survey to specifically ascertain their opinion on proposed designated off-leash dog parks and the proposed introduction of urban agriculture regulations specifically allowing urban hens and bee-keeping.

Report:

A Time Extension Request to postpone the Backyard Hens pilot project from Quarter 1 to Quarter 3, 2016 is required to gain knowledge of Edmonton's outcomes on their Backyard Hen pilot project and for Administration to undertake a survey as requested by Council during 2016 Budget deliberations.

On February 22, 2016, a report on the pilot project for backyard hens will be presented to Edmonton's Community Services Committee. Edmonton's pilot project outcome may provide ideas for the direction St. Albert takes. Staff will require the time to review and understand Edmonton's results and perhaps meet with City of Edmonton staff to hear about lessons learned with their pilot project. In addition, Community Protection Services will be taking the lead on a statistically significant survey that will have questions related to backyard hens. It is anticipated the survey will be launched in May 2016. The survey will provide information about St. Albert residents' opinion on backyard hens.

Originating Department(s):	Legislative Services
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