



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Subject: COUNCIL MOTION – BACKYARD HENS

On October 19, 2015 Councillor Heron provided notice in accordance with Section 23 of Procedure Bylaw 35/2009 that she intended to bring forward the following motion:

In order for Council to debate the motion, the motion must be formally moved.

(Councillor Heron)

Whereas the City of Edmonton is wrapping up their pilot project on backyard hens.

That Administration bring forward amendments to the LUB to allow for limited use of backyard hens in residential homes using the framework outlined in the Edmonton pilot project by the end of January 2016

Attachments:

1. Administrative Backgrounder

Originating Department(s):

Legislative Services

Author(s):

B. Gaskarth, Legislative Officer

City Manager Signature:

Date:

Administrative Backgrounder Backyard Hens

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BACKGROUND:

Staff contacted the City of Edmonton about the pilot project on backyard urban hens. Staff was advised that the outcome of the pilot project was scheduled to go to Community Services Committee on November 9, 2015, but has been delayed until the New Year, without a specified date. Results and recommendations are not being released prior to Edmonton Council receiving the information so that Council's decision is not influenced.

The City of Edmonton did not use the Zoning Bylaw for hens, but amended the Animal Control Bylaw, with the Zoning Bylaw deferring to the Animal Control Bylaw for what is permitted. Administration would have to determine if this approach could work in St. Albert as it is possible that both the Land Use Bylaw and the Animal Control Bylaw will need to be amended.

In 2012, Municipal Enforcement conducted a survey as part of the Animal Control Bylaw updated and the survey indicated the majority of people did not support backyard chickens: 63% no and 37% yes.

As a starting point to consider a LUB amendment to guide a pilot project, P&D would require an understanding of how Edmonton's plan, and results, would translate for St. Albert. Each community, and its regulations, are a bit different, so simply copying an initiative or regulation from one community to another without due diligence and analysis, often results in unintended consequences. Planning and Development would only bring forward a proposed bylaw change if it's viable and in the best interests of the community.

The proper due diligence/background work and then the processing of the 'internal LUB application' would probably take 8-10 months, or more, depending on other priorities and workloads.

Report Date	October 27, 2015
Committee/Department	Planning Branch
General Manager Review	