



CITY OF ST. ALBERT ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

TITLE: IDLING BYLAW

On July 20, 2017 Councillor Russell provided notice in accordance with Section 23 of Procedure Bylaw 22/2016 that he intended to bring forward the proposed motion below.

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

That Administration create an amendment to the existing Bylaw governing limits on idling to delete any reference to exemptions re: temperature.

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of the City of St. Albert Idle Free Bylaw 16/2007 is to reduce harmful vehicle emissions and improve air quality within the City and states that: *“No person shall cause or permit a vehicle to idle for more than 3 minutes in a continuous 30-minute period.”*

One exception to this prohibition is related to temperature, and indicates that that the idling restriction does not apply when the ambient outside temperature is above 30°C or below 0°C. This exception was put in place to allow for the cooling or heating of the inside of a vehicle during very hot or cold conditions.

Most Canadian cities that have idling bylaws do have some type of temperature exemption to address the comfort and safety of vehicle passengers. Having defined temperatures in a bylaw can also make education and enforcement of the bylaw more effective. Municipalities that do not have temperature exemptions, such as the Towns of Banff and Jasper, tend to have longer and more detailed lists of exceptions to address potential vehicle safety or passenger comfort situations which may be more difficult to convey or enforce. Information on developing effective idling control bylaws provided by Natural Resources Canada recommends that when choosing temperature restrictions, a municipality must balance the issues of enforcement, climate change, pollutant emissions and health concerns.

Removing the temperature exceptions would be a significant change to the bylaw intent and enforcement, and it is recommended that prior to making this amendment that the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) be consulted. The EAC could provide advice on both the proposed change and any public consultation or education recommendations before making any changes.

If the intent of the motion is to address concerns related to the noise of idling of diesel vehicles, there is also a provision within the Noise Bylaw 31/2006 that prohibits a stationary vehicle with a diesel engine to remain running for longer than 10 minutes at a time in a Residential District. This would likely be the best way to manage this concern.

The EAC was scheduled to provide input on the review of the Idle Free Bylaw in 2018 as the bylaw is scheduled for a 10-year review at this time. On January 9, 2017 Council approved the EAC Annual Report and 3-year workplan that included proposed priorities for the EAC for 2017 – 2019, including the review of the Idle Free Bylaw.

Report Date: August 21, 2017
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