



CITY OF ST. ALBERT
ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

TITLE: STRAY CATS

On November 6, 2017 Councillor Hughes provided notice in accordance with Section 23 of Procedure Bylaw 22/2016 that she intended to bring forward the proposed motion below.

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

That Administration negotiate a formal agreement with an organization or agency to accept St. Albert stray cats by the end of Q2 of 2018.

BACKGROUND:

Administration understands that the intent of this motion is to provide a new service to the community to deal with unwanted cats that go on to private property.

The last time this service was reviewed was in 2012 during the large-scale Animal Bylaw review. An excerpt of the 2012 Agenda Report has been attached to this backgrounder for information.

Administration does not believe an agreement such as this could be negotiated without a corresponding addition to the operating budget. Without any Bylaw changes, there would be no legal authority for the municipality or the contracted agency to mandate payment of kenneling fees to cat owners claiming cats. As such, any expense related to the kenneling of a cat (either claimed or not claimed) in this situation would be charged back to the municipality, as it would be unlikely for the other organization to accept this responsibility.

Should Council wish to re-visit regulations that would prohibit cats from going onto private property (along with the associated service options), Administration would recommend that in accordance with Council Policy C-CAO-20 Public Participation Policy, that public consultation on this new service be sought. Given the current workload and demands, Administration would not be able to report back to Council on this matter until 2019, unless other projects were discontinued, or outside project management/consultant services were sought.

Administration has provided a sample motion that could be considered with these elements addressed.

“That Administration, by June 30, 2019, provide an updated report to Council on the options and estimated financial impacts related to prohibiting cats from entering private property when unwanted. The report shall include the results of a statistically significant public opinion survey on the proposed new law and service and that \$10,000 be added to the 2018 operating budget to cover any costs associated to completing the report and gathering public feedback”.

Report Date: November 27, 2017
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Committee/Department: Policing Services
General Manager: Dale Bendfeld
City Manager: Kevin Scoble