



CITY OF ST. ALBERT ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

TITLE: DISCONTINUE THE BRANCH LIBRARY

On October 19, 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 respecting the 2017 election plebiscite results regarding the branch library, the Branch Library Borrowing Bylaw 24/2017 is rescinded and further planning to build and construct a branch library is discontinued.

BACKGROUND:

There have been a series of motions approved by Council over the past three years regarding the Proposed Branch Library. Administration has included a chronological summary of the motions, a link to additional information on the motions and supporting documents, as well as ballot question information and results.

Summary of Council Motions Relating the Branch Library

A summary of Council motions that were passed relating to progressing Capital Project OA-005: Community Branch Library are listed below.

As part of the 2016 budget deliberations, The St. Albert Public Library Board submitted Capital Project Charter OA-005: Community Branch Library for Council consideration. This followed the recommendations from the *St. Albert Public Library Feasibility Update Report* (Manasc Isaac Architects).

On November 25, 2015 Council passed the following motion:

PM12-2016

That Administration keep OA-005 Community Branch Library in 2016, but with \$100,000 in 2016, \$2,000,000 in 2017, \$15,000,000 in 2018. And during the planning phase identify any projects that could be built in conjunction with the Branch Library.

On October 3, 2016 Council received for information the Branch Library Feasibility Analysis, Functional Program, Conceptual Plan and Site Analysis Study. Capital Charter OA-005 was updated based on this conceptual plan

and put forward as part of the 2017 budget deliberations for Phase two funding.

On December 12, 2016 Council passed the following motion:

AR-16-485

That the 2017 Municipal Operating Budget, in the amount of \$148.8 million detailed in the attachment titled “2017 Municipal Operating Budget” be approved.

That the 2017 Municipal Capital Budget, in the amount of \$55.2 million detailed in the attachment titled “2017 Municipal Capital Funding” be approved.

That the 2017-2019 Business Plans, provided as part of the Proposed 2017 Budget document, be approved.

As part of this motion the following postponed motion was passed:

PM68a-2017

That OA-005 Community Library Branch in the amount of \$17,492,159 be advanced and funded through debt servicing; and that Administration be directed to prepare, for Council consideration, the required borrowing bylaw(s) in accordance with the provisions of the *Municipal Government Act*

On February 21, 2017 Council passed the following motion:

CM-17-015

First portion

That prior to allocating funds to purchase land or construct a branch library that the following pre-requisite be met:

1. That all options for reserve land to be a site for construction be explored.
2. That developer's proposals be submitted to Council with Administration comments and recommendations.

Second portion

A long-term grant funding agreement with the library be negotiated between the Library Board and the City of St. Albert.

On March 13, 2017 Council passed the following motions:

INC-17-014

That the City Manager be authorized to negotiate purchase of lands for the Community Branch Library as per recommendation 1 contained within the

Confidential Administrative Report entitled “St. Albert Branch Library - Proposed Location”, provided as an attachment to the March 13, 2017 Standing Committee of the Whole Agenda Report titled “Land Matter”.

That Administration report back to Council the result of negotiations by May 23, 2017.

On May 15, 2017 Council passed the following motions:

AR-17-291

That negotiations on land be postponed for the Branch Library until directed by Council.

CM-17-043

That the City has 3 separate vote on the questions on the ballot, which are:

1. Do you support that the City build in next 4 years: Branch Library, Building cost: \$19 million, Annual Operating Cost: \$2 million, Total estimated tax increase: 3.4%
Yes _____. No _____.
2. Do you support that the City build in next 4 years: Single Sheet Arena Ice Rink, Building Cost: \$20.5 million, Annual Operating Cost: \$500,000, Total estimated tax increase: 1.9%.
Yes _____. No _____.
3. Do you support that the City build in next 4 years: Aquatics Facility, Building Cost: \$24 million, Annual Operating Cost: \$1.8 million, Total Estimated Tax Increase: 3.5%
Yes _____. No _____.

On July 10, 2017 Council passed the following motion:

BL-17-039

That Bylaw 24/2017, “Being a Borrowing Bylaw to finance the Construction of the Branch Library”, be read a third and final time.

(CM-17-064)

That Administration will provide a report to Council by Q2 2018 recommending a growth plan for facility development including funding strategies, operating models and land requirements.

That Administration return to Council in September with a report and with an examination of Gymnastics funding models, so Council can decide if we fund Gymnastics and to what scope.

That Administration arrange a meeting with Dynamyx Gymnastics, Active Communities Alberta, St. Albert Soccer Association, and the City of

Edmonton to explore a multipurpose privately-owned recreation facility and come back with whatever process Administration recommends, whether it be a MOU, Terms of Reference, letter of support, etc., to advance this concept.

That Administration, following discussions with the gymnastics clubs, return to Council in Q4/17 with a draft MOU that reflects joint gymnastics planning together with the City.

On September 5, 2017 Council passed the following motion:

CM-17-076

That following the 2017 municipal election if Council decides to direct the City Manager to resume land negotiations, that the funding for the purchase of land and the detailed design not be funded using debt but rather funded from the Capital Reserve.

Additional Information and Support Documents

A detailed listing of all motions related to this matter and supporting documents can be found on the City of St. Albert website at the following address:

<https://stalbert.ca/cosa/elections-census/ballot-questions/background-on-branch-library/>

Ballot Question Information and Results

The following question was placed on the ballot for the 2017 Municipal election:

The City has in its 10-year capital plan three major capital projects: a branch library; an additional surface of ice attached to Servus Place; and more aquatic space attached to Servus Place.

The City is asking for residential input on which, if any, project to proceed with.

1. Are you in favour of the City proceeding with further planning of a branch library?
Yes _____ or No _____

The 2017 Municipal Election had a 42.9% voter turnout of 50,423 eligible voters (21,631). Of those, 21,148 answered the above ballot question. The results of the ballot question were as follows:

YES – 7,802 (36.9%)

NO – 13,346 (63.1%)

The results of the Ballot Questions are not binding, however are for Council's information.

Administration, as per Council's direction CM-17-064, is presently engaging with recreation, sports, library, and community organizations in a holistic study, exploring potential facility partnership opportunities and service delivery models. Administration is requesting direction from Council regarding any continued planning on the Branch Library or Library expansion.

Any further planning action regarding the Branch Library or expansion, including whether to proceed with negotiations for land and project financing options, requires specific direction from Council.

Should the above Council Motion pass, Administration recommends a subsequent motion to remove the project from the list of approved capital projects. Suggested wording for such a motion is provided below:

That the following postponed motion be approved:

PM10-2018

"That budget approval for project #417901 Community Branch Library in the amount of \$17,492,159, originally passed on December 12, 2016, be cancelled."

Additionally, direction is also required on continued planning of a Sixth Arena Ice Surface, attached to Servus Place, which had a "no" result of 52.1% on the ballot question.

If Council wishes to direct that further planning of a Sixth Arena Ice Surface be discontinued, a subsequent motion to remove the project from the Capital Plan would be appropriate. Suggested wording for such a motion is provided below:

That the following postponed motion be approved:

PM11-2018

"That project SERV-004 Sixth Arena Ice Surface in the amount of \$20,547,500 be removed from the 10 Year Municipal Capital Plan."

ALTERNATIVES AND IMPLICATIONS

Council could alternatively direct that Administration, in developing the Q2 2018 report on facility development, recommend a growth plan for facility development inclusive of a range of library expansion and ice sheet options, but rescinding approval of the proposed branch library and removing the Sixth Arena Ice Surface at Servus Place from the Capital Plan to effectively halt any further stages until so directed by Council. If Council wishes to take this approach, Administration recommends motions PM10-2018 and PM11-2018 as presented.

Council Motion CM-17-064 directed Administration to report to Council by Q2 of 2018 with recommendations for facility development. If any, or all, of the motions

discussed above are passed, the number and combinations of potential facilities to be considered in this report would be subsequently limited.

Council could also consider postponing voting on this Council Motion, and consideration of any of the proposed subsequent motions, until after the presentation of Administration's report on facility development in Q2 2018. The information available from this report may be relevant for consideration of motions that establish the scope for future development of community facilities. If Council wishes to take this approach, Administration recommends the following motion:

That the Council Motion be postponed until after Administration delivers a report to Council in Q2 2018 recommending a growth plan for facility development including funding strategies, operating models and land requirements.

Report Date: November 6, 2017
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