



CITY OF ST. ALBERT ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

TITLE: FOIP POLICY REVIEW

On October 19, 2017 Mayor Crouse 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.

PROPOSED MOTION(S):

That Administration review the City of Lacombe FOIP policy and propose a similar policy for St. Albert in 2019.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Lacombe's "FOIP Proactive Disclosure Policy" was approved in August 2014. The Policy's intent is to enhance accountability, openness and transparency by posting General FOIP Requests on the City of Lacombe's website, when it is believed that the information is of public interest.

Administration supports moving towards this direction to align with Council's commitment towards open government, increased transparency and accessibility of municipal information. It is recommended that if the City of St. Albert adopts a similar policy, it would be important for the policy to state exemption criteria specifying information that would not be posted such as, information that may harm a third party's business interests.

Operational Impacts

Operationally, if such a policy was adopted, FOIP responses might require additional redaction of information prior to it being posted to the website based on the exemption criteria.

The City processes on average 55 requests per year. Of those, approximately 5 would fall into the category of public interest. Personal information and property information encompass many of the other requests.

Report Date: November 27, 2017
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City Manager: Kevin Scoble