



CITY OF ST. ALBERT ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

TITLE: COUNCIL MEMBERS PER DIEM

PURPOSE OF REPORT

On November 18, 2019 Mayor Heron provided notice in accordance with Section 23 of Procedure Bylaw 3/2018 that she intended to bring forward the proposed motion below.

PROPOSED MOTION(S):

That section #14 of council policy C-CC-03 *City Council Remuneration and Expense Reimbursement Policy* be replaced with the following:

Council Members shall be entitled to per diem payments in relation to Council appointments to external boards/committees/agencies that offer per diems. Currently these are Edmonton Metro Region Board, Alberta Capital Region Waste Water Commission and Homeland Housing.

ALIGNMENT TO PRIORITIES IN COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN

N/A

ALIGNMENT TO LEVELS OF SERVICE DELIVERY

N/A

ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL DIRECTION OR MANDATORY STATUTORY PROVISION

N/A

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

Section 14 of Policy C-CC-03 currently reads as follows:

“Council Members shall not be entitled to per diem payments in relation to Council appointments to external boards/committees/agencies or for training and development activities.”

In the past Councillors received *per diem* payments for their services as directors of external agencies – these payments were relatively small, amounting to about \$5000 per year in total and had no impact on the St. Albert taxpayer. Councillors also used to receive \$200/day for training and development days and for full days spent on City business out of the region including AUMA or FCM conferences, at an annual cost to the St. Albert taxpayer of typically \$15,000 to \$20,000. On the recommendation of the Council Remuneration Committee both kinds of *per diem* payments were discontinued by motion of Council passed in January 2017. At that time the Committee (composed only of residents, no Council members) also recommended salary increases for Councillors, partly to compensate for the removal of the *per diems*, but Council decided to approve salary increases of \$5000/year less for Councillors and \$15,000/year less for the Mayor, than the Committee had recommended.

The Motion now being proposed would restore only the right of Councillors to receive *per diems* from external agencies and would not restore the other kind of *per diem* described above.

Currently two of the three external agencies that offer *per diems* to their Board members (EMRB and Homeland Housing) pay the money directly to the municipality in the case of St. Albert rather than to our Councillors who serve on their Boards, because of our Policy as set out above. That would no longer happen if the Motion passes, and the impact to municipal revenue would be approximately (\$3500) in the 2020 budget year. In the case of the Capital Region Waste Water Commission the *per diem* amounts are not now paid directly to the City, in fact they are not paid at all because of our Policy, so there would be no revenue impact to allowing those amounts to be paid directly to Councillors who serve on that Board.

Administration takes no position on the merits this Motion.

Report Date: January 6, 2020

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