



## CITY OF ST. ALBERT CITY COUNCIL POLICY

NUMBER	TITLE
C-CAO-01	Chief Administrative Officer Delegations
ORIGINAL APPROVAL DATE	DATE LAST REVISED
September 9, 2001	August 31, 2020

### Purpose

To delegate specific authorities and matters to the Chief Administrative Officer, and to establish limits on those delegations where necessary. This Policy provides additional delegations to the Chief Administrative Officer to supplement the *Chief Administrative Officer Bylaw*.

### Policy Statement

As authorized by provincial legislation, Council may delegate certain responsibilities and authorities to the Chief Administrative Officer, in the spirit of maintaining Council's ability to govern the municipality and maximizing the Chief Administrative Officer's ability to administer the municipality effectively and efficiently.

Therefore, in addition to the responsibilities and authorities provided to the Chief Administrative Officer within the *Chief Administrative Officer Bylaw*, or other policies or bylaws duly authorized by Council, the Chief Administrative Officer shall be delegated certain authorities.

### Service Standards/ Expectations

1. Organizational Responsibility
  - The Chief Administrative Officer shall promptly address any practice, activity, decision, or organizational circumstance that is discovered to be either unlawful, imprudent, or in violation of commonly accepted business and professional ethics.
2. Resident, Client, Customer and Supplier Relations

- a. With respect to interactions with residents, clients, customers and suppliers, the Chief Administrative Officer shall address any known conditions, procedures, or decisions that are unsafe, undignified, unnecessarily intrusive, or that fail to provide appropriate confidentiality or privacy.
- b. The Chief Administrative Officer shall:
  - i. Use methods of collecting, reviewing, transmitting, or storing information that protect against improper access to or disclosure of the material elicited.
  - ii. Provide a reasonable level of privacy for residents, clients, customers, suppliers, and employees.
  - iii. Make available information on the bylaws, policies and processes regarding the delivery of city services, including the grievance procedures.
  - iv. Provide advice which is beneficial to the community and the Corporation.
  - v. Respond to inquiries and requests for information on behalf of the City, including stating the City's position, subject to any Council policy, procedure, standard or guideline, or as otherwise directed by Council.
  - vi. Address matters of public interest upon being made aware of such by a member of the public, Administration, or Council.

### 3. Human Resources

- a. With respect to the treatment of paid and volunteer staff, the Chief Administrative Officer shall ensure that organizational conditions support a rewarding, enriching and learning work environment for employees, and that conditions are as safe, fair and dignified as possible.
- b. The Chief Administrative Officer shall:
  - i. ensure that written personnel policies exist in areas that include but are not limited to:
    - employment hiring and separation;
    - harassment;
    - nepotism;
    - preferential treatment in the workplace;
    - safety;

- training and development;
- expression of ethical dissent (i.e., where employees refuse to carry out an action due to personal ethics or beliefs);
- conflict resolution;
- celebration of success and recognition of performance.
- inform staff about their rights under this policy.

#### 4. Financial Planning and Budgeting

- a. Financial planning for any fiscal year or the remaining part of any fiscal year shall be materially consistent with Council's policies, priorities and strategic plan, minimize fiscal jeopardy, and be consistent with multi-year business/financial plans.
- b. The Chief Administrative Officer shall ensure recommended budgeting:
  - i. contains sufficient information to enable:
    - credible projection of revenues and expenses;
    - separation of operational, capital and utility items;
    - adequate cash flow projections;
    - disclosure of key planning assumptions or to carry out critical impact analysis.
  - ii. does not negatively impact future budget years without informing Council prior to budget approval;
  - iii. does not provide for the incurrence of debt that places the corporation beyond provincial and/or corporation debt guidelines without Council approval.

#### 5. Financial Conditions and Activities

- a. The Chief Administrative Officer shall protect the City from fiscal jeopardy and shall make certain that actual expenditures do not deviate materially from Council's priorities established in the City's Business Plan and the budget.
- b. The Chief Administrative Officer shall:
  - i. settle and properly account for payroll and debts in a timely manner;
  - ii. pursue receivables responsibly;

- iii. provide quarterly financial reports to Council;
- iv. file all tax payments or other government-ordered payments or filings accurately and in a timely manner.

c. The Chief Administrative Officer may:

- i. Approve and enter into revenue contracts (exclusive of grant or rebate type agreements) provided that the anticipated annual revenue to the City does not exceed \$100,000.
- ii. Approve and enter into grant or rebate type agreements related to Council approved projects without limitation.
- iii. Approve and enter into contracts for the supply of goods or services, including professional/consulting services, provided that:
  - subject to section 5(c)(vi), funds for the deliverable goods or services are in an approved budget for the first fiscal year during which the contract is in effect
  - the contract has been subject to a competitive bid/proposal process or has appropriate justification for a single/sole source acquisition;
  - for competitive bid/proposals, the contract is to be awarded to the lowest price qualifying bid or best evaluated bid; and
  - the contract approval is in accordance with legislation and trade agreements, and approved policies, procedures, standards or guidelines.
- iv. Prepare and award all tenders where the expenditure is included in an approved budget, and approve and execute contracts required for the completion of such tenders in accordance with legislation and trade agreements and approved policies, procedures, standards or guidelines.
- v. For projects with no change to scope, award contracts in excess of the approved budget for the project, where the funds for the delivered goods or services do not exceed either of the following amounts:
  - 10% of the value of the original budget
  - \$50,000

If approving contracts in excess of the approved budget amount, within the limits established above, the Chief Administrative Officer should have reasonable assurance that

the overage will be offset and remain within the overall approved capital budget for the fiscal year.

- vi. Approve change orders related to budgeted projects, within the original project scope, provided that the adjusted cost of the project remains within the approved budget amount.
- vii. Approve project scope changes, within the original budgeted amount, provided the cumulative value of the scope changes on the applicable project does not exceed either of the following amounts:
  - 10% of the value of the original budget;
  - \$250,000.

Desired/required scope changes exceeding the approved budget must be approved by Council.

- viii. Approve and enter into licenses, easements or encroachment agreements for use of City-owned land or facilities, or for City use of non-owned land or facilities, provided the term of any such agreement does not exceed ten (10) years.
- ix. Approve and enter into leases of City-owned land and buildings if:
  - selection of the tenant was based on a competitive process, or the result of a renewal of a longstanding lease with a community partner;
  - the rent to be charged is at fair market value, or a rate that can be justified as being of fair value considering the intended use of the space or the offering of additional subsidies;
  - the term of the lease does not exceed ten (10) years (including renewals); and
  - the rent to be paid to the City, excluding any amounts paid to the City as a sharing of revenue earned by the lessee, does not exceed \$100,000 per year.
- x. Approve and enter into leases of land and buildings for City use if:
  - the term of the lease does not exceed ten (10) years (including renewals); and
  - funds for the payment of rent are in an approved budget for the first fiscal year during which the lease is in effect.

- xi. Approve and enter into agreements required as a result of, or proposed in conjunction with, the development or subdivision of land within the city including development/servicing agreements and developer contribution agreements.
- xii. Approve and enter into an agreement on behalf of the City to sell real property provided that:
  - the amount to be paid for the property is the highest amount offered up to the time of approval;
  - the amount to be paid is equivalent to or greater than the market value of the property, which market value shall be determined on an annual basis and expressed as the range that is +/-5% of a City-commissioned appraised value, which appraised value shall be reviewed as conditions warrant, consistent with the City's Land Transactions Policy C-ED-03;
  - the proposed use of the property is consistent with the City's applicable land use bylaws and policies; and
  - the amount offered does not exceed \$499,999.
- xiii. Approve and execute agreements to acquire land at or below fair market value, provided that the value of the acquisition does not exceed \$499,999.
- xiv. Approve emergency expenditures and advise Council as to the appropriate next steps when possible.

## 6. Emergency Succession

- a. To protect Council from sudden loss of Chief Administrative Officer services, the Chief Administrative Officer shall ensure that at least two members of the Senior Leadership Team are familiar with Council and Chief Administrative Officer issues and processes.
- b. The Chief Administrative Officer may appoint an Acting Chief Administrative Officer to act on his or her behalf, during temporary absences.

## 7. Asset Protection

- a. The Chief Administrative Officer shall not knowingly allow the City's assets to be unprotected, inadequately maintained, or subject to unnecessary risk.
- b. The Chief Administrative Officer shall:

- i. Operate with written financial policies that include but are not limited to:
    - purchasing policy;
    - investment policy;
    - reserves policy;
    - debt policy.
  - ii. Adequately insure against theft and casualty losses.
  - iii. Adequately insure against liability of Council members, staff, and the corporation itself in an amount comparable to similar municipalities.
  - iv. Establish policies about the handling of cash, including bonding of personnel where appropriate.
  - v. Limit exposure of the corporation, its Council, or staff to claims of liability.
  - vi. Develop policies to protect the City's interest in its intellectual property.
  - vii. Protect information and files from loss or significant damage.
  - viii. Receive, process, or disburse funds under controls that are sufficient to meet the generally accepted auditing standards.
  - ix. Engage in activities that maintain or enhance the corporation's public image or credibility.
- c. The Chief Administrative Officer may enter into agreements necessary to provide insurance coverage and performance bonds for the City.

## 8. Compensation and Benefits

- a. With respect to employment, compensation, and benefits to employees, consultants, contract workers, and volunteers, the Chief Administrative Officer shall maintain the City's fiscal integrity, reputation, and/or public image.
- b. The Chief Administrative Officer shall not:
  - i. change his or her own compensation and benefits;
  - ii. promise or imply permanent or guaranteed employment;

- iii. establish current compensation and benefits that deviate materially from the geographic or professional market for skills employed.

- c. The Chief Administrative Officer may set hours of work and other working conditions for City employees, within approved budgets and Council policy / service level parameters where applicable.

## 9. Communication and Support to Council

- a. The Chief Administrative Officer shall provide information required to enable Council to fulfill its obligations.

- b. The Chief Administrative Officer shall:

- i. Submit information required by Council in a timely, accurate, and understandable fashion, directly addressing Council policies being monitored.
- ii. Inform Council of trends, anticipated adverse media coverage, and material external and internal changes, particularly changes in the assumptions upon which any Council policy has previously been established.
- iii. Advise Council, if in the Chief Administrative Officer's opinion, Council is not in compliance with its own policies, particularly in the case of Council behaviour that is detrimental to the working relationship between Council and the Chief Administrative Officer.
- iv. Assemble such staff and external points of view, issues, and options as may reasonably be considered necessary for fully informed Council choices.
- v. Provide a mechanism for official Council and/or committee communications.
- vi. Deal with Council as a whole except when:
  - fulfilling individual requests for information; or
  - responding to committees duly charged by Council.
- vii. Report in a timely manner on actual or anticipated non-compliance with any policy of Council.
- viii. Inform Council of an immediate need to expend funds in unforeseen and unbudgeted circumstances.

## 10. Global Council / Chief Administrative Officer Relationship



- a. Council's primary role is to set policy whereas the Chief Administrative Officer ensures the implementation of and adherence to Council policy.
- b. Council's sole official connection to the operation of the corporation will be through the Chief Administrative Officer, unless the Chief Administrative Officer provides written authorization for certain communications to flow directly to or from other persons reporting directly or indirectly to the Chief Administrative Officer.

#### **11. Unity of Control**

- a. Only decisions of Council are binding on the Chief Administrative Officer, subject to the following:
  - i. If authorized by Council, decisions or instructions of individual Council members or committees are binding on the Chief Administrative Officer.
  - ii. In the case of Council members or committees requesting information or assistance with Council authorization, the Chief Administrative Officer shall comply with such requests.

#### **12. Accountability of the Chief Administrative Officer**

- a. The Chief Administrative Officer is accountable to Council for the conduct and performance of all staff.

#### **13. Policy Review**

- a. Council shall review this policy, at minimum, every four years from the date of its last revision.

### **Legal References**

*Municipal Government Act*  
*Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*  
*Charter of Rights and Freedoms*  
*Employment Standards Code*  
*Labour Relations Code*

### **Cross References**

*Chief Administrative Officer Bylaw*  
 Collective Agreements  
 Human Resources Services Policy Manual  
 City Council Policy C-FS-01 Financial Reserves

City Council Policy C-ED-03 Land Transactions  
City Council Policy A-FS-02 Contract Awards/Signing Authority  
City Council Policy C-Chief Administrative Officer-14 Monitoring Chief  
Administrative Officer Performance

### Attachments

N/A

DATE REVIEWED	NEXT REVIEW DATE	REVISIONS
August 31, 2020	August 2024	Nov 11, 2002 – C588-2002 May 26, 2014 – C286-2014 Dec 12, 2016 – AR-16-488 June 26, 2017 - AR-17-333 September 24, 2018 – CB-18-011 January 21, 2019 – AR-19-003 August 31, 2020 – CB-20-058