



CITY OF ST. ALBERT ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

REMOVE REFERENCE TO SMART CITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

On September 6, 2016, Mayor Crouse provided notice in accordance with Section 23 of Procedure Bylaw 35/2009 of intent to bring forward the following motion:

That the Smart City Master Plan be amended by deleting all references to an Advisory Committee formation.

BACKGROUND:

If this motion is carried by Council, Administration would remove reference to the formation of an 'advisory committee or committees' from the proposed Smart City Master Plan, which includes one strategy relating to the formation of advisory committee(s). This reference is within Strategy IM.1: "Provide ongoing oversight of, and input into, the advancement of St. Albert's Smart City plans through advisory committee(s) and supportive structures within City Administration." The Strategy also provides context and potential responsibilities for the associated committee(s).

The reason the now-completed Smart City Steering Committee recommended ongoing oversight and attention to Smart City and innovation topics was to ensure some ongoing commitment, public engagement, priority setting, and capturing of new ideas. A variety of individuals within the community have also expressed interest and aptitude in participating in the governance of Smart City into the future.

The implication of removing the reference is understood by Administration to be that there would be no additional or exceptional Council or community oversight of Smart City activities beyond existing mechanisms such as the business planning and budget process and normal progress reporting to Council.

Within Administration, plans are in place for interdepartmental working groups and committees, pending the Master Plan's approval.

An alternative to eliminating reference to community participation in overall guidance is to amend reference so that it is aligned to existing governance committees. For example, the Environmental Advisory Committee and the Community Services Advisory Board could be provided with the additional objective to consider Smart City technologies within their mandate of policy and service advice. Both of these committees provide advice on grant programs, and there is opportunity for the grant programs to have a "Smart technology" component. The Economic Development Advisory Board could similarly be mandated to provide such advice to

Administration. These committees could respond to particular topics as they arise, and provide required advice to Council and/or Administration.

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