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Presented by: Chris Jardine, GM, CPS

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TAMRIMS#: B06

New Year's Eve Fireworks

Presented by: Chris Jardine, GM, CPS

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the allocation of \$11,300 from the Community Events Grant and \$13,700 from Council Contingency for the provision of New Years Eve fireworks by City of St. Albert Administration be approved for each of the years 2016 and 2017.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to request funding from Council to allow Administration to provide the New Years Eve fireworks display on December 31 in 2016 and 2017. This will occur as a handover from a local community organization that has provided Fireworks since 2003 in partnership with the City.

COUNCIL DIRECTION

None.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The request before Council is to approve the funding required for the provision of fireworks on New Years Eve. This has been an established service provision in St. Albert for many years and have been offered in partnership with Victory Life Church; a valuable community organization and partner since 2003.

The transition of the fireworks from Victory Life Church has been a consultative process with

Administration through 2016. The Victory Life Church is no longer able to provide the New Years Firework Event. The intent is to ensure that provision of the fireworks will take place for the residents of St. Albert in 2016 and 2017 through delivery of this event by City Staff.

The funding identified will cover costs of pyrotechnics, security of the park site, site preparation and clean up after the completion of the event. Through 2017, Administration will investigate community opportunities in the provision of New Years Eve fireworks in 2018 and future. These opportunities could include another community partner taking on the provision of the New Year Eve Fireworks, or possible sponsorships to fiscally support the New Years Eve Fireworks program.

STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS OR ENGAGEMENT

- Meetings have been held between Administration and representatives of the Victory Life Church to ensure seamless transition of the fireworks for implementation in 2016.

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION(S)

Financial:

- No financial impact. \$25,000 funding for each 2016 and 2017, consisting of \$11,300 from Community Events Grant and \$13,700 from Council Contingency each year and taking from Council contingency which is a budget impact. For 2016, there is currently \$11,709 unallocated in the Community Events Grant and \$72,000 in the Council Contingency. By funding this project the remaining balances would be \$409 and \$58,300 respectively.
- Funding previously provided to the Victory Life church through the Community events Grant funding would be realigned for the provision of this service by Administration.
- Any future funding required for beyond 2018, will be requested through the 2018 budget process.

Legal / Risk:

None at this time

Program or Service:

- This is a new service standard as this event previously was not directly provided by Administration.

Organizational:

- The proposed project and the work aligned with it will be accomplished within existing staff resources.

ALTERNATIVES AND IMPLICATIONS CONSIDERED

1. That Council approve \$25,000 in funding from an alternative funding source for the provision of New Year's Eve fireworks in St. Albert.
2. That no action is taken. New Years Eve Fireworks no longer be provided in the City of St. Albert.
3. That Administration proceeds based on specific direction from Council.

STRATEGIC CONNECTIONS

Council's Goals and Priorities

This recommendation aligns strongly with several key areas of the Council Strategic Plan as outlined below under the Community Vision section. Specific alignments with Council Priorities include:

CULTURE

The provision of New Years Eve Fireworks has become a mainstay in the community for many years. It is an opportunity for the community to gather together and celebrate.

- a. *Promote, build on and enhance new and existing cultural events and amenities to draw visitors, and making cultural experiences accessible through effective communication and collaboration efforts.*

Community Vision

- a. SOCIAL - The New Years Eve Fireworks aligns with the social pillar in creating an opportunity for members of the community to gather together and celebrate our local small town values.
- b. CULTURE - This event was created as a lively event that will bring people together and gather in celebration. Maintaining the provision of this service create an important opportunity to propagate this value in the community.

Long Term Plans

a. Recreation Master Plan

The provision of New Years Eve Fireworks supports the "Ensure community health and well being" priority from the 2012 Recreation Master Plan. As part of this priority, Recreation and Parks engages the broader community and seek out opportunities to engage the community which can be achieved by the transition of this service to ensure future provision to the residents of St. Albert.

b. Social Master Plan

The Social Master Plan recognizes the value of recreation by including a core outcome of quality recreation opportunities as one of the key goals; namely: St. Albert is a community where residents know their neighbors and feel a sense of belonging.

Report Date (Council Meeting Date): October 3, 2016

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