

Subject: Council Realignment

Recommendations:

1. THAT Council hereby declares its support in principle for a re-alignment of the geographic areas of the wards, and the number of Council representatives per ward, as follows:
 - (a) the boundaries of Ward 1 to be expanded to include Draper and Saprae Creek, and the number of Councillors representing Ward 1 to be increased to 7;
 - (b) the boundaries of Ward 2 to be contracted so that Ward 2 becomes a “northern rural ward” extending from the border of the Northwest Territories to a line bisecting the Province at the same latitude as the southern border of Wood Buffalo National Park [but not including the Park itself] and the number of Councillors representing Ward 2 to be decreased to 1;
 - (c) Ward 3 to be expanded to become a “central rural ward” extending from the southern boundary of Ward 2 as contracted to the northern boundary of Ward 4, but excluding the expanded area of Ward 1, and one Councillor to continue to represent Ward 3;
 - (d) both the geographic territory of Ward 4 and the single Councillor representing Ward 4 , the “southern rural ward”, to remain unchanged.
2. THAT Council hereby declares its support in principle for:
 - (a) an Executive Committee of three Councillors (with the Mayor an *ex officio* member) who will be full time Councillors remunerated accordingly and participating fully with the Chief Administrative Officer’s senior leadership team in implementing at an operational and administrative level the policy, governance and strategic directions of the whole Council;
 - (b) a full-time Deputy Mayor, elected directly to that office if the *Municipal Government Act* is amended to so allow, otherwise appointed by the Council, with specific duties and functions beyond acting as Mayor when the Mayor is unable to perform the duties of Mayor or when the office of Mayor is vacant, such duties and functions to be determined by resolution of Council.

3. THAT the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to write on behalf of Council to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, advising of the above resolutions and requesting that the Government of Alberta make the necessary legislative and regulatory amendments to bring into effect the Ward realignments and the option to directly elect a Deputy Mayor, as set out in the resolutions.
4. THAT the CAO is hereby directed to prepare and present to Council before the 2016 summer recess a Report setting out:
 - (a) options for implementing the Executive Committee structure, including discussion of the changes that would be required to bylaws, resolutions or other matters within the control of the Municipality; and
 - (b) options for allowing the general public to vote directly for a Deputy Mayor, and for Councillors who will if elected automatically become Executive Committee members, including discussion of the changes that would be required both to provincial legislation and to municipal bylaws, resolutions or other matters within the control of the Municipality.

Summary:

At the February 9, 2016, Councillor McGrath served notice of his intent to bring forward the following motion for Council's consideration at the regularly scheduled Council meeting on March 8, 2016:

1. THAT Council hereby declares its support in principle for a re-alignment of the geographic areas of the wards, and the number of Council representatives per ward, as follows:
 - (a) the boundaries of Ward 1 to be expanded to include Draper and Saprae Creek, and the number of Councillors representing Ward 1 to be increased to 7;
 - (b) the boundaries of Ward 2 to be contracted so that Ward 2 becomes a "northern rural ward" extending from the border of the Northwest Territories to a line bisecting the Province at the same latitude as the southern border of Wood Buffalo National Park [but not including the Park itself] and the number of Councillors representing Ward 2 to be decreased to 1;
 - (c) Ward 3 to be expanded to become a "central rural ward" extending from the southern boundary of Ward 2 as contracted to the northern boundary of Ward 4, but excluding the expanded area of Ward 1, and one Councillor to continue to represent Ward 3;
 - (d) both the geographic territory of Ward 4 and the single Councillor representing Ward 4, the "southern rural ward", to remain unchanged.

2. THAT Council hereby declares its support in principle for:
 - (a) an Executive Committee of three Councillors (with the Mayor an *ex officio* member) who will be full time Councillors remunerated accordingly and participating fully with the Chief Administrative Officer's senior leadership team in implementing at an operational and administrative level the policy, governance and strategic directions of the whole Council;
 - (b) a full-time Deputy Mayor, elected directly to that office if the *Municipal Government Act* is amended to so allow, otherwise appointed by the Council, with specific duties and functions beyond acting as Mayor when the Mayor is unable to perform the duties of Mayor or when the office of Mayor is vacant, such duties and functions to be determined by resolution of Council.
3. THAT the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to write on behalf of Council to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, advising of the above resolutions and requesting that the Government of Alberta make the necessary legislative and regulatory amendments to bring into effect the Ward realignments and the option to directly elect a Deputy Mayor, as set out in the resolutions.
4. THAT the CAO is hereby directed to prepare and present to Council before the 2016 summer recess a Report setting out:
 - (a) options for implementing the Executive Committee structure, including discussion of the changes that would be required to bylaws, resolutions or other matters within the control of the Municipality; and
 - (b) options for allowing the general public to vote directly for a Deputy Mayor, and for Councillors who will if elected automatically become Executive Committee members, including discussion of the changes that would be required both to provincial legislation and to municipal bylaws, resolutions or other matters within the control of the Municipality.

As provided for under the Procedure Bylaw, the recommendation is now presented for Council's consideration.