



REQUEST FOR DECISION

MEETING DATE: May 27, 2024

TITLE: C-1314-24-Development Fees and Fines Bylaw Amendment - Hen Keeping - First and Second Reading

DIVISION: Sustainable Growth and Development Services

SUMMARY:

Proposed Bylaw C-1314-24, a text amendment to Bylaw C-1268-23 Development Fees and Fines Bylaw, is being brought forward for first and second reading to add a Hen Keeping License fee. C-1314-24 is being brought forward in tandem with C-1313-24 Hens Bylaw and C-1315-24 Land Use Bylaw Amendment for Hen Keeping to support the proposed two year hen keeping pilot program.

PROPOSED MOTION:

THAT first reading be given to C-1314-24 Development Fees and Fines Bylaw Amendment - Hen Keeping.

THAT second reading be given to C-1314-24 Development Fees and Fines Bylaw Amendment - Hen Keeping.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:

Administration has developed a two year pilot program for hen keeping. To implement the hen keeping program, Administration identified the need to amend C-1268-23 Development Fees and Fines Bylaw to provide the licensing fee for hens. Administration based the one-time hen keeping licencing fee of \$50 on a scan of other municipal hen keeping fees. Administration also recognizes the high start-up costs associated with hen keeping, including but not limited to the hen enclosure, completion of the Urban Hen Keeping course, and ongoing maintenance and care of hens.

Table 1 - Municipal Scan of Permits/Licences Issued and Costs

Municipality	Permits/Licences Issued	Permit/Licence Cost
Red Deer	102	\$36.15
Grand Prairie	24	Free
St. Albert	19	\$49
Cold Lake	6	\$30
Leduc (Pilot)	1	Free

OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES:

Bylaw C-1314-24 is being brought forward for consideration of first and second reading. Council may choose to amend the bylaw or defeat the motion for second reading and choose to defeat this bylaw.

CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT:

Results from the Community Standards Bylaw *What We Heard* Report provided Administration with feedback from community responses to hen keeping and beekeeping within the city.

The jurisdictional scan guided further research; Administration explored options with similar sized municipalities. Inquiries were made to other municipalities regarding hen programs, internal processes, bylaw definitions, and lessons learned to inform the proposed options.

IMPLEMENTATION / COMMUNICATION:

Timelines for the Hen Keeping program are:

DATE	ACTION
March - April 2024	Finalize Hens Bylaw and other bylaw amendments and program details
April - May	Develop communications plan
April 15	Hens Bylaw and program presented to GPC
May 27 & June 10	Hens Bylaw and other bylaw amendments to Council for first, second and third reading
June	Launch program

A Communications Strategy is being developed to update the City's website and social media tools with regard to the Hen Keeping Program.

IMPACTS:

The level of interest in hen keeping in the City is unknown. Other smaller and mid-sized communities have issued anywhere from one to over 100 licences.

Ongoing management of the program is estimated to require 65 - 70 hours per application including pre-application discussions through to licence issuance, inspections and potential appeal.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The financial implications will depend on the number of applications.