

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 21, 2018

Item 7, Report No. 6, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted, as amended, by the Council of the City of Vaughan on February 21, 2018, as follows:

By approving the following in accordance with Communication C5, from the Deputy City Manager, Community Services, Director, By-law and Compliance, Licensing and Permit Services, dated February 20, 2018:

- 1) That City Council approve the proposed revised amendments to the Animal Control By-law and the Licensing By-law in accordance with Attachment 1 of this report; and***
- 2) That City Council authorize staff to amend, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, the Animal Control By-law No. 53-2002, as amended, and the Licensing By-law No. 315-2005, and to take any other necessary actions to give effect to the recommendations herein;***

By approving that in recognition of the exemplary record of the Pine Valley Racing Pigeon Club in setting the standard for pigeon keeping best practices in Vaughan, inspections of other miscellaneous exempt locations shall be every two years; and

By receiving the report of the Deputy City Manager, Community Services, dated February 6, 2018.

7 ANIMAL CONTROL AND LICENSING BY-LAWS – TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

The Committee of the Whole recommends:

- 1) That consideration of this matter be deferred to the Council meeting of February 21, 2018; and**
- 2) That the deputation by Mr. Rocco Nalli, Davidson Drive, Woodbridge, representing the Pine Valley Pigeon Club, be received.**

Purpose

Pursuant to consultation with industry stakeholders, and in consideration of efficacy of existing by-laws, minor amendments are being sought to By-laws 53-2002 and 315-2005. Proposed amendments are included within this report.

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Recommendations

1. That City Council approve the proposed amendments to the Animal Control and Licensing By-laws in accordance with Attachment A of this report; and
2. That City Council authorize staff to amend, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, Animal Control By-law No. 53-2002 and Licensing By-law No. 315-2005, and to take any other necessary actions to give effect to the recommendations herein.

Report Highlights

- Recommended by-law amendments include:
 - Further exemption to allow Reptilia educational programs within Vaughan and to authorize the transportation of animals, as required
 - Adjustment of setbacks for licensed pigeon owners
 - Consistency of language in Animal Control and Licensing by-laws

Background

Reptilia

Reptilia Reptile Zoo and Education Facility has a long-standing history with the City of Vaughan. They have held a facility exemption in the Animal Control By-law for many years and are now seeking a further exemption to transport and display “ambassador” reptiles within Vaughan. Earth Rangers is the only other organization with such an exemption. Currently, Reptilia’s exemption only applies within their facility, but their educational program includes offsite components that they wish to present within the City.

Pigeons

Under current provisions of the Animal Control By-law, there exists the following setback provision:

1. Pigeon coops shall be located in a rear yard not less than 3 meters from the property line, and 10 metres from any dwelling unit other than the owner’s dwelling unit.

Through ongoing consultation with pigeon owners, it has been determined that the portion of the provision addressing the distance from other dwelling units has proven to be prohibitive to those stakeholders who have been actively involved in pigeon keeping for many years, and who have not been the subject of complaints or enforcement activity.

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Care of Animals

Under the Animal Control By-law, the heading of Part 5 refers to “animals”; however, the subsections address only “dog or cat”, which is not in keeping with the intent of the provisions, and serve only to restrict the ability of Animal Services to adequately address public concerns and complaints regarding other species found within the City.

Licensing By-law (Consolidated)

Although the heading of section 19.2 refers to “Kennels, Pet Grooming Establishments and Pet Shops”, the corresponding subsections are missing the word “Kennel”.

Notice of the proposed changes to the City’s Licensing By-law was conducted in accordance with section 4(3) of the City’s Notice By-law No. 394-2002 (Consolidated).

Previous Reports/Authority

Not applicable.

Analysis and Options

Reptilia

One of the main purposes of the Animal Control By-law is to provide a regulatory framework to ensure the health, safety and well-being of the public. Through the use of animal “Ambassadors”, Reptilia has successfully been providing educational programs throughout the Region for many years. Their reptiles are responsibly procured; they are often orphaned or abandoned and include native and non-native species. Due to the unique nature of this organization’s mandate and operation, staff support and recommend that Reptilia be granted a further exemption from the City of Vaughan’s list of prohibited animals (Schedule “B” to By-law 53-2002, as amended), which will provide the authority to deliver their programs within Vaughan, subject to regulatory oversight and inventory approval.

Pigeons

It can be determined that previous changes to provisions have adequately resolved resident issues to the extent that complaints are now rare (ie. none since 2015). The proposed amendments are intended to represent an effective balance between the interests of complainants and those of pigeon racers and fanciers.

Care of Animals and Licensing

The amendments proposed are technical in nature, in order to standardize wording between section headings and section parts.

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Financial Impact

Not applicable.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

Not applicable.

Conclusion

The proposed amendments are intended to standardize language and expand upon stakeholder engagement, with respect to Reptilia educational programs and pigeon hobbyists.

By-law amendments will be communicated through the City website.

For more information, please contact: Susan Kelly, Manager, Animal Services, By-law & Compliance, Licensing & Permit Services, ext. 8952.

Attachment

1. Amendments to Animal Control By-law No. 53-2002 and Licensing By-law No. 315-2005

Prepared by

Susan Kelly, Manager, Animal Services, ext. 8952

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)