

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2014

Item 51, Report No. 36, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on September 9, 2014.

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ANIMAL SERVICES - PIGEONS

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services/City Solicitor and the Director of By-law & Compliance, dated September 2, 2014:

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services/City Solicitor and the Director of By-law & Compliance recommend:

1. That this report be received for information.

Contribution to Sustainability

Care and control of animals is a unique area of public service that contributes to current and future sustainability of the quality of life within the City. Currently Vaughan Animal Services, a unit within the By-law & Compliance Department ("BL&C"), delivers animal services including but not limited to, public education, outreach, awareness, by-law enforcement and shelter services.

The amending by-law (By-law #52-2014) related to enhanced regulation and keeping of "pigeons", an amendment to the Animal Control By-law #53-2002, is in keeping with sustaining quality of life in the City.

Economic Impact

Although there will be ongoing operating expenses associated with pigeon license inspections conducted by Animal Control Officers and per diem rates to address appeals before the Hearings Officer, inspection and license fees are intended to off-set related costs accordingly.

Communications Plan

No additional communication is required. There has been no adverse public reaction to the amendments of the Animal Control By-law relating to pigeons.

Purpose

The purpose of this Report is to provide Council with an update regarding pigeon complaints received to determine if changes to the By-law have resolved residents' issues and to review the established fees associated with pigeons to ascertain if further consideration and amendments are required.

Background - Analysis and Options

On June 25, 2013 (Item 24, Committee of the Whole Report No. 32), Council directed:

- "1) *That the pigeon provisions contained in Part 10 of Animal Control By-law 53-2002 be amended as follows:*
 1. *That the provisions be in accordance with Option 3 contained in this report; and*
 2. *That lofts (coops) be setback 10 meters from any dwelling unit;*

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- 2) *That staff provide a report by September 2014 with respect to complaints received to determine if changes to the provisions have resolved the residents' issues; and*
- 3) *That staff review appropriate fees for licensing of pigeons and related appeals and provide appropriate notice to the public and report to Council at a future meeting to amend the Fees and Charges By-law 396-2002."*

Pursuant to these recommendations, the Animal Control By-law #53-2002 was amended and replaced with By-law 52-2014 on April 8, 2014.

From July 2013 to present, Animal Services has received five complaints relating to the keeping or pigeons, three of which relate to the same address. Upon investigation of these three complaints (one which was in relation to odour and two in relation to rodents) the coops were found to be clean, free of odour and free of rodents. As such, the property was deemed to be in compliance with the new requirements of the By-law and no further investigation was required. The issuance of the appropriate licenses are pending. The two remaining complaints are recent and active investigations in relation to the keeping of pigeons without a license contrary to the By-law.

In addition, pursuant to staff's report approved by Council on December 10, 2013, the Fees & Charges By-law #171-2013 was amended, to include a \$50.00 Pigeon Licensing Fee. Staff are proceeding with establishing the necessary licensing processes to initiate license issuance and expect this to be in place by the end of June 2015.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council.

Regional Implications

Not applicable.

Conclusion

As of the date of the amendment to the Animal Control By-law, BL&C has received five complaints regarding the keeping of pigeons, two of which are currently active investigations.

Although a fee for the licensing of pigeons has been established (as prescribed by the Fees & Charges By-law), the application and license issuance process has not been finalized. Animal Services currently conducts necessary inspections to ensure compliance with the regulatory requirements as established and will continue to respond to and resolve public complaints as they arise.

Attachments

1. Item 24, Report No. 32

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(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.)