

Report

City of Merritt
SPECIAL Council Meeting
September 1, 2020

File Number: 3900.2287

To: Sean Smith, Chief Administrative Officer
From: Greg Lewis, Deputy Corporate Officer
Date: August 25, 2020
Subject: Animal Control Bylaw amendments

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council give first reading to *Animal Control Amendment Bylaw No. 2287, 2020*

And

THAT Council give second reading to *Animal Control Amendment Bylaw No. 2287, 2020*

And

THAT Council give third reading to *Animal Control Amendment Bylaw No. 2287, 2020*

Background:

On June 30th, 2020, Council gave first reading to proposed new *Zoning Bylaw 2284, 2020*. This has subsequently progressed through two public hearings, has received second and third readings with amendments, and is anticipated to be adopted on September 1st, 2020.

The Zoning Bylaw is a complex document that has substantial interplay across the City's operations. Changes approved by Council have resulted in inconsistencies with existing Bylaws, and the need to create new ones. Although this was anticipated by staff (and a table listing the known changes was provided to Council on June 30th), it would

not have been efficient to do the work on each relevant bylaw until it was clear Council were prepared to adopt the changes proposed in the Zoning Bylaw. If the adoption goes ahead on September 1st, the additional work will be required in order to have consistency across the City's bylaws.

Rather than bring all these changes to a single meeting, staff propose making the amendments by and large over the course of late summer and fall 2020. Larger projects may not be finished until 2021.

The first staff proposal for update is the attached *Animal Control Amendment Bylaw*. The changes would bring the *Animal Control Bylaw* into concordance with the new *Zoning Bylaw*, and update the application forms for required permits.

The *Animal Control Bylaw* regulates, among other things, the manner in which bees and hens can be kept in the City of Merritt. There are references in the bylaw to permissible zones, setback requirements, and other restrictions which are now covered in the Zoning Bylaw. The proposed amendments would refer these to the *Zoning Bylaw*, and change the bylaw's single imperial measurement to metric for further consistency. Duplicated sections would be deleted to ensure that future rule changes would only happen in a single place.

Options / discussion

1. Give *Animal Control Amendment Bylaw 2287* three readings
2. Receive this report for information

Financial / Risk Implications:

If Council adopts the Zoning Bylaw but does not then proceed with these changes, we will have two different sets of rules on how bees and hens may be kept in Merritt, in the two different bylaws. This would lead to confusion for residents, and potentially give them the ability to challenge rules to which they objected.

Attachments:

Schedule "A": Animal Control Amendment Bylaw 2287, 2020.

Schedule "B": Animal Control Bylaw Schedule "B".

Schedule "C": Animal Control Bylaw Schedule "C".

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Lowis
Deputy Corporate Officer