

Agenda Item: 3.11

Request for Decision

Title	Bylaw 1630/23 – Deputy Mayor Appointment Amendment Bylaw		
Proposed Motion	That Council give first reading of Bylaw 1630/23.		
Administrative Recommendation			
Previous Council / Committee Direction	May 31, 2023 Governance and Council Services Committee Meeting Motion 021/23: That the Committee recommend that Council amend the Procedure Bylaw to include a provision that the Deputy Mayor be elected by Council every six months and include a duty of the Deputy Mayor to chair Committee of the Whole meetings. April 11, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Motion 131/23: That Council direct Administration to prepare amendments to the Procedure Bylaw to change how the Deputy Chief Elected Official (Deputy Mayor) is appointed. March 14, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Motion 069/23: That Council direct Administration to research the process that comparator municipalities use to appoint the deputy chief elected official and report back to Council by the April 11, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.		
Report	 Background Information Section 152(1) of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) requires that Council appoint one or more Councillors as Deputy Mayor so that only one Councillor holds the office at any one time, and so that the office is filled at all times. The MGA does not prescribe a process by which Council must appoint the Deputy Mayor; this is at the discretion of each respective municipal council. 		

In addition to fulfilling all duties of a Councillor, the Deputy Mayor

or if the office of the Mayor is vacant.

performs the Mayor's duties when the Mayor is unable to perform them

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- Section 61.3 of Sturgeon County's Procedure Bylaw 1301/13 states that Council shall establish by resolution the roster for Deputy Mayor on a rotating basis.
- By convention, Sturgeon County has adopted a rotating schedule so that each Councillor serves as Deputy Mayor for an equal amount of time over the 4-year Council term (8 months each).
- At the March 14, 2023 Regular Council Meeting, Council directed Administration to research the process that comparator municipalities use to appoint the deputy chief elected official and report back to Council by the April 11, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.
- Administration researched the process that comparator municipalities use to appoint the deputy chief elected official in comparator municipalities, including rural municipalities like Sturgeon County, including Strathcona County, Leduc County, Parkland County, Rocky View County, County of Grande Prairie, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, and Red Deer County.
- To identify any differences in process, and to ensure Council had fulsome information and a range of options, Administration also researched the process that select urban municipalities use to appoint the deputy chief elected official. Comparators included towns and cities in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region and other municipalities that had information readily available for comparison purposes.

Amongst key comparators:

- Three municipalities (Strathcona County, Leduc County and Red Deer County) set a schedule single rotation during the Council term with equal term lengths based on the number of members that comprise Council.
- Two municipalities (Parkland County and Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo) set a schedule with multiple rotations, with each Councillor serving an equal number of terms of varying lengths (2, 4, or 6 months, depending on the number of members that comprise Council).
- Two municipalities (County of Grande Prairie and Rocky View County) elect Deputy Mayor at the annual Organizational Meeting, using a nomination, acceptance, and secret ballot system.
- Amongst additional comparators (6, where information was readily available), the methods of developing the schedule vary by municipality.
- At the April 11, 2023 Regular Council Meeting, Administration presented the compiled research and Council directed Administration to prepare amendments to the Procedure Bylaw for Council's consideration.
- At the May 31, 2023 Governance and Council Services Committee, Administration presented options for Committee discussion and consideration.

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- The Committee recommended that Council amend the Procedure Bylaw to include a provision that the Deputy Mayor be elected by Council every six months and include a duty of the Deputy Mayor to chair Committee of the Whole meetings.
- Bylaw 1630/23 (see Attachment 1) enacts these changes. Council will
 note that section 1.1(c) of Bylaw 1630/23 is unrelated to the
 appointment or duties of the Deputy Mayor, and is a housekeeping
 amendment to the Procedure Bylaw to align the retention of electronic
 recordings of Council meetings with the Council term (4-year term
 instead of the 3-year term that existed when the Procedure Bylaw was
 passed in 2013).
- If Council gives first reading of Bylaw 1630/23 at the June 27, 2023
 Regular Council Meeting, it will be presented for consideration of second and third readings at the July 18, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.

External Communication

• Coverage of the June 27, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.

Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices

Municipal Government Act, section 152(1)

Implication of Administrative Recommendation

Strategic Alignment

Collaborative Governance – Respectful and informed debate; clear and supportive governance processes.

Organizational

None.

Financial

None.

Alternatives Considered

Council could propose further amendments to Bylaw 1630/23 prior to giving first reading of the Bylaw.

Implications of Alternatives

Strategic Alignment

Collaborative Governance – Respectful and informed debate; clear and supportive governance processes.

Organizational

Dependent on amendments proposed.

Financial

None.

Follow up Action

1. Present Bylaw 1630/23 for consideration of second and third readings at the July 18, 2023 Regular Council Meeting (Legislative Services, July 2023).

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- Attachment(s) | 1. Attachment 1: Bylaw 1630/23
 - 2. Attachment 2: Bylaw 1301/13 Procedure Bylaw (Consolidated)
 - 3. Attachment 3: Bylaw 1470/20 Committee of the Whole Bylaw

Report Reviewed by:

Jesse Sopko, General Manager, Corporate Services

Reegan McCullough, County Commissioner - CAO

Date Written: June 20, 2023

Council Meeting Date: June 27, 2023

Strategic Alignment Checklist

Vision: Offering a rich tapestry of historical, cultural, and natural experiences, Sturgeon County is a municipality that honours its rural roots and cultivates desirable communities. Uniquely situated to provide world-class agricultural, energy, and business investment opportunities, the County prioritizes responsible stewardship and dreaming big.

Guiding Principles: Collaboration | Accountability | Flexibility | Excellence | Safety | Future Readiness | Affordability | Innovation

Community Outcome	Not consistent	Consistent	N/A
Planned Growth			
• Internationally competitive to attract, grow and sustain diverse businesses; tenacious focus on new growth and innovation			\boxtimes
Modern broadband and digital capabilities			\boxtimes
Low cost, minimal red-tape regulations			×
Reliable and effective infrastructure planning; comprehensive land use and infrastructure planning			
Thriving Communities			
Beautiful, surprising places with high standards; integrated natural spaces & trail systems; healthy and resilient			⊠
Engaging cultural, historical, and civic amenities; strong community identity and pride			⊠
Safe, welcoming, and diverse communities; small community feel and personal connection; commitment to high quality of life			⊠
Environmental Stewardship			
 Clean air, land, and water; Carbon neutral municipal practices; circular economy opportunities 			⋈
 Conservation of natural areas and agricultural lands; enhanced greening and biodiversity; safekeeping ecosystems 			\boxtimes
• Sustainable development; partnerships with industry and others to drive emission reductions			\boxtimes
Collaborative Governance			
Predictable and stable external relationships; volunteer partnerships			\boxtimes
Meaningful connections with Indigenous communities			\boxtimes
Ongoing community consultation and engagement; transparent and action-oriented decision making based on sound rationale		×	
Respectful and informed debate; clear and supportive governance processes		×	
Operational Excellence			
Engaged and effective people – Council, Admin and Volunteers; continuous learning and improvement mindset; nimble and bold, with strong leadership		×	
• Quality cost-effective service delivery; robust procurement and operational practices and policies; asset management and performance measurement; careful debt and reserve stewardship; long-term financial planning and sustainability			×
Future focused thinking to proactively respond to emerging opportunities and challenges			\boxtimes
Alternative revenue generation and service delivery models integrated strategic and business planning			×