

Bylaw 41-2020, A Bylaw to establish an Intermunicipal Affairs Committee between Strathcona County and Sturgeon County**Report Purpose**

To seek three readings on a bylaw to establish an intermunicipal affairs Council committee with Sturgeon County.

Recommendation

1. THAT Bylaw 41-2020, a bylaw that proposes to establish an intermunicipal affairs Council committee for Strathcona County and Sturgeon County, be given first reading.
2. THAT Bylaw 41-2020 be given second reading.
3. THAT Bylaw 41-2020 be considered for third reading.
4. THAT Bylaw 41-2020 be given third reading.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 5 - Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships

Goal 6 - Provide facilities and services that are available and accessible to residents

Goal 2 - Manage, invest and plan for sustainable municipal infrastructure

Report

In late 2019, Strathcona County and Sturgeon County Councils, executive teams, and intergovernmental affairs representatives had an informal meeting where interest was expressed by the elected officials to establish a more formal process for intermunicipal discussions.

On February 2, 2020 Strathcona County Council passed a motion requesting Administration work collaboratively with Sturgeon County Administration to develop a bylaw to establish this new Council committee to enhance intermunicipal cooperation with Sturgeon County. A similar motion was passed by Sturgeon County's Council on February 25, 2020.

Strathcona County and Sturgeon County both have productive Council committees with other municipalities, established by bylaw. Elements from both committee bylaw formats were used by intergovernmental and legislative and legal officials from both municipalities to develop the enclosed draft bylaw.

Strathcona County and Sturgeon County have operational and membership commonalities including: founding members of Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association and Edmonton Global; significant industrial development; and are rural members of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board. An intermunicipal Council committee will enable the two municipalities to examine alignments and opportunities to better serve their respective stakeholders, as well as discuss common initiatives and challenges faced by both organizations.

Sturgeon County Council is scheduled to review and potentially approve a similar bylaw on July 14, 2020. Part of the motion passed by Sturgeon Council on February 25, 2020 included the provision of a preliminary list of areas for discussion for the new Council Committee to review, amend and prioritize to set their work plan. Joint administrative meetings between the two municipalities identified preliminary discussion areas for the new intermunicipal affairs committee's consideration as: economic development, agriculture services, transportation, utilities and related municipal services, cross-training opportunities and shared advocacy.

Council and Committee History

Feb. 4, 2020 THAT Administration work with Sturgeon County Administration to prepare a report and proposed bylaw for Council's consideration, by the end of Q2, that would establish a joint Intermunicipal Relations Committee with terms of reference that include exploration of potential areas for collaboration, along with proposed membership.

Other Impacts

Policy: N/A

Legislative/Legal: Section 145 of the Municipal Government Act provides for the establishment of council committees.

Interdepartmental: Intergovernmental Affairs and Legislative and Legal Services worked collaboratively to develop the draft bylaw. If the draft bylaw is approved, intermunicipal cooperation opportunities will require consultation and support from other department officials within Strathcona County to develop and implement.

Master Plan/Framework: N/A

Communication Plan

A letter will be sent on behalf of Strathcona County Council to the Mayor and Council of Sturgeon County outlining Strathcona County Council's decision.

Enclosures

1 Proposed Bylaw 41-2020 Strathcona County and Sturgeon County Intermunicipal Affairs Council Committee