

Bylaw 22-2016

Municipal Ward Boundaries and Council Composition

Background

- December 12, 2006: Bylaw 59-2006 was passed which increased the total number of wards to eight: five urban wards and three rural wards.
- April 5, 2016: Council approved GOV-002-032 Ward Boundary Review Policy and directed Administration to conduct a ward boundary review.

The Review

- Planning & Development Services, GIS Branch of Information Technology Services, Legislative & Legal Services
- GOV-002-032: Ward Boundary Review Policy criteria:
 - Current population
 - Deviation
 - Future Growth
 - Communities of Interest
 - Geographical Features
 - Least Number of Changes
 - Block-Shaped Wards

Issues Identified

- Urban Service Area Boundary does not align with Urban Ward Boundaries
 - This should be addressed prior to the 2017 election.
- Future Growth in the Urban Service Area
 - Based on population projections, a major ward boundary review will need to be conducted prior to the 2021 election to accommodate for growth in the northeast corner of Sherwood Park.
- 2018 census data required to assess growth trajectories for all wards

Recommendations

- To allow for stability in elected representation and voter certainty for the 2017 election, Administration is recommending the fewest number of changes while still remaining within the allowable population deviation.
- The only change being recommended is to align the urban service area boundary with the urban ward boundaries in Salisbury Village. This change impacts Wards 3 and 6.
- Following the 2018 municipal census, Administration is recommending a major ward boundary review be completed to address what will likely be significant growth in the northeast corner of Sherwood Park.

Next Steps

- If Council gives first reading to Bylaw 22-2016, Administration will advertise the bylaw for two consecutive weeks and then bring the bylaw back for second and third reading.
- Proceed with planning for the 2017 municipal election.

