

THE CITY OF CALGARY SUPPORT FOR THE AUMA RESOLUTION ON RESOURCE EXTRACTION WITHIN MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Lethbridge has requested endorsement from Council for a resolution on resource extraction within municipal boundaries, to be voted on at the 2014 Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) annual convention on September 24-26.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee recommends that Council:

- 1) Approve the proposed Alberta Urban Municipalities Association resolution with amendments, on Resource Extraction Within Municipal Boundaries (Attachment), and
- 2) Request that The City of Calgary elected officials who are attending the 2014 AUMA annual convention support the resolution with amendments.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, DATED 2014 SEPTEMBER 04:

That Council consider Report IGA2014-0709.

Excerpt from the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, held 2014 September 04:

“RECEIVE FOR CORPORATE RECORD

At the request of Administration and with the concurrence of the Acting Chair, the Legislative Assistant received for the Corporate Record a copy of Report IGA2014-0709.”

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

None

BACKGROUND

The City of Lethbridge will be introducing a resolution on the issue of resource extraction within municipal boundaries at the 2014 AUMA annual convention. They would like to advance this issue through the current review of the Municipal Government Act (MGA), with AUMA support. The City of Lethbridge is seeking Council's endorsement of its resolution, and requesting that The City consider seconding the resolution at the convention.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

The City of Lethbridge is seeking to preserve the strategic goals of its local municipal development plans from the development impacts of resource extraction. Their recent experience with an urban drilling application provided them insight into the lack of input and authority municipalities have on this type of development. Concerns regarding the safety of their residents, appropriate emergency response and future planning efforts were not adequately addressed. Although the application was withdrawn, The City of Lethbridge decided action was

Approval(s): Fielding, Jeff concurs with this report. Author: Chow, Susan L.
City Clerk's: J. Dubetz

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still necessary to address the prevailing authority of current provincial legislation and regulatory body over any municipal development regulations or bylaws.

Since the MGA is under review, the City of Lethbridge would like to take advantage of the consultation opportunity through the AUMA. They hope the leverage gained from province-wide support will highlight the significance of this issue.

Administration recommends some amendments to the resolution only for the purpose of strengthening the current legislation. The resolution should mention the increased emergency preparedness required including an adequate emergency management plan. The need to evaluate the short and long term risks as part of the approval process should also be considered. Additionally, Administration would like the province to follow through on its intentions to establish a working group to review whether adequate policies are in place and to develop recommendations for improving the current legislation.

These amendments are consistent with the recommendations provided in The City's submission to the provincial review of the MGA. Our submission highlighted the conflict between future development and resource extraction as Calgary continues to grow and develop into areas where there are significant resource deposits.

If the Committee and Council are agreeable to these amendments, Administration will contact the City of Lethbridge to apprise them of our proposed amendments.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Members of The City of Calgary's Gas and Oil Group (GOG), specifically Environmental & Safety Management, Law and Planning, provided input into the preparation of this report.

Strategic Alignment

Supporting this resolution aligns with The City's proposed amendments to the MGA review that called for municipalities to be acknowledged as partners in the planning and development of oil and gas facilities within their boundaries and be given opportunities for meaningful input into the regulatory process.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

Supporting this resolution would be consistent with The City's environmental planning concerns and emergency management needs.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

There are no operational impacts identified with this report.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

There are no capital impacts identified with this report.

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Risk Assessment

No significant risks to The City have been identified.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

Administration supports the City of Lethbridge's resolution with amendments as it aligns with The City's strategic position. Greater consideration, however, should be given towards the challenge urban municipalities face in preparing an appropriate emergency management response. The province should also follow through on its intentions to establish a working group to improve the current legislation.

ATTACHMENT

AUMA Resolution: Resource Extraction with Municipal Boundaries