

WARD BOUNDARY COMMISSION REPORT ON NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ward Boundary Commission was appointed by Council, as an independent body, to determine the appropriate number of Councillors on Calgary City Council at the 2017 General Election. The Commission Report is Attachment 1.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Ward Boundary Commission recommends that Council:

1. Not increase the number of wards or Councillors at this time;
2. Address the number of Councillors following the 2021 General Election which should include an assessment of the implementation of further recommendations listed below;
3. Adopt the concept of Ward Offices in principle and direct the City Manager to explore the idea of establishing local Council offices in existing city or other community facilities in the respective wards to function as the face of City Hall for local issues, in accordance with this report, and report back to Council no later than 2015 June with a financial analysis and proposed operational measures;
4. Direct the City Manager to investigate the feasibility of co-locating some city services with Ward Offices to include the costs, nature of the services being established and the customer service benefits and report to Council through the SPC on Community and Protective Services no later than 2016 June;
5. Establish, at the 2014 October 20 Organizational Meeting, a Task Force of 5 Members of Council, with Administrative support, on Council Effectiveness. This Task Force responsible for recommendations on all aspects of Council and Councillor effectiveness, including, but not necessarily limited to;
 - a. Analysis of current Council organizational innovation Initiatives,
 - b. Developing Council Customer service improvement initiatives,
 - c. Guidelines for strategic and effective operation of a Councillor's office, and
 - d. Researching and recommending for implementation best practices from other Municipalities;
6. Direct the Coordinating Committee of the Councillors' Office to consider development of a comprehensive online communication strategy for the Office which includes all potential methods of communication to reduce the workload on individual Ward staff and Councillors; and
7. Establish, at the 2014 October 20 Organizational Meeting, a Task Force (Committee on Committees) to examine the committees to which Council appoints Members and report back to Council through LGTF no later than June 2015 with implementation on adopted recommendations at the Organizational Meeting in 2015 October.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

At the 2014 March 10 Combined Meeting of Council, Council adopted NM2014-10, Attachment 2, as follows:

“That Council

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Direct;

1. c. The General Managers to canvass all their Business Units with regard to costs that would be incurred over the 2015-2018 business/budget cycle if the number of wards were changed and provide to the CFO for a report to Council, through PFC, no later than 2014 October 06, and
2. Direct the duly appointed Ward Boundary Commission;
 - a. Consult with the two Calgary School Boards with regard to the number of wards and the impacts of changes, and
 - b. Report to Council no later than 2014 October 06 with recommendations on the appropriate number of wards for the City 2017 General Election of Council;”

At the 2014 June 23 Regular Meeting of Council, Council adopted PFC2014-0546 as follows
“That Council:

1. Appoint the following three Electors as members of the Ward Boundary Commission; such appointments to be reviewed at the 2014 October 20 Organizational Meeting of Council, per Report NM2014-10 adopted at the 2014 March 10 Combined Meeting of Council:
 - Tim Creelman, Elector
 - Chris Nelson, Elector
 - Al Duerr, Elector and Former Member of Calgary City Council;”

BACKGROUND

This is the first independent Commission established by Council to examine the issue of the number of councillors and whether this should be increased for the 2017 general election. The current number of Councillors, fourteen, went into effect with the 1977 general election. The Ward Boundary Commission held its first Meeting on 2014 July 02, to determine the best method to approach the task.

In accordance with Section 143(2) of the Municipal Government Act (MGA), below, Council must consist of an odd number of elected officials. This means that increases in the number of wards must be in increments of 2, i.e. 2, 4 or 6, etc.

“143(2) The council of a city or town consists of 7 councillors unless the council passes a bylaw specifying a higher or lower odd number.”

Under Sections 148(2) to (5) of the MGA, Attachment 1, Council has the authority to determine the number of elected persons on Council and the manner in which they represent residents, e.g. at-large, by wards, number per ward, etc.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

The Commission followed the following steps in reaching the recommendations:

1. Review of the research conducted by the Returning Officer and Office of the Councillors into other large size cities in North America;

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2. Scheduled and held four meetings with Members of Council to obtain input. All but two Members of Council were able to attend one of the meetings;
3. Sent a survey to Members of Council to obtain more detail on various issues that were raised. Seven Councillors returned surveys;
4. Met with the Trustees of both the Calgary Board of Education and Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 1; and
5. As a result of many comments on workload from Councillors, background research was conducted into when Council had recently examined the membership of Aldermen/Councillors on various internal and external committees. This was done through the Committee on Committees in 1990/1991; through a sub-committee of Council's Corporate Effectiveness Special Committee in conjunction with corporate organizational changes in 1998/2000; and again in 2002/2003 with a Report from TkMC on Legislative Governance Review.

**Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication
Strategic Alignment**

The recommendations align with two of Council's priorities:

1. A city of inspiring neighbourhoods. Establishment of ward offices within the ward will contribute to Calgarians opportunity to participate in the city; and
2. A well run city. Recommendations 4, 5, and 6 all contribute to responsive excellent services.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

These are discussed in Ward Boundary Commission Report, Attachment 1.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

As directed by Council, the Chief Financial Officer surveyed all Departments on potential costs that would be incurred if the number of councillors were increased by 2, 4 or 6. The results of this survey are found at Attachment 3.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

See above.

Risk Assessment

There are no risks to the Corporation of The City of Calgary.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

The reasons for the recommendations from the Ward Boundary Commission are outlined and discussed in the attached report, Attachment 1.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Attachment 1 - Ward Boundary Commission Report

Attachment 2 - NOM2014-10

Attachment 3 - CFO's Report on cost to The Corporation from Increasing Number of Councillors