

CITY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN

Bylaw C14-16 - Fire Services Bylaw

Motion:

1. That Council give first reading to Fire Services Bylaw C14-16.
2. That Council give second reading to Fire Services Bylaw C14-16.
3. That Council provide unanimous consent to proceed with third and final reading of Fire Services Bylaw C14-16.
4. That Council give third reading to Fire Services Bylaw C14-16.

Purpose:

To present Council with the Fire Services Bylaw C14-16 and request approval of three readings.

Background:

Bylaw C5-00 was previously approved by Council in 2000. Since that time there have been a number of changes in language and requirements as it relates to fire services. The proposed Fire Services Bylaw C14-16 incorporates changes relating to fire services, as well as to the Fire Services Department.

The Fire Services Bylaw is the overarching document that oversees fire services within the City of Fort Saskatchewan. Fire services are ever-evolving, and having a Bylaw which includes up-to-date information on current trends is key to the success of the overall service. After review, it was determined that substantial changes were required which resulted in a complete re-write of the Bylaw.

Some of the key changes have been noted below.

1. The use of plain language throughout improves readability for residents making it easier to comprehend and comply with the Bylaw.
2. A number of revisions were made to the formatting and standard provisions, ensuring consistency with other City bylaws.
3. **Section 1 - Definitions:** A number of revisions were made to this section, including the addition of “burnable debris”, “prohibited debris”, and a number of amendments which provide additional clarity for the Bylaw.
4. **Section 2 – Fire Services:** This section provides for the creation of the Fire Service. It also identifies the City’s service area, and allows for service beyond the City’s municipal borders, where mutual aid agreements are not in place, such as Slave Lake, Southern Alberta floods, and most recently Fort McMurray.
5. **Section 4 – Prohibitions:** This section includes what may or may not be burned, obstruction of the Department from carrying out duties, damaging equipment, including driving over fire hoses, just to highlight a few.

6. **Section 5 – Permitted Fires:** Information has been expanded on the provisions for permitted fires. This section now includes greater clarity on the requirements for fire pits, fireplaces, and outdoor ovens commonly called Chimineas in both residential and in park spaces.
7. **Section 6 – Requirement to Report and Remedy:** A provision has been added for the requirement to report and remedy an incident will ensure the Fire Department is meeting the requirements set out in various legislation, such as the *Safety Codes Act*, and the Alberta Energy Regulator.
8. **Section 7 – Fire Permits:** This section refers to fire permits. The Fire Services Department currently does not regularly issue fire permits, and this provision was included to address future growth of the City, and mirrors processes used by neighbouring municipalities.
9. **Section 8 – Fire Bans:** This is a new section included in the Bylaw, which addresses fire bans. With the ever-changing weather conditions, this section now provides clarity for the Fire Services Department and residents during a fire ban.
10. **Section 11 – Offences:** This section has had a number of revisions made to introduce standard enforcement language which is consistent with other City bylaws. Additionally, a number of municipalities were contacted to determine their penalties. Based on that information, the Offences included as Schedule “A” to the Bylaw, will place the City in the mid-level range.

Plans/Standards/Legislation:

The Fire Services Bylaw is required by the *Municipal Government Act* to create and allow the Fire Services Department to operate within the City of Fort Saskatchewan.

Recommendation:

That Council give three readings to Fire Services Bylaw C14-16.

Attachments:

1. Fire Services Bylaw C14-16
2. Fire Services Bylaw C5-00

File No.:

Prepared by:	James Clark Fire Chief	Date: September 1, 2016
Approved by:	Brenda Rauckman General Manager, Corporate and Protective Services	Date: September 1, 2016
Reviewed by:	Troy Fleming Acting City Manager	Date: September 1, 2016
Submitted to:	City Council	Date: September 13, 2016