



## The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Corporate Services & Clerk

**To:** Policies and Priorities Committee

**From:** Laura Moy, Director Corporate Services & Clerk

**Date to Council:** January 28, 2020

**Report Number:** CS-2020-04

**Subject:** Urban Hens Draft By-Law

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### Recommendations

It is recommended:

**That** Report CS-2020-04 entitled “Urban Hens Draft By-Law” **be received**;

**And that** the draft by-law authorizing the two-year Urban Hen Licensing Pilot Program for the period March 1, 2020 to April 30, 2022, **be considered** at the next Regular Council Meeting (RCM);

**And further that** the 2020 Fees & Charges By-Law **be amended** to include an annual license fee of \$25.00 for an Urban Hen License.

### Background

Report CS-2019-36 Urban Hen Licensing Pilot Program (Pilot Program) was presented at the October 22, 2019 Policies & Priorities Committee Meeting outlining a proposed two-year Pilot Program.

As previously reported, the Pilot Program, if approved, would establish a limit of six (6) female hens, four months or older, for properties under 10,000 square feet. For properties over 10,000 square feet, an additional hen would be permitted per 3,000 square feet up to a maximum of twelve (12) hens.

Owners desirous of keeping urban hens would need to complete the Pilot Program registration form, meet all of the eligibility requirements and submit an annual license fee of \$25.00. An on-site inspection of the property to assess and ensure compliance with the terms and conditions

outlined in the Pilot Program, and registration form, would be conducted by the Planning and Building Services Department, prior to issuing a license and identification band for each hen.

During the two years, the Pilot Program would be evaluated to determine whether it may continue in future years.

In accordance with the direction at the October 22, 2019 Policies & Priorities Committee Meeting, a Public Information Centre (PIC) was held to receive input from the public on the proposed Pilot Program.

Subsequently, Report CS-2019-43 was presented at the December 10, 2019 Regular Council Meeting (RCM) summarizing the comments and concerns received from both the PIC and online feedback relating to the Pilot Program.

## **Comments**

At the December 10, 2019, RCM direction was given to amend the definition of “Hen” by removing the four (4) month old age requirement and to allow for “Pullets.” A “Pullet” is a young female chick that is under the age of one (1). Hens referred to as pullets have not started laying eggs yet.

The amended definition of Hen, together with the added definition of Pullet are reflected in the Terms and Conditions on the attached Registration Form ([Attachment 1](#)).

Additionally, provisions for requesting a variance have been incorporated into the Terms and Conditions as also directed at the December 10 RCM as follows:

### **15. Variance Request**

When a Registration Form was not approved due to failure to meet the requirements as outlined in the Urban Hens Licensing Pilot Program Registration Form and Terms and Conditions, the Applicant may submit a written request for a variance to the Clerk detailing the circumstances for which they are seeking a variance from Council. The written request must be submitted at least seven (7) days in advance of the Council meeting at which the Applicant wishes to appear to request the variance.

Following delivery to the Clerk of written notice seeking a variance from the Pilot Program, the Applicant will be scheduled to appear as a Delegation before Council, in keeping with the Procedural By-Law.

The provision for requesting a variance will also be evaluated during the Pilot Program. Should the Program continue, alternative variance provisions will be explored such as the potential to create an appeal mechanism via the Committee of Adjustment.

Administration was further directed at the December 10 RCM to prepare a by-law to approve the Terms and Conditions of the two-year Urban Hen Licensing Pilot Program. ([Attachment 2](#))

Conditional upon the direction of the Policies & Priorities Committee at their January 28, 2020 meeting, the draft by-law appended to this report will be presented at the next regular meeting of Council to consider adoption. Subject to the adoption of the by-law, notice will be given on

the Town's website and social media, to advise residents of the Pilot Program and registration process, together with commencement details.

It is recommended that the Pilot Program commence March 1, 2020 (early spring) to coincide with the birth of hatchlings, as well as when most hatcheries start selling hens.

Throughout the Pilot Program term of March 1, 2020, through April 30, 2022, concerns and/or complaints regarding the keeping of urban hens will be monitored and tracked in Cityworks. The Planning & Building Department will enforce the provisions consistent with property standards.

As previously reported, the two-year Pilot Program will be evaluated and a course of action with respect to the continuation of the Program, or not, will be recommended to Council prior to the end of the Pilot Program.

## **Consultations**

Planning & Building Services

## **Financial Implications**

An annual license fee of \$25.00 per registration form is being recommended to cover the cost to acquire identification bands, and nominal recovery for staffing resources to administer, monitor and enforce the Pilot Program.

Expenses relating to the identification bands, in the approximate amount of \$100.00 for 500 bands would be funded from the Animal Control Budget.

## Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2019-22 Strategic Priorities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Make the Town of Tecumseh an even better place to live, work and invest through a shared vision for our residents and newcomers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure that Tecumseh's current and future growth is built upon the principles of sustainability and strategic decision-making.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Integrate the principles of health and wellness into all of Tecumseh's plans and priorities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steward the Town's "continuous improvement" approach to municipal service delivery to residents and businesses.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrate the Town's leadership role in the community by promoting good governance and community engagement, by bringing together organizations serving the Town and the region to pursue common goals.

## Communications

Not applicable ☒

Website ☐

Social Media ☐

News Release ☐

Local Newspaper ☐

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Christina Hebert, BA (Hons), MA, Dipl. M.A.  
Manager Committee & Community Services

Reviewed by:

Chad Jeffery, MA, MCIP, RPP  
Manager Planning Services

Reviewed by:

Brian Hillman, MA, MCIP, RPP  
Director Planning & Building Services

Reviewed by:

Laura Moy, Dipl. M.M., CMMIII HR Professional  
Director Corporate Services & Clerk

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP  
Chief Administrative Officer

**Attachment  
Number**

**Attachment  
Name**

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| 1 | Urban Hens Licensing Pilot Program Registration Form |
| 2 | Urban Hens Licensing Pilot Program By-Law            |