

Appointment of City Solicitor

ISSUE

Saskatoon City Council recently passed Bylaw No. 9579, the City Administration Amendment Bylaw 2019, which, among other things, changed the reporting relationship between City Council, the City Manager, and the City Solicitor. As a result, this report seeks City Council's approval for the appointment of a permanent City Solicitor. This position is currently filled on an interim basis, and a thorough recruitment process has been completed.

RECOMMENDATION

That City Council approve the appointment of Ms. Cindy Yelland to the position of City Solicitor.

BACKGROUND

At its March 25, 2019, Regular Business Meeting, City Council considered a report from its Personnel Subcommittee recommending changes to the reporting relationship between City Council, the City Manager, and the City Solicitor. Upon consideration of that report, City Council resolved:

- “1. That City Council transfer its existing reporting responsibilities for the City Solicitor to the City Manager;
2. That the Office of the City Solicitor become a department of the City of Saskatoon, reporting directly to the City Manager;
3. That City Council request that the City Solicitor prepare the appropriate amendments to Bylaw No. 8174, The City Administration Bylaw 2003, to reflect the revised reporting relationship, and return the amended Bylaw to the April 29, 2019, meeting of City Council; and
4. That City Council direct the Administration to prepare a Council Policy that incorporates the protocols outlined in the body of this report.”

At its April 29, 2019, Public Hearing Meeting, City Council considered a report from the interim City Solicitor that proposed amendments to Bylaw No. 8174, The City Administration Bylaw 2003, reflecting the previous direction of City Council. City Council thus approved Bylaw No. 9579, The City Administration Amendment Bylaw, 2019. These amendments provide the framework of the new reporting structure of the City Solicitor.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Pursuant to the newly amended The City Administration Bylaw 2003, this report is recommending the appointment of Ms. Cindy Yelland as City Solicitor. The City Manager along with the Human Resources department conducted the recruitment process. After review and consideration of all viable candidates, the City Manager is recommending that Cindy Yelland be appointed as the City Solicitor for the City of Saskatoon.

Ms. Yelland brings over 24 years of experience working in the Office of the City Solicitor. For the past few months, Ms. Yelland has been serving as the Interim City Solicitor. Prior to that, she was the Director of Planning and Development Law and also served as the Acting Director of Materials Management. In this capacity, she led the overhaul of the City's approach to procurement and has been instrumental in negotiating the terms and conditions of procuring several of the City's major capital projects.

Ms. Yelland graduated with a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1992 and was called to the Saskatchewan Bar in 1993. She joined the City Solicitor's Office in September of 1995 and has provided strategic legal advice to all City departments, City Council, and its various Boards and Committees.

Although City Council has changed the reporting relationship between it and the City Solicitor, *The Cities Act* currently requires that the City Solicitor be appointed, suspended, or dismissed by City Council. This report meets with that requirement.

Proposed amendments to *The Cities Act* will allow this responsibility to be delegated. More specifically, if the amendments are passed by the Legislature and the legislation is proclaimed, City Council will have the ability to delegate this authority to the City Manager. Should Council choose to delegate that authority, a change to The City Administration Bylaw 2003, would be required.

IMPLICATIONS

The legal implications are addressed in the Discussion/Analysis section of this report. Approving the recommendation in this report does not result in any unbudgeted financial implications. There are no other implications emerging from this report.

NEXT STEPS

As directed by City Council, Administration will draft a Council policy that provides more detail regarding the reporting structure and the roles and responsibilities of all parties.

Report Approval

Written by: Mike Jordan, Chief Public Policy & Government Relations Officer

Approved by: Jeff Jorgenson, City Manager

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