

## **Windsor Licensing Commission**

Meeting held January 22, 2020

A meeting of the Windsor Licensing Commission is held this day commencing at 9:30 o'clock a.m. in Room 204, 350 City Hall Square West, there being present the following members:

Councillor Ed Sleiman, Chair  
Councillor Fabio Costante  
Councillor Gary Kaschak  
Jayme Lesperance  
Harpreet Virk

### ***Delegations in attendance:***

Hilary Payne, Payne Municipal Consulting  
Jamie Lauzon  
Melanie Coulter, Executive Director, Windsor-Essex County Humane Society  
Robert Jeffrey  
Cory Drouillard, Corbret's Pet Shop

### ***Also present are the following resource personnel:***

Gary Cian, Deputy Licence Commissioner & Senior Manager of Policy, Gaming, Licensing & By-law Enforcement  
Craig Robertson, Supervisor of Licensing  
Bill Tetler, Manager of By-law Enforcement  
Janna Tetler, Senior Licensing Issuer  
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

### **1. Call to Order**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 9:35 o'clock a.m. and the Windsor Licensing Commission considers the Agenda being Schedule A attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

### **2. Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Costante, seconded by Councillor Kaschak,  
That the minutes of the Windsor Licensing Commission of its meeting held September 25, 2019 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.

Carried.

**3. Disclosure of Interest**

None disclosed.

**4. Requests for Deferrals, Referrals of Withdrawals**

None

**5. Communications**

None.

**6. Licence Transfers**

None.

**7. Applications/Hearings**

None.

**8. Reports & Administrative Matters**

**(a) Expired Application(s) for Business Licence**

Moved by J. Lesperance, seconded by Councillor Costante,  
That the report of the Supervisor of Licensing dated January 3, 2020 entitled  
“Expired Application(s) for Business Licence” **BE RECEIVED.**  
Carried.

**(b) Regulation of Licensed City of Windsor Pet Shops**

C. Robertson states that on May 6, 2019 the following Council Question was asked:

*CQ8-2019 – That Administration report back on what other municipalities have done to update the Pet Shops section of the Animal Control By-law, including banning the sale of pets for profit and provide recommendations going forward.”*

C. Robertson provides an overview of the “Regulation of Licensed City of Windsor Pet Shops” report as follows:

- The current Pet Shop Schedule of the City’s Business Licensing by-law includes a number of provisions to ensure the safety, wellbeing and security of all animals sold in Windsor. This includes provisions restricting the sale of certain types of animals in the City including any animals which are non-native to Windsor’s climate.
- The Keeping of Animals by-law similarly prohibits ownership of any exotic species.
- In terms of dogs and cats specifically, each animal purchased must include where the animal was purchased from, when they were purchased and a detailed description of the animal.
- A review of pet shop by-laws from a number of municipalities show a trend towards the banning of dogs and cats for profit and a move towards adoption based models.
- The municipal survey shows that Windsor, Hamilton, Thunder Bay and Calgary have similar licensing regimes in that pet shops are licensed businesses and there are no restrictions on the sale of animals in the shops in general.
- In London, Toronto and Brampton, pet shops are licensed and dogs and cats sold in shops must be obtained from municipal animal shelters, registered humane societies, registered shelters or rescue groups.
- Waterloo and Kitchener are similar in that they also license pet shops but any animals for sale in a shop must be obtained from municipal animal shelters, registered humane societies, registered shelters or rescue groups.
- Mississauga licences pet shops but if a pet shop sells more than ten (10) cats or dogs annually, they must obtain the remaining cats and dogs to be sold from municipal animal shelters, registered humane societies, registered shelters or rescue groups.
- In Montreal, a permit to sell animals is issued by the Province of Quebec (Agriculture Ministry). As of July 1, 2019, pet shops were no longer able to sell dogs, cats or rabbits unless obtained by registered shelters such as the SPCA. Pet shop owners responded by filing a lawsuit against the City of Montreal. The matter still remains before Quebec Superior Court.
- Sudbury, Winnipeg, Regina and Halifax were identified as municipalities that do not licence pet shops.
- Nearly all comparator municipalities have banned non-indigenous animals for sale and Windsor is no exception.
- In Windsor, they are also required to keep a detailed log of where all dogs and cats for sale come from. Each pet shop must also have a written agreement with a veterinarian and allow the Windsor Essex County Humane Society as well as the City’s By-law Enforcement staff to inspect their premises at any time.
- Trends are now shifting to encourage adoption-based models for the provision of pets in pet shops instead of using traditional suppliers.

- There are no pet shops currently selling dogs or cats in Windsor and as such a change to the by-law would not impact any present retailers.
- There are two (2) plausible options to consider in line with both other municipalities' precedent and Windsor's needs:
  - Option A – Dogs and Cats Offered by Adoption Only
  - Option B - Status Quo

Hilary Payne appears before the Windsor Licensing Commission and indicates he is in favour of advocating to follow the lead of other municipalities to eliminate the sale of dogs and cats.

Jayne Lauzon appears before the Windsor Licensing Commission and provides speaking notes, which are distributed and **attached** as Appendix "A". The highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- The Michigan Humane Society states "Bottom Line: When pets are sold for profit and financial gain becomes the primary motivation, the animals' health becomes secondary." This has been backed up by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association's position on small volume and commercial dog and cat breed operations – they show substandard health, care and treatment to these animals.
- By selecting Option A in the report – Dogs and Cats Offered by Adoption Only, the pets that do go into pet shops can be sourced from local reputable animal rescues and shelters and will be in line with other Ontario municipalities
- Request that the Windsor Licensing Commission and City Council also take into consideration the addition of rabbits into the by-law.

Melanie Coulter, Windsor-Essex County Humane Society appears before the Windsor Licensing Commission and on behalf of the Humane Society she offers their support for Option A – "Dogs and Cats Offered by Adoption Only". She adds there is also support for including rabbits in the by-law.

Robert Jeffery appears before the Windsor Licensing Commission to show support for Option A – "Dogs and Cats Offered by Adoption Only".

Cory Drouillard, Corbret's Pets appears before the Windsor Licensing Commission and indicates his father has owned this business for 53 years. He adds profit from the sale of animals goes to the feeding of other animals. No cats or dogs have been sold in the past year.

In response to a question asked by Councillor Kaschak regarding the adoption process at the Humane Society, M. Coulter responds all dogs, cats, rabbits are spayed and neutered, an application is required, and the animals are picked up the next day. She states businesses such as PetSmart and Pet Valu work with pet rescue organizations and the Humane Society to adopt pets from their stores.

Councillor Kaschak questions if pet shops, i.e. Corbrets Pets can also be involved in the process similar to PetSmart and Pet Value. M. Coulter responds options will be explored in this regard.

Councillor Costante asks if a partnership with pet shops and the Humane Society is formed, would there be a “hosting fee?” M. Coulter responds there would not be a hosting fee as the adoption program would be run by the Humane Society or a rescue group.

In response to a question asked by J. Lesperance regarding the inclusion of rabbits in the by-law, C. Robertson responds the general consensus was cats and dogs.

Moved by Councillor Kaschak, seconded by Councillor Costante,

- I. That no dogs or cats **BE SOLD** for profit in a City of Windsor pet shop; and
- II. That all licensed pet shops in good standing with the City of Windsor **BE ALLOWED** to offer dogs and cats exclusively through an adoption program administered by organizations such as local shelters, rescue groups and humane societies; and further,
- III. That Schedule P1 (Pet Shops) to Business Licensing By-law No. 395-2004 **BE AMENDED** accordingly.

Carried.

## **9. In Camera**

No In Camera session is held.

## **10. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on February 26, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 204, 350 City Hall Square West.

**11. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 10:30 o'clock a.m.

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**CHAIR**

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**SECRETARY**