



**BYLAW 40-24 – URBAN HEN BYLAW**

**Purpose**

The purpose of Bylaw 40-24 is to update the Urban Hen Bylaw by eliminating the requirement for an annual urban hen license and replacing it with a onetime urban hen application fee.

**Readings**

This Bylaw is ready for three readings.

**Report, Analysis and Financial Implications**

Draft Bylaw 40-24 reflects amendments to Urban Hen Bylaw 24-17 by removing requirements for an annual urban hen license and creating a definition for urban hen application fee along with textual corrections and general bylaw updating. Administration opted to rewrite the Bylaw due to the extensiveness of these changes and have provided the redlined version of Revised Bylaw 24-17 to illustrate the additions and deletions only.

The Urban Hen Bylaw was created in 2017. The bylaw established a process for annual licensing of urban hens, once an initial application and a physical inspection of a homeowner’s property occurred. The Urban Hen program has been reviewed to determine its current relevance, as it has now been in place for a number of years.

Based on this review, administration is recommending that the program moves from an annual license fee of \$50.00 to a one-time application fee of \$50 and an initial property inspection, with no requirement for annual license renewal or inspection.

Since the Bylaw was established in 2017, there have been no complaints received in relation to urban hens. In 2024, 30 citizens were invoiced for hen licenses. Of the expected \$1500 revenue for licensing, \$300 remains unpaid. This program has had no community wide impact and will still be governed by bylaw. These changes are recommended to come into effect on January 1, 2025 and are consistent with the recommended changes to dog licensing.

**Strategic Plan Goals**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Responsibly Managed Growth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrated Environmental Leadership
<input type="checkbox"/>	Strong Local Economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enhanced Culture & Community Health
<input type="checkbox"/>	Organizational Excellence		

**Community Engagement Strategy**

If approved, Okotoks.ca and the Urban Hen FAQ document will be updated.

**Alternatives for Consideration**

Keep the urban hen program as-is with an initial application fee and inspection followed by recurring annual licensing and inspections.

**CAO Comments**

I support these changes as they align the municipal philosophy on responsible pet ownership and the appropriate role and function of the municipality.

**Attachment(s)**

1. Draft Bylaw 40-24 Urban Hen Bylaw Amendments
2. Revised Bylaw 24-17 Urban Hen Bylaw REDLINED VERSION

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November 07, 2024