



City of St. Albert
CITY COUNCIL POLICY

Council Governance Approach

AUTHORITY	APPROVED	Res. No.	mm dd	REVISED	Res. No.	mm dd
City Council		C486-2001	09 24		C588-2002	11 04
					C286-2014	05 26
					C235-2016	04 18
					AR-19-003	01 21

Purpose

To describe Council's governance style and commitments, which will serve to support the efficient and effective operation of the City of St. Albert.

Policy

The City's overall approach to governance is based in policy and the requirements of the *Alberta Municipal Government Act* and is consistent with the Chief Administrative Officer style of governance common in the province of Alberta. In governing, Council shall conduct itself according to a defined set of principles.

Standards

1. Council shall establish policies for the Corporation and provide direction to the Chief Administrative Officer, which the Chief Administrative Officer shall then apply within his or her delegated authority. In doing so, both the Council and Chief Administrative Officer shall recognize that their roles are complementary and that flexible working relationships based on trust are desirable.
2. Council shall conduct itself according to a set of principles, including that Council will:
 - a. Govern with an emphasis on:
 - i. outward vision rather than internal preoccupation;
 - ii. encouragement of diversity in viewpoints;
 - iii. strategic leadership more than administrative detail;
 - iv. clearest possible distinction of Council and Chief Administrative Officer roles;
 - v. collective rather than individual decisions;
 - vi. future with an understanding of the past or present; and
 - vii. proactivity rather than reactivity.
 - b. Be responsible for excellence in governing and cultivating a sense of group responsibility.



- c. Respect the knowledge of individual members to enhance the ability of Council as a body.
- d. Be the initiator of policy facilitated by the Chief Administrative Officer.
- e. Direct, inspire and hold accountable the Chief Administrative Officer, through the *Chief Administrative Officer Bylaw*, Council resolutions, and through the establishment of governance policies reflecting Council's values and priorities about outcomes to be achieved. Council's policy focus will be on the intended short-term and long-term outcomes for the corporation and the community.
- f. Enforce measures needed to govern with excellence, which will include matters such as attendance, preparation, corporate values and principles, respect of roles and each other, and ensuring ongoing governance excellence.
- g. Plan orientation of new members on Council's governance bylaws, policies and processes.
- h. Conduct regular reviews of Council's governance policies and processes.
- i. Conduct annual self-evaluations of its performance, working relationships, and adherence to its code of conduct, in accordance with its governance policies and priorities.
- j. Council shall review this policy, at minimum, every four years from the date of its last revision.

Legal References: *Municipal Government Act; Chief Administrative Officer Bylaw 13/2002*

Cross References: Policy C-CG-01, Council's Vision, Mission and Values; Policy C-CG-02, Council's Goals and Priorities; Policy C-CG-08, Council Members' Code of Conduct; Policy C-CG-09, Council Committees; Policy C-CG-11, Community Vision and Pillars of Sustainability

