

2021 Pest Control Officers Appointments

Date	January 20, 2021
To	Operations and Community Services Committee
From	City Planning & Community Development
Service Area	Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Item No.	OCS21-1

RECOMMENDATION

The Operations and Community Services Committee recommends that City Council:

1. Instruct the City Solicitor to amend *Bylaw No. 2009-71* being *The Appointment and Authorization of City Officials Bylaw, 2009* to:

Appoint the following people as Pest Control Officers under *The Pest Control Act* from January 1, 2021 until December 31, 2021; unless the officer's employment with the City of Regina is terminated sooner:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Russell Eirich	Senior Program Manager, Forestry, Horticulture & Pest Control
Ryan Johnston	Supervisor, Pest Control
Corey Doka	Pest Control Officer
Ashley Thompson	Entomology Research Analyst

2. Instruct the City Clerk to notify the Ministry of Agriculture of the appointment of the Pest Control Officers within 14 days of City Council passing the amendments to *Bylaw 2009-71*, as required by *The Pest Control Act*.
3. Approve these recommendations at its meeting on January 27, 2021.

ISSUE

The Pest Control Act (the Act) requires that all property owners must take measures to destroy, control and prevent provincially declared pests on their land. The Act then requires municipalities through their Councils to appoint Pest Control Officers and report those appointments to the Government of Saskatchewan (Province) annually. Once appointed, the Pest Control Officers are then responsible for ensuring that declared pests do not become established within Regina city limits on both public and private properties.

This report recommends appointing the individuals named as Pest Control Officers for 2021.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Russell Eirich	Senior Program Manager, Forestry Horticulture & Pest Control
Ryan Johnston	Supervisor, Pest Management
Corey Doka	Pest Control Officer
Ashley Thompson	Entomology Research Analyst

IMPACTS

Financial

There are no financial impacts with respect to this report. The individuals appointed are already employed with the assigned duties within the administration.

Policy and/or Strategic

Appointing Pest Control Officers by bylaw instead of resolution increases transparency, making appointments more readily accessible.

Other

The *Pest Control Act* lists regulated pests that affect human health. The pests that are of most significant concern in Regina are the Norway Rat and Richardson Ground Squirrel (the gopher). There may be a view that these rodents are an epidemic problem because of annual Pest Control Officer appointments, but this is not the case. Routine rodent inspections for demolition permits indicate that Norway Rat populations are minimal in Regina. Seasonal weather variations cause fluctuations in gopher populations.

There are no Environmental Impacts associated with this report.

OTHER OPTIONS

None with respect to this report.

COMMUNICATIONS

Section 14 of *The Pest Control Act* requires the City Clerk to notify the Minister of Agriculture of Council's appointment of Pest Control Officers within 14 days of the appointment. The City will advise the Rural Municipality of Sherwood of the appointments.

DISCUSSION

The Appointment and Authorization of City Officials Bylaw, 2009, Bylaw No. 2009-71 was enacted in 2009 so that the City's various delegations under provincial legislation could be more easily located. In most cases, authority is delegated by position title; but in some cases, like that of Pest Control Officers, provincial legislation requires these appointments to be made by individual and on an annual basis. To find efficiencies, the City approached the Province in August of 2020, asking that the Act be amended to allow administration to assign these responsibilities by position. The Province has not responded to this request. Therefore, Council must continue to appoint annually.

DECISION HISTORY

The recommendations contained within this report require City Council approval on an annual basis as per provincial regulation in *The Pest Control Act*.

Respectfully submitted,



Laurie Shalley, Director, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

Respectfully submitted,



Diana Hawryluk, Executive Director, City Planning & Community Development

Prepared by: Russell Eirich, Senior Program Manager Forestry, Horticulture & Pest Control