

DATE: September 23, 2022

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Deanna Wasnik, Director of Planning and Development

SUBJECT: Proposed amendments to the City of Prince George Council Procedure on Liquor and Cannabis Licensing Policy

ATTACHMENTS: Liquor and Cannabis Licensing Policy – September 17, 2018 Current Version
Liquor and Cannabis Licensing Policy – Updated Version
Liquor and Cannabis Licensing Policy – Marked-up Version

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council APPROVES the updated version of the “City of Prince George Council Procedure on Liquor and Cannabis Licensing Policy” as attached to the report dated September 23, 2022 from the Director of Planning and Development titled “Proposed Amendments to the City of Prince George Council Procedure on Liquor and Cannabis Licensing Policy.”

PURPOSE:

Administration proposes to amend the City of Prince George Council Procedure on Liquor and Cannabis Licensing Policy (“LCLP”) to include the revised statutory notification requirements and revised terms indicated by Bill 26, *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act (No. 2), 2021*. Furthermore, this amendment also includes reformatting, and revising policy sections to provide clearer interpretation.

Please see attached to this report the current version of the LCLP, the updated version of LCLP, and the marked-up version the LCLP highlighting the notable amendments to the policy. Please note the marked-up version does not include the formatting changes (ie. changes to numbering, lettering, and font).

DISCUSSION:

Administration is proposing amendments to the LCLP to reflect current Provincial regulations, provide clarity on policy direction, sort policies under the appropriate sections, and remove policy that is regulated by the Province. Please see attached the existing and updated versions of the LCLP.

The following sections will identify the notable amendments for each policy section, and can also be viewed through the marked-up version attached to this report.

Consideration of Applications (Section B. 3.)

This section was amended to include information from section C. 5. This provides Council with information that a resolution may be amended with conditions that are within the jurisdiction of the Liquor & Cannabis Regulation Branch. Further to this, minor editing was provided on the policy section to remove the term “draft” from resolution.

Public Consultation (Section B. 4)

This section has been updated to speak to Liquor and Cannabis Licenses collectively and to address the statutory notification and public consultation that will apply to license applications that come before Council.

The sections titled “Liquor License” and “Cannabis Retail License” were partially removed from the LCLB policy. Some of the specified information (i.e. provide date and time of hearing; outline changes to the liquor license; identify the type of resolution) is informed by the City of Prince George Development Procedures Bylaw No. 7635, 2005 (“Development Procedures Bylaw”). As such, “Public Notice” section refers to the Development Procedures Bylaw.

Statutory notification and the opportunity for public consultation will be conducted in accordance with the provisions within the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*, *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act*, *City of Prince George Development Procedures Bylaw*, and the *Local Government Act* which combined address the method by which notification is provided, timing of notification in advance of Council’s consideration of an application, and the distance for mailing or delivery of notice in relation to the subject property.

In accordance with Council’s resolution to discontinue informal hearings, the Liquor and Cannabis Licensing Policy has been updated to reflect that a hearing will not be held for liquor or cannabis license applications unless the application is being considered concurrently with an application to rezone the subject property. All liquor or cannabis license applications will be subject to statutory notification inviting written comments from the public. Applications that will be considered concurrent with a rezoning application will be subject to a hearing and will have a notice prepared and mailed to property owners and tenants in the area with an opportunity to provide comments to Council verbally either in-person or via telephone, and/or in writing.

Local Government Resolution Evaluation Criteria (Section C. 1.)

This section was re-worded to include Local Government Evaluation Criteria within the initial statement.

Hours of Operation for Liquor Service (Section 2. 1 a. b.) and Liquor License Occupant Load (Section 3.1)

These sections were revised to include the full title from “*Liquor Control and Licensing Act and Regulations*” to “*Liquor Control and Licensing Act*” and “*Liquor Control and Licensing Regulations*”.

Liquor License Patron Participation Entertainment (Section 4.1)

To be consistent with the naming of other policy sections, Administration has included a “Food Primary” sub section.

Location of Liquor Primary Establishments and Cannabis Retail (Section 5)

This section was either removed from the LCLP, or policy was relocated to other sections. Specifically, the section that indicates a setback distance of 1.6 km was removed as distances between locations are monitored and considered by the Liquor & Cannabis Regulation Board.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

Administration proposes several amendments to the Liquor and Cannabis Licensing Policy as outlined in the report, and the attached updated LCLP document. Administration recommends approval of the proposed policy updates.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Deanna Wasnik, Director of Planning and Development

PREPARED BY: Mandy Stanker, Supervisor of Subdivision and Building Inspection

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2022/10/03