Policy Title: Posting Councillor Ward Budgets and Expenses Policy
Policy Number: CC027
Report Number: AOC05-88, NM2005-33
Approved by: City Council
Effective Date: 2006 January
Business Unit: Office of the Councillors

BACKGROUND

2005 September 26 Council referred NM2005-33 – Posting of Councillor Ward Budgets and Expenses (Councillor Burrows) to the Coordinating Committee of the Councillors Office (CCCO) for a report back to Council no later that 2005 December 12.

The CCCO reviewed NM2005-33 on 2005 October 20. The Committee considered NM2005-33 and a report presented by the Manager, Office of the Councillors.

Aside from aspects of the records which might infringe upon a person’s privacy under the Alberta FOIP Act, the budgets and expenses of the Aldermen are available to the public on request.

The CCCO forwarded the following recommendations to Council:

1. “That the CCCO recommend to Council that it direct the Office of the Councillors to post all Councillor Ward budgets annually and expenses quarterly to The City’s external web site starting 2006 January.”

2. “That the format of the posting be as approved by the CCCO from time to time and taking in to consideration the need for confidentiality of individual salaries of persons other than elected officials.”

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and procedures to ensure enhanced transparency and accountability for the manner in which resources allocated to Councillor Wards are being used by posting budgets and expenses on The City of Calgary internet for easy public access. In addition, this practice may reduce the number of FOIP requests received by the wards and the corresponding time spent responding to those requests.
POLICY

1. That the CCCO recommend to Council that it direct the Office of the Councillors to post all Councillor Ward budgets annually and expenses quarterly to The City’s external web site starting 2006 January; and

2. The format of the posting be as approved by Council from time to time and taking into consideration the need for confidentiality of individual salaries of persons other than elected officials.

PROCEDURE

1. The Office of the Councillors will post Ward budgets annually and expenses quarterly on The City of Calgary internet;

2. The CCCO will determine a reporting format as approved by Council from time to time which respects the privacy of individuals; and

3. The Office of the Councillors will post summary information only to ensure individual salaries of persons other than elected officials are not revealed.

See Ward Expense Reports-Office of the Councillors

AMENDMENTS

2013 October 21 – Bylaw 40M2011 Discontinue the use of the title “Alderman in favour of the title “Councillor”.
NM2005-September 12

RE: POSTING OF ALDERMANIC WARD BUDGETS AND EXPENSES

Alderman C. Burrows

WHEREAS the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act allows any person a right of access to records in the custody or under the control of a public body;

AND WHEREAS the Aldermanic ward budgets and their expenditure have occasionally been the subject of FOIP requests;

AND WHEREAS each FOIP request requires a response within 30 days of receipt providing the requested information or an explanation as to why the information is not to be disclosed;

AND WHEREAS a fee of twenty-five dollars is charged each time a request is made concerning the Aldermanic budgets and their expenditure;

AND WHEREAS the Aldermanic Office would provide this information on request in any event without requiring a FOIP request or assessing a charge;

AND WHEREAS the Aldermanic Budgets are subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Aldermanic Office Coordinating Committee be directed to establish a practice of posting all Aldermanic ward budgets annually and expenses related to those budgets quarterly to The City’s external web site, in a timely manner, for easy public access.