

Camrose Casino Application Response

Recommendation

1. That the draft letter as outlined in Attachment 1 of the August 20, 2024, Urban Planning and Economy report UPE02660, be approved, and that the Mayor, on behalf of City Council, send the letter to Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission by August 21, 2024, outlining Council's opposition and objections to the proposed relocation of the Camrose Casino.
2. That Attachment 1 of the August 20, 2024, Urban Planning and Economy report UPE02660 remain private pursuant to section 29 (information that is or will be available to the public) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Requested Action	Council decision required		
ConnectEdmonton's Guiding Principle	ConnectEdmonton Strategic Goals		
CONNECTED This unifies our work to achieve our strategic goals.	Regional Prosperity		
City Plan Values	LIVE. THRIVE.		
City Plan Big City Move(s)	Catalyze and converge	Relationship to Council's Strategic Priorities	Economic Growth
Corporate Business Plan	Transforming for the future		
Council Policy, Program or Project Relationships	N/A		
Related Council Discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 15, 2022, Urban Planning and Economy report UPE01426, New Investment Response - Verbal report • August 15, 2024, Urban Planning and Economy report UPE02623 Camrose Casino Application - Verbal Report 		

Camrose Casino Application Response

Previous Council Action

At the August 15, 2024, City Council - Non-Regular meeting, the following motion was passed:

That the Mayor, on behalf of City Council, write a draft letter to the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission outlining Council's opposition and objections to the proposed relocation of the Camrose Casino, including:

- a. Concerns regarding community engagement timelines
- b. the impact of the licence transfer on charitable organizations in Edmonton
- c. required Provincial funding for infrastructure investment as per advocacy from AB Munis and return to Council for approval.

REPORT

Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission (AGLC) received an application from Capital City Casinos to relocate their casino from Camrose, Alberta to a location at 420 Parsons Road, Edmonton in July of 2024. As part of this application process, AGLC provided notice to affected stakeholders, which included the City of Edmonton by letter dated July 10.

Capital City Casinos previously applied to relocate their casino in July 2022 to 420 Parsons Road, however that application was refused by AGLC in November of the same year.

While the relocation of the casino presents opportunity for Edmonton in terms of investment and an increase in tax base, there remain concerns about the loss of gaming revenue for Edmonton Charities, the City's ability to fund infrastructure, and concerns with the limited timelines that Edmonton residents and other stakeholders had to respond to this proposal.

Firstly, if the relocation were to be approved by AGLC, the casino would retain its rural licence. According to AGLC, rural charities would see an increase of more than 50 per cent in charity pool payments while Edmonton urban charities are expected to see a small decrease (five per cent) in charity pool payments and host First Nations charities are expected to see a small decrease (two per cent) in charity payments.

Secondly, concerns regarding the infrastructure needs for the Casino and other similar intensive development are compounded by the estimated \$30 billion infrastructure deficit in Alberta that is expected to worsen, which currently impacts Edmonton. The City of Edmonton would look to the province for support and partnership to enable economic investment in the City.

Finally, there may be additional public concerns, however the extent of public engagement with this project is currently unknown, and while AGLC requires formal community feedback as part of the AGLC licensing approval process, the City is not privy to any feedback received for this application. While AGLC indicated that their notice period and the period for objections had increased, timelines for community feedback were not adequate for meaningful engagement.

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At the August 15, 2024, City Council - Non-Regular meeting, Administration presented a verbal report to Council to seek direction on the recommended response to AGLC regarding the proposal from Capital City Casinos. Feedback from Council regarding the proposal must come via council resolution. City Council provided direction that a letter of response be drafted to AGLC outlining Council's opposition and objections to the proposed relocation of the Camrose Casino and return with a draft for review by City Council at the August 20 City Council meeting.

Administration has drafted a letter for Council's review which outlines concerns regarding community engagement timelines, the impact of the licence transfer on charitable organizations in Edmonton, and required provincial funding for infrastructure investment as per advocacy from AB Munis and return to Council for approval. The draft is currently in private and the finalized copy will be made public once approved by Council and sent by the Mayor.

Feedback from the City must be received by AGLC by August 21, 2024.

Attachment

1. PRIVATE - DRAFT 2024-08-21 - Mayor Letter - Response to AGLC Relocation of Camrose Casino