Moved by: Councillor J.P. Mauro &

Councillor B.E. Hyggen

Seconded by: Mayor C.A. Spearman

Bylaw 6228 – A Bylaw to Prohibit the Business Practice of Conversion Therapy -Request for Public Input Prior to Second Reading

6.2

WHEREAS the City of Lethbridge brought forward Bylaw 6228 - A Bylaw to Prohibit the Business Practice of Conversion Therapy, for First Reading on June 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS Second and Third Reading of the Bylaw are scheduled for July 13, 2020, with no allowance for public input; and

WHEREAS the report that accompanied the Bylaw for First Reading did not provide any information for the public or Council, and other municipalities had extensive reports and attachments to consider; and

WHEREAS Council requires comprehensive information to thoroughly understand the topics to make informed decisions and adopt enforceable bylaws that the public must adhere to; and

WHEREAS this matter is significant and historically the City of Lethbridge has sought public feedback in the form of a public meeting or engagement on significant matters; and

WHEREAS other municipalities allowed public input with one having more than 100 speakers and 1,500 written submissions received in the Agenda prior to Second Reading of their Conversion Therapy Ban Bylaw; and

WHEREAS the public has requested input into this matter and public input is part of the municipal decision-making process, providing opportunities for residents to get involved in municipal affairs and influence public policy;

WHEREAS the City of Lethbridge affirms that it has a constitutional obligation to maintain neutrality and must abstain from taking a position in order to avoid adhering to a particular belief.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct that a non-statutory public hearing (public meeting of Council) be held to further understand the impact and concerns of the public on Monday, August 17, 2020, at 4:00 PM, allowing the public to address Council to speak on this matter and/or provide written public submissions to the public Agenda of Council; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a comprehensive supplementary report including further information on the topic be prepared by July 24, 2020 and included with the existing report and bylaw as additional information for the public and Council, to be available commencing July 25, 2020 with the advertising of the Public Meeting.