

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

From: Erin Anderson, Director of Financial Services
 Meeting Date: March 4, 2019
 File No:
 RE: **Water and Sewer Rates Amendment Bylaws
 Sewer Connection Amendment Bylaw**

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council give first, second and third readings to:

1. Waterworks regulation bylaw 1999, No.1298, Amendment Bylaw 2019, No.1996; and
2. Sanitary Sewer Rate Bylaw 1999, No.1299, Amendment Bylaw 2019, No.1997; and
3. Sewer Connection Bylaw 1966, No. 411, Amendment Bylaw 2019. No. 2002.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this staff report is to present to Council the revise Water and Sewer Rates bylaws as discussed during the 2019 Financial Plan deliberations and to amend the utility fees for water, sewer and storm connections.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

CS 2019-033	01/22/2019	That Council direct staff to prepare an amendment to Waterworks Regulations Bylaw 1999, No. 1298 to increase the base rate by \$10.00 and to increase the rate for each consumption step by 10 per cent , effective April 1, 2019.
CS 2019-031	01/22/2019	That Council direct staff to prepare an amendment to Sanitary Sewer Rate Bylaw 1999, No. 1299 to increase each rate classification by 16 per cent, effective April 1, 2019.

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

The Water and Sewer Utility budgets were discussed during the 2019 Financial Plan deliberations. Staff presented some cost driver impacts to the utilities, such as the anticipated operating cost for the Water Filtration Plant and the Composting site and presented proposed rates for the respective utilities.

It was also discussed during the budget deliberations the rate increases will be effective for the second quarter utility bills; the bills will be issued in mid-July.

For a single family dwelling, the per-quarter billing impact will be a \$12 for sewer charges and nearly a \$16 for water charges using 90m³ of water during the three month period.

Connection Fees

Included in each of the utility bylaws are connection rates. The connection fees are increasing:

- from \$2,400 to \$3,000 for water connections
- from \$1,800 to \$2,000 for sewer connections
- from \$1,800 to \$3,800 for storm connections.

Order to Repair

Within the Waterworks bylaw is stronger language for situations where the Director of Infrastructure Services has discovered a leak on private property and requires the property owner to make immediate repairs. No billing adjustments will be provided if such a repair is not completed within 72 hours. This clause is targeting property owners who willingly ignore water main ruptures resulting in excess amounts of treated water being wasted.

ALTERNATIVES:

- Continue with the current rates, though anticipated budget revenues to offset expenses will not be met; or
- Revised the water rates as:
 - Flat rates;
 - Equal rates per property type;
- Revised the sewer rates as:
 - A portion of the water consumption.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

As discussed.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Per *Community Charter* s.194, Council may impose (by bylaw) a fee for a service.

CITIZEN/PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPLICATIONS:

Property owners and tenants will be impacted

INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS:

Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABILITY VISIONING REPORT:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Community Land Use | <input type="checkbox"/> Low Impact Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Green Buildings | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Use Landscapes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Innovative Infrastructure | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Food Systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Community | <input type="checkbox"/> Local, Diverse Economy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable | |

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

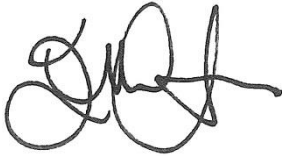
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment & Tax Diversity | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural & Built Infrastructure |
|---|---|

- ☒ Watershed Protection & Water Management
☐ Communications & Engagement

- ☐ Partnerships
☐ Not Applicable

SUMMARY:

On tonight's agenda are two bylaws amending the current bylaw rates for water and sewer fees, as well as another bylaw for sewer and storm connection fees. The rates bylaws were discussed during the 2019 Financial Plan deliberations and Council provided direction to prepare the bylaws.



Erin Anderson, Director of Financial Services

February 21, 2019

I concur with the recommendation.



Guillermo Ferrero, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

none