



COUNCIL – AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: 16 April 2024

Subject: Bylaw B-16/2024 - Amendments to Waterworks Bylaw B-04/2019

Directorate: Community Infrastructure

Issue:

Council is being asked to give three readings to Bylaw B-16/2024, being a bylaw to amend the existing Waterworks Bylaw B-04/2019.

Policy / Council Direction:

These Bylaw amendments have been prepared taking into account the requirements of the City's Water Use and Conservation Policy (adopted by Council by way of Resolution 2018-C-184) and in the context of the ongoing concerns related to the current drought situation in the Province of Alberta.

Background:

The existing *Waterworks Bylaw* was adopted in 2019 and established a three-level Conservation Water Use Schedule which included a city-wide watering schedule on Level 1. The proposed amendments to the existing Bylaw incorporate what Administration learned from the implementation of the Level 2 water restrictions in August of 2023 and represent a proactive step towards improving water management practices, promoting regional collaboration and enhancing community resilience. By adopting these changes, the City is reaffirming its commitment to sustainable resource management and the well-being of residents.

This Bylaw amendment is the first step in a two-step process. The amendments being brought forward to Council will enable Administration to amend the City's *Waterworks Bylaw* to better manage the forecasted drought conditions which staff anticipate may occur in 2024. In addition to these amendments, there are several additional administrative updates that have been made to the existing Bylaw that staff are currently working through with the City's Legislative Services department. Staff expect these additional amendments will be brought forward to Council in Q3 of this year.

A summary of the proposed amendments is as follows:

1. Changes to Schedule “E”:

- Revision of the Conservation Water Use Schedule from a three-level to a four-level restriction format.
 - The addition of a Watering Schedule that is separate from the four-levels of water restrictions.
2. The addition of a Permits section (Section 64a of the Bylaw amendment). The addition of this section will allow the City to enforce the terms and conditions of permits in accordance with the requirements of the City’s watering restrictions.
3. Modification of the Order to Remedy process (Section 88 of the Bylaw amendment). This section is being amended to better align with the City’s *Community Standards Bylaw*.

Benefits

Standardization and Regional Consistency: Alignment with neighboring municipalities fosters a cohesive approach to water management, enabling efficient resource allocation and response to challenges. It can also facilitate better coordination during water management initiatives and emergencies. Using the enforcement format as the *Community Standards Bylaw*, provides established procedures for the municipal enforcement team.

Clarity and Compliance: Clearer guidelines promote greater understanding and compliance among residents, reducing instances of non-compliance and associated penalties.

Resilience: Flexibility in water restriction levels ensures adaptability to changing environmental conditions and helps safeguard against water scarcity risks. Revisions were based on use of the Bylaw over the last four years and the City’s experiences during the 2023 restriction period.

Council Committee Routed Through:

Community Infrastructure and Strategic Growth Standing Committee

Administration Recommendation:

That Council gives three readings to Bylaw B-16/2024, being a bylaw to amend *Waterworks Bylaw B-04/2019*.

Alternatives/Implications:

1. Council could choose to table Bylaw B-16/2024 and direct Administration to provide additional information and return to a subsequent Council meeting at a later date.

This would result in a delay to the adoption of the amended Bylaw, and potentially cause confusion within the community if the updates were adopted at a later time when the existing water restrictions were already in effect.

2. Council could choose to defeat Bylaw B-16/2024.

This would result in the current Waterworks Bylaw remaining in effect without accounting for any of the issues that have been identified by Administration.

Budget Implications:

Administration does not anticipate any budget implications associated with the adoption of these Bylaw amendments. Any additional administrative and regulatory/enforcement activities would be carried out using the existing resources the City has available.

Communications and Engagement:

At part of preparing these amendments, Water Services did engage with both internal and external stakeholders. Additionally, a comprehensive communications plan has been developed to educate the public on this proposed Bylaw updates.

Water Services staff will continue to work with Communications, Engagement and Marketing to develop the best opportunities to educate Airdrie residents and businesses about the opportunities that exist to improve water conservation practices.

Recommendation:

That Council gives three readings to Bylaw B-16/2024, being a bylaw to amend Waterworks Bylaw B-04/2019 as outlined in the Bylaw and the attached Schedule "A".

Eugene Lund
Manager, Utility Operations

Staff Presenter:	Eugene Lund
External Presenter:	N/A
Department:	Community Infrastructure
Reviewed by:	Lorne Stevens
Attachments:	#1: Draft B-16/2024 – Amendment to Waterworks Bylaw, B-04/2019 #2: Waterworks Bylaw B-04 2019 REDLINE Version