



## **COUNCIL – AGENDA REPORT**

**Meeting Date:** 3 December 2024  
**Subject:** Bylaw No. B-39/2024 – 2025 Utility Rates Amendments  
**Directorate:** Corporate Services

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### **Issue:**

Council is being asked to give three readings to Bylaw No. B-39/2024, being a bylaw to amend the rates in the Water, Sewer and Waste Management Utilities, effective January 1, 2025.

### **Policy / Council Direction:**

Changes to Bylaws require Council approval.

### **Background:**

Utility rates are proposed and reviewed during the annual budget and planning cycle. The 2025 budget was deliberated by Council on November 13, 15, 18 and 19, 2024. Information related to the 2025 Utility Operating and Capital Budget can be found in the budget packages published on the City's website.

Utility rates are divided into system (fixed rates) and consumption (variable rates). A contribution to the general fund (tax supported) is included in both the system and consumption cost as related to water and sewer.

The proposed rates will see the average household utility bill decrease by \$2.10 per bill.

### **Sewer Rates**

For 2025, the budgeted cost for sewer is \$26,701,849. This cost is recovered through variable and fixed sewer rates. The daily fixed residential flat rate will remain unchanged at \$1.61 in 2025. The variable consumption rate is currently \$2.0798 per cubic meter and will decrease to \$2.0657 per cubic meter in 2025.

The combined sewer fee for a resident that consumes the average amount of water (13 cubic meter) will decrease from \$72.12 to \$71.93 per utility bill in 2025.

## Water Rates

For 2025, but budgeted cost for water is \$21,532,234. This cost is recovered through variable and fixed water rates. The daily residential fixed rate will decrease from \$0.81 to \$0.80 in 2025. The variable consumption rate is currently \$1.5876 and will decrease to \$1.5268 per cubic meter in 2025.

The combined water fee for a resident that consumes the average amount of water (13 cubic meters) will decrease from \$43.32 to \$42.23 per utility bill in 2025.

## Contribution to Operating Budget

In the 2024 budget, water and sewer revenues contributed \$8,877,000 to the operating budget. Under the proposed rate structure, the contribution in 2025 will be \$9,647,000. The return to the general operating fund is 20 per cent of the combined total expense of the water and sewer system, which is meant to cover indirect and overhead expenditures not directly charged to the utility, as well as provide a return on investment.

## Waste Management Rates

Environmental Services and Waste Collection are operated on a break-even basis and neither adds to nor takes away from the operating fund (tax base). The waste collection fee and the environmental fee are also part of the City's utility bill.

For 2025, the daily waste collection fee will decrease from \$0.87 to \$0.85. The environmental services daily fee, covering the transfer site and recycling depots, will decrease from \$0.21 to \$0.20 in 2025.

The combined waste management fee will decrease from \$30.24 to \$29.40 per utility bill in 2025.

## Council Committee Routed Through:

N/A

## Administration Recommendation:

That Council gives three readings to Bylaw No. B-39/2024, being a bylaw to:

1. amend Sewer Bylaw No. 11/2015 by changing the sewer rates as outlined in the attached Schedule "A" effective January 1, 2025;
2. amend Waterworks Bylaw No. B-04/2019 by changing the water rates as outlined in the attached Schedule "A" effective January 1, 2025; and
3. amend Waste Management Bylaw No. B-07/2017 by changing the waste management rates as outlined in the attached Schedule "B" effective January 1, 2025.

## Alternatives/Implications:

N/A

**Budget Implications:**

N/A

**Communications and Engagement:**

Residents will be notified of the rate changes through an attachment to their regular Utility bill.

**Recommendation:**

That Council gives three readings to Bylaw No. B-39/2024, being a bylaw to:

1. amend Sewer Bylaw No. 11/2015 by changing the sewer rates as outlined in the attached Schedule “A” effective January 1, 2025;
2. amend Waterworks Bylaw No. B-04/2019 by changing the water rates as outlined in the attached Schedule “A” effective January 1, 2025; and
3. amend Waste Management Bylaw No. B-07/2017 by changing the waste management rates as outlined in the attached Schedule “B” effective January 1, 2025.

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Monica Labait, BComm, CPA, CGA  
Manager of Treasury

Staff Presenter:	Monica Labait
External Presenter:	N/A
Department:	Corporate Services
Reviewed by:	Shannon Schindeler
Attachments:	#1: Bylaw No. B-39/2024