



COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE & STRATEGIC GROWTH – AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: 14 January 2025

Subject: New Waterworks Bylaw No. B-04/2025

Directorate: Community Infrastructure

Issue:

The Community Infrastructure and Strategic Growth Standing Committee (CISG) is being presented with the new Waterworks Bylaw B-04/2025 to replace Waterworks Bylaw No. B-04/2019.

Policy / Council Direction:

The *Municipal Government Act* RSA 2000, c M-25 ("MGA") authorizes Council to pass bylaws for the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property; public utilities - services provided by and on behalf of the municipality; and the enforcement of bylaws including the creation of offences and penalties.

Background:

In April 2024, staff presented updates to the CISG and Council, proposing changes to update the Water Conservation Use Schedule (Schedule E), adding the Permits section and modifying the Order to Remedy procedure. These updates aimed to ensure regional consistency before the start of the summer. The report also indicated that additional revisions would be made to reorganize, clarify and align this bylaw with current standards. Since then, further refinements have been made to achieve these goals, while maintaining the original objectives of standardization, regional consistency, clarity, compliance and resiliency.

List of high-level changes:

1. Enhanced organization

Sections have been restructured to further improve the bylaws organization and key topics are now grouped together to allow for faster navigation helping users locate specific provisions with ease.

- e.g. created a Utility Account Administration section and moved it closer to the top because that impacts all residents every day.

The rest of the bylaw sections flow from water supply to delivery, ending with emergency and enforcement.

2. Refined and updated language

Staff have continued to refine language throughout the document ensuring clarity and consistency where technical language was necessary; definitions have been clarified; the updated language reflects current terminology and makes the bylaw accessible to a broader audience

- e.g. – Section 2.1 (current bylaw) is now the revised Section 4 in the new bylaw.

3. Removal of duplicate sections

Additional review identified a few remaining instances of overlapping content and duplications have now been fully removed or consolidated, reducing the overall length and simplifying the bylaw structure

- e.g. – In the current bylaw version, Section 89.3 is a duplicate of line 13.3/19.1 in the current Offences and Penalties Schedule H. Under the new bylaw, the Offences and Penalties Schedule G only refers to Section 60.

4. Verification against current processes

A thorough comparison of the bylaw with current process practices has been completed to ensure all provisions align with real time processes this step eliminates any remaining discrepancies, ensuring that the bylaw fully reflects current operational standards

- e.g. In the current version of the bylaw, Section 7.6 omitted the process to open the account in the owner's name, so staff captured the process that is happening now in Section 39(1) of the revised bylaw.

Summary of Benefits

These updates build on the foundation established in April resulting in a more streamlined and user-friendly bylaw by improving clarity and organization, removing redundancy in content, and verifying accuracy this version of the bylaw better serves both council and community members.

Administration Recommendation:

That the Community Infrastructure and Strategic Growth Standing Committee recommends that Council give three readings to the new Waterworks Bylaw B-04/2025.

Alternatives/Implications:

1. The Standing Committee could choose to ask Council to direct Administration to provide additional information or amend sections of the bylaw as recommended.

Budget Implications:

Administration does not anticipate any budget implications associated with the adoption of the new bylaw. Any additional administrative and regulatory/enforcement activities would be carried out using the existing resources staff have available.

Communications and Engagement:

In preparing the new bylaw, Water Services consulted with external stakeholders and compared changes made by similar municipalities. Feedback was also gathered from various internal departments. Water Services staff will collaborate with Communications, Engagement & Marketing to inform Airdrie residents about the bylaw changes.

Recommendation:

That the Community Infrastructure and Strategic Growth Standing Committee recommends that Council give three readings to the new Waterworks Bylaw B-04/2025.

Kelly McKague
Team Leader, Water Services

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| Staff Presenter: | Kelly McKague |
| External Presenter: | N/A |
| Department: | Community Infrastructure |
| Reviewed by: | Eugene Lund, Lorne Stevens |
| Attachments: | #1: New Waterworks Bylaw B-04/2025 #2: Current Waterworks Bylaw B-04/2019 |