



COUNCIL – AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: 18 February 2025
Subject: New Waterworks Bylaw B-04 2025
Directorate: Community Infrastructure

Issue:

Council is being asked to give three readings to Bylaw B-04/2025, being the new Waterworks Bylaw to replace Waterworks Bylaw B-04/2019.

Policy / Council Direction:

The *Municipal Government Act* RSA 2000, c M-25 ("MGA") authorizes Council to pass bylaws 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 Community Infrastructure and Strategic Growth Standing Committee (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 further improving the bylaws organization; key topics are now grouped together to allow for faster navigation helping users locate specific provisions with ease
 - e.g. – Creating a Utility Account Administration section and moving 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.

Council Committee Routed Through:

On January 14, 2025, the Community Infrastructure and Strategic Growth Standing Committee (CISG) voted in favor of recommending that Council repeal Waterworks Bylaw B-04/2019 and give three readings to Waterworks Bylaw B-04/2025 with an amendment to section 136.

After the January 14, 2025, CISG meeting, Administration made some additional non-substantive changes to the new Waterworks Bylaw. A summary of these changes are as follows:

- Several formatting, spelling mistakes and grammar issues were resolved.

- In section 136, the reference was changed to “14, 15 and 16”. (This was noted at the CISG meeting)
- Section 228 was removed because it’s wording was almost the same as Section 230.
- Sections 229-239 were renumbered, which was needed after section 228 was removed.

Administration Recommendation:

That Council gives three readings to Bylaw B-04/2025, being the new Waterworks Bylaw.

Alternatives/Implications:

1. Council could choose to direct Administration to provide additional information and return to a subsequent Committee meeting at a later date. This would result in a delay to the adoption of the amended bylaw.
2. Council could choose to not adopt Bylaw B-04/2025. This would result in the current 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 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 and Marketing to inform Airdrie residents about the bylaw changes.

Recommendation:

That Council gives three readings to Bylaw B-04/2025, being the new Waterworks Bylaw.

Kelly McKague
Team Leader, Water Services

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: Waterworks Bylaw B-04/2019 (Redline version)