

CITY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN

Multi-family Front-Load Waste Collection Rate Assessment

Motions:

1. MOVED BY Councillor Garritsen that Council support the solid waste rates previously approved in the 2012 - 2014 Fees and Charges Bylaw.
2. That Council agrees to adopt as policy a “two customer class” residential waste fee structure as established in the Fees and Charges Bylaw.

Purpose:

To follow up on the referral motion made by Council on January 12, 2016 regarding multi-family front-load waste collection rates which asked for further discussion regarding how multi-family front-load waste fees are managed in the future.

Background:

At the January 12, 2016 regular Council Meeting, Council was presented with three options to address a request from condominium representatives on the perceived inequities in waste rates. Following discussion, Council Resolution #R3-16 was introduced:

“MOVED BY Councillor Garritsen that Council support the solid waste rates previously approved in the 2015 Fees and Charges Bylaw.”

Prior to voting on the motion, the following referral motion was passed:

“MOVED BY Councillor Hennig that Council refer this item to Administration for additional costs and options to determine what philosophy will be used, and that it be presented on or before the March 8, 2016 regular Council Meeting.”

The result of the above motion is the original motion introduced by Councillor Garritsen will be now on the floor for consideration by Council.

At the January 12, 2016 regular Council Meeting, Council defeated a motion made to provide a rebate to multi-family customers serviced by front-load collection.

Rate Philosophy

Between 2003 and 2014 the monthly rate for residential waste collection was based on a postage stamp rate philosophy. All residences, whether a detached home, condominium or apartment, were charged the same rate. The rate was determined by dividing all waste collection program costs by the total number of residences. The philosophy was based on a flat rate per household principal and not the type of collection. This is similar to the practice of charging the same rate regardless of the volume of waste produced. Although volumes of waste generated between households can vary greatly, the cost is spread equally among all households.

From time to time the City reviews its rate philosophy to determine if changes may be needed going forward. This happened in 2014. From that review a revised rate structure with two residential customer classes was recommended to Council during the 2015 budget deliberations.

The cost of service model identifies common costs that are funded by all waste utility customers such as Household Hazardous Waste Roundup, Transfer Station operations, disposal charges and administrative costs. Those charges are assigned to all residential customers, regardless of the method of collection. It also identifies those costs that vary between the two customer classes. In this case, the cost to collect waste at multi-family facilities serviced by front-load collection vehicles, is less than those serviced by individual collection methods.

At this time, the “two customer class” model is reflected in our fees and charges but has not been adopted by Council as policy which formalizes the commitment to move forward with a “two customer class” philosophy in the future.

The intent of the referral motion was to allow for administration to bring back an option that allows Council to adopt a “two customer class” model as policy. This will demonstrate to the residents of multi-family homes that Council will move forward with this philosophy in the future. At the present time, because no Council direction has been given on our rate making philosophy, Administration may base their recommendation for waste collection fees on a variety of factors (such as a postage stamp rate philosophy) which has been our past practice.

Recommendation:

1. That Council support the solid waste rates previously approved in the 2015 Fees and Charges Bylaw.

AND

2. That Council agrees to adopt as policy a “two customer class” residential waste fee structure as established in the Fees and Charges Bylaw.

Enclosures:

1. Appendix A - Multi-family Unit Counts
2. Appendix B - Multi-family Waste Rebate Council Report dated January 12, 2016

File No.:

Prepared by:	Ian Gray Director Infrastructure Management	Date: February 17, 2016
Approved by:	Troy Fleming General Manager Infrastructure and Community Services	Date: February 18, 2016
Reviewed by:	Kelly Kloss City Manager	Date: February 18, 2016
Submitted to:	City Council	Date: February 23, 2016