

Environmental Committee

MINUTES

THU, DECEMBER 5, 2024

7:30 A.M.

QUEEN ST WTP, STAFF ROOM

Members Present	Chair Shannon Erickson, Sandra Bilan, Dustin Brears, Darcy Zaharia, Kris Gendall, Stefan Bymak, Jason Signarowski
Absent	
City Staff	Aron Hershmillier, Connor Hunt, Lyndon Hicks
Presentation	
Recording	Val Fatteicher
Call to order	7:33 a.m.
Adjourn	9:02 a.m.
1. Declaration of Conflict of Interest	
Declaration	No declaration of conflict of interest was made.
2. Approval of Agenda	
Discussion	Review of agenda items for discussion.
Motion 22-24	Sandra Bilan That the agenda be approved as presented.
Motion 23-24	Sandra Bilan That the agenda be amended by changing order of discussion items, with Item 4 moved to Item 7, after MMSW Program Changes and insert new discussion topic as item 9. City Councillors Committee Role. CARRIED.
3. Minutes of the October 10, 2024 Meeting	
Motion 24-24	Dustin Brears That the minutes of October 10, 2024 be approved as presented. CARRIED.
4. Water and Sewer Rates	
Discussion	<p>Presentation provided by Connor Hunt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Utilizing rate development standards established by AWWA for proposed changes to water and sewer rates.Until the Waterworks Master Plan is completed, cannot project the rate structure beyond five years.2025 operational expenditures will increase due to water main replacement projects being funded through the operational budget instead of capital. Ongoing inflationary increases are resulting in elevated costs to complete these projects and maintain operations.Projects already planned for 2025 are primarily funded through

	<p>reserves. Utility reserves are not generated by tax revenue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depleting utility reserves creates vulnerability and minimizes the ability to respond to unpredictable emergency repairs that affect services provided. • Proposed rate increase being presented is for the 2025 budget only. • Rate comparisons across Sask provide that Yorkton has the second lowest base rate for water and sewer services, with the consumption rate somewhere near the middle. These comparisons are based on current rates and not necessarily accounting for any proposed rate increases for 2025 in any of the other cities represented in the model. • The proposed recommended rate increase model would affect both the base and consumption rate to customers.
Motion 25-24	<p>Kris Gendall</p> <p>To support the proposed recommended fees structure increase to 2025 water and sewer rates, which includes an industrial block rate. CARRIED.</p>
5. Landfill Disposal Rates	
Discussion	<p>Presentation provided by Aron Hershmillier.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landfill operations continue to maintain use of the previous cell in addition to the engineered cell recently constructed. • An approved plan is in place to maximize the use of the old cell, saving both cost and extending the useful life of the newer engineered cell. • Last increases to Sanitary Landfill Entrance Fees Bylaw was in September of 2022. • Changes to the landfill residential waste fees affect the rates charged to city customers for refuse disposal services through the levy included on residential water bills. • Proposing a three-year rate increase to Sanitary Landfill Entrance Fees Bylaw starting January 1, 2025. • Will continue providing weekly refuse collection until directed otherwise. • Proposing the introduction of a curbside organics program at the next City Council meeting. • Landfill revenues are unpredictable and fluctuations occur due to projects such as demolitions or contaminated soil site cleanups.
Motion 26-24	<p>Sandra Bilan</p> <p>To support the proposed three-year fee structure increases to the Sanitary Landfill Entrance Fees Bylaw for 2025 through to 2027. CARRIED.</p>
6. MMSW Program Changes	
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MMSW provides for funding for the City's current recycling program. Recent changes include collecting fees from producers of waste paper and packaging and then redistributing those funds to communities with recycling program agreements. • The City is working with MMSW to continue the partnership it has but also looks for reassurance that the City's current recycling service operation will also continue to be supported.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other recent changes announced include the name change of MMSW to Sask Recycles. • City and Sask Abilities representatives will be meeting on Monday, December 9th for further discussions. • Additional program changes are anticipated by next summer, with full program implementation by 2027. <p>Stefan Bymak left meeting at 8:55 am</p>
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7. SARCAN Non-Refundable Glass Collection Agreement

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In partnership with Sask Recycles, SARCAN has recently announced the acceptance of foam, flexible plastics and glass products. • Glass is not collected through the curbside recycling program but the City had maintained a recycling agreement with SARCAN to have accepted glass dropped off at Recyclability Enterprises for an agreed cost. As of December 1st, there will no longer be a cost for residential glass collection at SARCAN. • Flexible film/crinkly packaging such as plastic, snack and zipper-lock bags and foam such as Styrofoam packing, take-out containers and trays will also be collected by SARCAN. These products are not included for recycling in the curbside collection program for residents.
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8. Strategic Plan Review

Discussion	Item carried forward to next meeting
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9. City Councillor Committee Role

Discussion	Item carried forward to next meeting
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10. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting date pending results of the poll. Proposed for January.

11. Next Meeting Agenda Items

- Strategic Plan Review/Finalize
- City Councillor Committee Role

12. Adjournment 9:02 am

Motion 27-24	Jason Signarowski That the Environmental Committee Meeting be adjourned. CARRIED.
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These minutes have been approved by members of the Environmental Committee on January TBD, 2025.

Shannon Erickson

Chair

Val Fatteicher

Recording Secretary