

AGENDA ITEM NO: 7.4.

MEETING DATE: June 21, 2022

STAFF REPORT - COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: Sewer Rate Amendment Bylaw Date: June 10, 2022

DEPARTMENT: Finance Department Prepared by: Glen Savard

1. SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

The City of Chilliwack places great emphasis on continued investment and reinvestment in the sanitary sewer system. The sewer function operates as a self-sustaining service, funded through sanitary sewer user fees with zero subsidization from property taxation. As a result, user fees must be sufficient to sustain and support all costs associated with the operation of the sanitary sewer system, including its capital investment and reinvestment needs which incorporate trunk and force mains, lift stations and treatment systems at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

Recently, the engineering and consulting firm, Stantec, was contracted to study projected future flows for the sanitary sewer system and load on the City's WWTP to determine plant expansion upgrade and retrofit needs in the immediate, short and long terms. In addition, a review of the current and potential regulatory requirements was also performed, to ensure the regulatory requirements for effluent are being met.

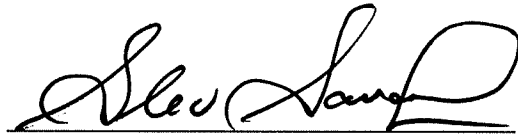
This study has identified a number of projects for either expansion or retrofit at the WWTP to ensure the plant's long-term sustainability, while meeting regulatory requirements for effluent discharge. Many of the projects identified are required in the short-term. As all costs related to capital investment and operation of the sanitary sewer system are funded exclusively through sewer user fees, a regular financial planning and systems sustainability process is undertaken, where user fees are reviewed in relation to system costs and project upgrade needs. As a result of the costs related to the identified capital renewal needs, it is customary and necessary to adjust rates to ensure projects are funded and completed. It is imperative that these reinvestment projects be undertaken in a timely manner to ensure continued, uninterrupted, functionality of the system, while complying with the regulatory requirements for effluent discharge. An increase in rates for capital renewal is recommended in order to fund the capital projects needed to ensure the long-term sustainability of the WWTP.

The impact of the rate amendment to the average household is approximately \$7 on a quarterly billing. The City of Chilliwack continues to be cognizant of fiscal responsibility to ensure a balance between system costs and needs, while ensuring rates remain reasonable. The City of Chilliwack continues to have some of the lowest utility rates within the lower mainland.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation that "Sanitary Sewer System Regulation Bylaw Amendment Bylaw 2022, No. 5220" be given first and second reading.

Recommendation that "Sanitary Sewer System Regulation Bylaw Amendment Bylaw 2022, No. 5220" be given third reading.

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Glen Savard, Director of Finance

**3. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S
RECOMMENDATION/COMMENTS:**

Supports recommendation.

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Peter Monteith, CAO

Schedule "B"

SANITARY USER RATES

1. STANDARD USER RATES:

The quarterly sewer user rates shall be the sum of the basic fee and the consumption fee, as applicable.

Type	Description	Amount
BASIC FEE (Single Residential)	For each Single Residential Property connected to the Sanitary Sewer System	\$38.59 <u>41.68</u>
BASIC FEE (Multiple Residential)	For each dwelling unit or mobile home pad connected to the Sanitary Sewer System	\$38.59 <u>41.68</u>
CONSUMPTION FEE (All Customers)	Actual consumption for all real properties based on 90% of metered water consumed in the current reading period	\$2.85 <u>3.08</u> per 100 cubic feet of sewer

2. CALCULATION OF RATES:

- (1) For commercial developments, all charges will be based on readings from a single meter unless an application for individual meter readings is made. To allow charges to be determined by individual meter readings, the type and location of each meter must be approved by the City.
- (2) The quantity of water consumed shall be the most recent amount recorded by the meter through which water is delivered to the property less the immediately previous billed reading.
- (3) In the event that a meter cannot be read, either an estimate will be made by the Collector or the Collector may change the period end to be that date on which the meter is read.
- (4) For all single family residential properties or duplexes and mobile home pads without water meters, the quarterly sewer use charge shall be based on an assumed consumption of 2,000 cubic feet.

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| 3. TRUCKED WASTE RATE | \$ 59.73 per tonne |
| 4. SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT SCALE ACCESS CARD (REPLACEMENT CARD) | \$ 50.00 each |
| 5. LOW STRENGTH DAIRY WASTE | \$ 12.00 per tonne |

City of Chilliwack

Bylaw No. 5220

A bylaw to amend the “Sanitary Sewer System Regulation Bylaw 2010, No. 3702”

The Council of the City of Chilliwack in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. This bylaw may be cited as **“Sanitary Sewer System Regulation Bylaw Amendment Bylaw 2022, No. 5220”**.
2. “Sanitary Sewer System Regulation Bylaw 2010, No. 3702” is hereby further amended in Schedule “B”, Paragraph 1. “STANDARD USER RATES:”, Column “Amount”, by deleting the figures “38.59” and substituting with the figures “41.68”; and further, by deleting the figure “2.85” and substituting with the figure “3.08” before the words “per 100 cubic”.

Received first and second reading on the

Received third reading on the

Received adoption on the

Mayor

Corporate Officer