

AGENDA ITEM NO: 7.1.

MEETING DATE: December 20, 2022

STAFF REPORT – COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaw Amendment DATE: December 7, 2022

DEPARTMENT: Engineering PREPARED BY: T. Friesen

1. SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

The Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaw came into effect on April 1, 2022, which includes minimum fees on paper and reusable bags. Provincial regulations stipulate the minimum fees that municipalities can include in their single-use items bylaws, but allow reduced fees for an introductory period of no longer than 12 months. The introductory period in the City's Bylaw is set to expire on December 31, 2022. On December 6, 2022, Council resolved to extend the introductory period to March 31, 2023.

A decision is required to amend the Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaw to reflect the extended introductory period and the new rates for paper and reusable bags that will come into effect on April 1, 2023.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation that "Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaw Amendment Bylaw 2022, No. 5273" be given first and second reading.

Recommendation that "Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaw Amendment Bylaw 2022, No. 5273" be given third reading.



David Blain, D/CAO, Director of Engineering

3. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/COMMENTS:

Supports recommendation.



Chris Crosman, CAO

**STAFF REPORT ON
SINGLE-USE ITEM REDUCTION BYLAW AMENDMENT**

PREPARED BY:	<u>Tara Friesen</u>	DATE:	<u>December 7, 2022</u>
POSITION:	<u>Manager of Environmental Services</u>	DEPARTMENT:	<u>Engineering</u>

1. DEFINITION OF ISSUE:

The Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaw came into effect on April 1, 2022, which includes minimum fees on paper and reusable bags. Provincial regulations stipulate the minimum fees that municipalities can include in their single-use items bylaws, but allow reduced fees for an introductory period of no longer than 12 months. The introductory period in the City's Bylaw is set to expire on December 31, 2022. On December 6, 2022, Council resolved to extend the introductory period to March 31, 2023.

A decision is required to amend the Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaw to reflect the extended introductory period and the new rates for paper and reusable bags that will come into effect on April 1, 2023.

2. FACTORS:

- 2.1 In September 2021, Council adopted the Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaw 2021, No. 5062, which regulates shopping bags, foam cups and take-out containers, straws, and disposable utensils. The City's bylaw was adopted in compliance with amendments made to the *Spheres of Concurrent Jurisdiction – Environment and Wildlife Regulation* under the *Community Charter* that enabled municipalities to regulate these items, and the Bylaw came into effect on April 1, 2022.
- 2.2 The provincial regulation stipulates minimum fees that must be applied to paper and reusable bags if a municipality chooses to ban plastic bags. The fees are intended to avoid having paper and reusable bags being used in excess since these bags take resources and create greenhouse gases to produce and transport. The provincial regulation stipulates that the bag fee not be payable to the municipality.
- 2.3 The fees in the provincial regulation include:
- Minimum fees of \$0.25 for paper bags and \$2.00 for reusable bags
 - If a municipality sets an introductory period with reduced fees, the minimum fees during that period are \$0.15 for paper bags and \$1.00 for reusable bags. The introductory period can be no longer than 12 months.

- 2.4 The City’s Bylaw includes an introductory period of April 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022, with fees of \$0.15 for paper bags and \$1.00 for reusable bags. On December 6, 2022, Council resolved to extend the introductory period to March 31, 2023.
- 2.5 Amendments to the Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaw have been prepared to reflect the extended introductory period and the new rates for paper and reusable bags that will come into effect on April 1, 2023.
- 2.6 The Environmental Services Department is working with the Communications Department on educational messaging and signage that businesses will be able to use to communicate the bag fee changes to customers.

3. RECOMMENDATION & SUBSTANTIATION:

Recommendation:

Recommendation that “Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaw Amendment Bylaw 2022, No. 5273” be given first and second reading.

Recommendation that “Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaw Amendment Bylaw 2022, No. 5273” be given third reading.

Substantiation:

The Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaw is helping to reduce the use of unnecessary or problematic bags, cups, take-out containers, straws and utensils in Chilliwack. The fees for paper and reusable bags are intended to prevent excess use since these bags take resources and create greenhouse gases to produce and transport.