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# Council Report

**Report Date:** Nov 6, 2019  
**Meeting Date:** Nov 26, 2019

**To:** Financial Sustainability and Audit Committee  
**From:** Director of Corporate Financial Services  
**Subject:** Comprehensive Fees Bylaw Update

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## Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request Council proceed with the first three readings of the City of Quesnel Comprehensive Fees Amendment Bylaw No 1882 to update City fees for January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

## Summary

The fee increases are to cover the costs of inflation, to ensure enough funds are available for capital replacement programs and to ensure service sustainability for areas such as the landfill.

The fee increases in this bylaw will be effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

The Financial Sustainability and Audit Committee reviewed these fee changes at their November 5<sup>th</sup> committee meeting and recommends them to Council.

## Recommendation

THAT Council proceed with the first three readings of the City of Quesnel Comprehensive Fees Amendment Bylaw No 1882 in the Bylaw section of the meeting.

## Statutory Requirements

Section 194 of the Community Charter enables council to impose fees by bylaw for all or part of a service of the municipality.

## Council Policy

As per the City's Five Year Financial Plan, one of the City's policies is to move towards user fund based funding, where appropriate to lower the pressure on taxation.

## Financial Implications

- A-1 Development and Subdivision – Costs for processes that require advertising were increased to reflect the increases in advertising costs. The cost of a Temporary Permit was increased to be the same as a zoning amendment as the processes are similar. Fees were added for Ortho and Lidar mapping requests.
- A-3 Building – An application fee was introduced to ensure that applicants return to make the final payment and pick up plans. This amount is refundable out of the total fees.
- B-1 Water Utility Fees  
Water rates are being increased by 5% to continue to increase the funds required for future capital investment.



Bulk Water and metered water has been increased 5%.

Connection fees have been increased 2%.

An addition to the microbrewery fee was added for additional seats to recognize the fact that as the microbrewery grows it is using more water. This is the same way the City charges restaurants and other liquor establishments.

As parcel taxes end in South Quesnel for the various water extension projects, those properties will then be charged a water frontage tax on their property. These charges appear on the annual property tax invoice, not the utility invoice.

## B-2 Sewer Utility Fees

Sewer rates are being increased by 2% to continue to cover inflation. The sewer fund is currently at a sustainable level.

Connection fees have been increased 2%.

A change was made to commercial/business establishments to make the minimum rate include 2 washrooms instead of 1. This is to make it consistent with the water utility fees. It is confusing to customers that the two rates do not work the same way.

An addition to the microbrewery fee was added for additional seats to recognize the fact that as the microbrewery grows it is using more water. This is the same way we charge restaurants and other liquor establishments.

## C-1 Garbage Fees

In order to cover the increasing costs of the landfill as outlined by the City's recent Strategic Landfill Review, it is recommended that residential garbage rates be raised to \$100 per year for the small can and \$190 per year for the large can.

RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE COLLECTION	
Revenues Residential Garbage	228,160
Costs - Collection Operating Costs	(128,390)
Capital Costs - Trucks, bins (amortized)	(50,000)
Net Funds towards Landfill Operating Costs	49,770
Estimated Tonnes	1,700
Landfill Costs at \$80/tonne	(136,000)
Net Deficit	(86,230)
Increase required to cover landfill costs	38%
<b>Proposed Residential Garbage Rate</b>	<b>103.35</b>



Residential Garbage Rates					
	Quesnel	Proposed	Williams Lake	Prince George	Kamloops
Residential Garbage Rates	\$ 75	\$ 100	included in taxes	\$ 196	\$ 140
Prince George - Medium Garbage Rate - weekly service					
Kamloops - 245 L container - weekly service					
Williams Lake - no separate collection charge, but landfill closure charge (\$6.75) and a cart charge (\$27.00)					

No changes have been made to the commercial garbage rates as the City intends to exit this business. Customers will be charged for 6 months of service when the utility invoices go out in February.

## C-2 Landfill Fees

The City's recent Strategic Landfill and Recycling Review outlined the future capital costs that will be required to extend the lifespan of the landfill and the estimated break even costs per tonne of waste. The Cariboo Regional District (CRD) contributes 34% of landfill costs based on the volume from CRD residents. Revenues at the landfill are split based on where the source of the revenue came from (City or CRD).

In 2020 it is recommended that the per tonne rate for the landfill be increased to \$80 for most categories and the DLC rate be increased to \$100

LANDFILL RATES					
	Quesnel	Proposed	Central Cariboo	Prince George (Foothills)	Kamloops (Mission Flats)
Commercial Mixed Waste	\$ 70	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 90	\$ 80
DLC	\$ 85	\$ 100	\$ 200	\$ 90	\$ 160

It is also recommended that the charged for wrecked vehicles be increased to \$30 per vehicle.

D-1 Museum Fees – This schedule has been updated with more detailed explanations for education, research, travelling exhibits and gallery rentals.

## D-4 Cemetery Rates

- Staff is recommending a 10% increase to plot prices as they have not been raised for quite some time and are lower than most communities are.
- Increased costs for exhumation due to the safety regulations and requirements around this process.
- 2% increase to all rates to cover inflation costs.

## D-5 Airport Fees

- 2% increase to all rates
- Addition of minimum lease size for helicopter to take advantage of lower landing fees.



- Language regarding commercial airlines changed to reflect it is a negotiated rate.
- D-8 Street & Traffic – No change at this point (in amendment bylaw to fix Schedule #)
- D-9 Nuisance – These fees were just set (in amendment bylaw to fix Schedule #)

**Attachments:**

1. City of Quesnel Comprehensive Fees Amendment Bylaw No 1882