Minute No. 382
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment – April 4, 2021

Item No. 3 Large Volume Sewer Rate Discounts

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment and adopted the following:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to provide a verbal report to the Standing Committee in 90 days on the following:

    A. Impacts to local industry of the discount reductions to date, which have exceeded the $150,000 credit threshold as of January 1, 2020.

    B. Locations where the elimination of large volume sewer discount for customer operations would have a negative impact on sewage effluent flows.

2. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the Standing Committee in 150 days on ways to mitigate the impacts of discharge rates for more environmentally friendly alternative means.

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the forgoing.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Mayes,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 20, 2022 the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 4, 2022 the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment considered the Council Motion of February 24, 2022 and recommended to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to provide a verbal report to the Standing Committee in 90 days on the following:

    A. Impacts to local industry of the discount reductions to date, which have exceeded the $150,000 credit threshold as of January 1, 2020.

    B. Locations where the elimination of large volume sewer discount for customer operations would have a negative impact on sewage effluent flows.

2. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the Standing Committee in 150 days on ways to mitigate the impacts of discharge rates for more environmentally friendly alternative means.

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the forgoing.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION:

On February 24, 2022, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment:

Moved by Councillor Nason,
Seconded by Councillor Schreyer,

WHEREAS on March 20, 2020 the City of Winnipeg approved a decrease in Large Volume Sewer Discounts from 30% in 2020 to 0% in 2023;

AND WHEREAS the elimination of the discount will present a competitive disadvantage to many companies that have received this discount when combined with the effects of COVID-19, international market pressures and soaring costs of doing business in Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the long-term effects may result in a loss for local economy and potential negative pressure on some of the sewer systems in and around Winnipeg if this discharge does not remain in the sewer systems to move downstream for processing;

AND WHEREAS as all sewage releases are not the same, the approach for removal of discounts should also not be treated as the same;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment direct the Winnipeg Public Service to:

1. Provide verbal reports within 90 days on the following:

    A. Impacts to local industry of the discount reductions to date, which have exceeded the $150,000 credit threshold as of January 1, 2020.

    B. Locations where the elimination of large volume sewer discount for customer operations would have a negative impact on sewage effluent flows.

2. Provide a written report on ways to mitigate the impacts of discharge rates for more environmentally friendly alternative means

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.